

How to identify False Religion

Man's most passionate quest is to know God. But while the way of this knowledge and attainment of God has been made known to man, the devil who is man's greatest enemy has created many counterfeits in religion to derail man from the one and only true way. However, the devil has his shortcomings. And since a tree is known by its fruits, we can still see the satanic traits in such false religions and be able to avoid or come out of them and have fellowship with the good and loving God who also desires to have an eternal fellowship with man.

False Religion Advocates Hatred

God is good. And He loves everybody on earth. The Bible says in John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" This means God did not only create all humans equal, but all humans occupy a place of choice before Him. God wants all humans to be saved and blessed. But false religion teaches hatred. Any religion that teaches or advocates hatred for a given race, tribe or religion is false and from the devil. Hatred is a fruit of evil. Some religions openly advocate hatred for specific races like the Jews, and followers of other religions. Others treat people of other races or tribes with an inferior consideration. This is just one sign to any rational being to know that such a religion is not from God.

False Religion Justifies Violence

God is a Spirit. We experience God in or consciences, souls and spirit. God relates to us in love, peace and harmony, and equally calls on us to relate with others in the same light. But when a religion embarks on war or violence to propagate itself, it is a major sign of its shortcoming and godlessness.

Today, we see many religions using violence to propagate or defend their beliefs. But God does not use violence to propagate or defend His values; because His values are spiritual. Religious violence is a crime against God and against humanity. Those who propagate it are inspired by the devil, and need the deliverance of God. The Holy Scriptures says, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...*" (Gal.5:22-24).

False Religion Justifies Crime

God is the Saviour and Justifier of man. When God saves man by His grace, He gives man the power to live above sin and be a role model on moral issues. This grace is inherited blessing from God. But when we see crime and moral decadence on the rise, it becomes apparent that many are attached to false religion without a radical separation from sin. Many are caught in this trap. A lot of religious activities without an experience of true repentance and a spiritual rebirth is vain. That is where the difference lies. Laws do not change man. But God's grace does. Religions that do not, and has not brought that inner change to you is useless. You need a new life. And that new life can be found only in Christ.

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False Religion is Materialistic

God is grace. Salvation and fellowship with God are obtained by our belief and dependence on God's grace. We are justified on God's merits, not ours. And while God has completed the work of salvation and calls on us to come and be freely saved, false religion advocates works of merit on man's behalf to attain salvation. Man is expected to undergo various rituals, perform sacrifices, and follow certain eating and dressing norms which are all very limited and have nothing to do with the soul. Salvation is spiritual, and Jesus fulfilled all the requirements necessary to give you salvation. You can never do enough by yourself to reach God's standards. But when you receive Jesus, you receive everything because He is our Justification. God's invitation to us is simple in the word of God: *"...let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely"* (Rev.22:17).

False Religion Leaves Uncertainty

God is eternal life. The moment we come to God and ask for the forgiveness of our sins and implore His grace upon our lives, He does not only forgive us totally but equally grants us an absolute assurance of eternal life with Him. How does this kind of assurance come about? Because Jesus paid the full price for the salvation of humanity. But no false religion can grant this kind of full assurance. Even after keeping all the rudimentary laws, you are still not sure of your eternal fate. When I gave my life to Christ and became a truly born again Christian, I did not only receive a supernatural peace, but Jesus Himself appeared to me to confirm my eternal position with Him. From that day on, my life has never been the same. Yes, He is alive and busy saving and restoring lives around the world through the gospel. He wants to save you as well. You only need to come to Him in repentance and receive the grace that He freely gives. The political, economic, social and even natural signs in the world today point to the very nearness of the return of Christ as He had said. And because you don't know exactly when He shall return, or even the day you shall die, and as the grace of God is upon you right now via this message, I advise you receive Christ as your personal Saviour immediately. To make a prayer of commitment and receive God's total forgiveness, you need to pray to Him in sincerity from your heart in a prayer like this:

Most gracious God, I realise my sins and shortcomings before you. I plead that You forgive all my sins and wash them away with the precious blood of Jesus. I also invite and receive Jesus into my heart to be my personal Lord and Saviour. Give me Your peace, and make me a permanent member of Your kingdom. Thank You for saving me as I have prayed in the name of Your most dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you truly made that prayer from your heart in sincerity to God, then know that He has forgiven you totally. Praise God you are saved. Salvation is personal, so do not allow other people, or adverse circumstances to influence you negatively on your decision. What you need to do is talk to God daily through prayers, as well as obtain and study your Bible daily too. Seek and fellowship with other committed born again Christians who shall help you to grow in your new life in Christ. Abide in Christ and eternal life shall remain your portion.

For more information, counselling or prayers, contact the address below:

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