

"What Does Religion Mean To You?"

Intro: Some look at religion as:

- (1) A Foolish and ignorant Hindrance (Atheist).
- (2) A Means to Control People (The Dark Ages).
- (3) A Means to Power and Prestige (Matthew 23:5-7).
- (4) A Means To Financial Prosperity (Prosperity Gospel).
- (5) A Means To Be Sociable (Make Friends/Contacts).
- (6) Something You Can Make Yourself (WikiHow: Start Your Own Religion)
- (7) The World View Today (Huffington Post Article, "What Does Religion Mean?")

1. Religion Ought To Mean Others Can See We're Different.

A. People Can See A Big Change In Us:

- Faith **Mark 2:1-5.**
- Conduct **1 Peter 3:1-2.**
- Speech **James 1:26-27; Colossians 4:6.**
- Growth Should be Apparent **2 Peter 3:18; 1 Timothy 4:13-16.**
- The Bible More Than Just Any Common Book to Us- **2 Tim 3:16-17.**
 - (1) It Filters Every Decision We Make! (**Psalm 119:105; Matt. 4:4.**)
 - (2) It Shapes Our Attitudes About Life, Sin, & Eternity **John 16:7-8; Luke 19:8; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Philippians 1:21.**

2. Religion Ought To Be What We Live Everyday.

A. Not A Sunday or Wednesday Only Christian—Not Part-Time!

B. We Are To Be A Christian Every Day:

- Everyday Devotion **Acts 2:42**
- Everyday Prayers **Luke 11:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.**
- Everyday Work **1 Corinthians 15:58.**
- Everyday Watching & Waiting **Mark 13:32-37.**

3. Religion Ought To Be Our Shelter & Refuge In God.

A. Where Else Could We Go? **John 6:66-68.**

B. Where David Went- **2 Samuel 22:1-7.**

C. Where We Go Too- **Hebrews 6:18-20.**

4. Religion Ought To Be Challenging— Yet Rewarding.

A. Is It A Challenge To Live Godly?

B. To Be In The World, Yet Not Of The World? **John 15:19; James 1:27b.**

C. To live Godly in an UnGodly World? **Titus 2:11-12—1 Cor. 10:12.**

D. To Fight Discouragement And Weariness? **2 Cor. 4:8-11; Gal. 6:9.**

E. We Cannot Quit Until The Fight Is Over! **2 Timothy 4:6-8.**