

Real Religion 2

March 16, 2014 | mediaatvictory.com

All religions have one thing in common—they provide a way to make things right with God.

A desire to be free from the guilt of our sin is common to the human condition.

All religions, including Christianity when perverted, give you ladders to climb in order to “make yourself” acceptable to God; this process is often called **penance**.

Penance comes from Latin, which means, “desire to be forgiven.”

Penance puts the burden of forgiveness upon us, while Jesus puts the burden of our forgiveness upon Himself.

Galatians 2:21 - I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness comes by the [works of] law or [human effort], then Christ is dead in vain or [died for nothing]. **KJV**

All world religions, including Christianity perverted, use forms of **penance** to obtain right standing with God.

ISLAM'S 5 PILLARS

1. Declare there is no God, except God and that Muhammad is his messenger.
2. Ritual prayer 5 times a day.
3. Fasting and self-control during the month of Ramadan (The month the Quran was revealed).
4. Give to the poor.
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your lifetime.

BUDDHISM – 8-fold path to Nirvana

Nirvana – A transcendent state in which you are released from the effects of Karma and the cycle of death and rebirth.

HINDUISM – 9 basic beliefs that include literally millions of deities and that all roads lead to God. However, you keep coming back as a lower or higher life form until you reach “Oneness with God.”

Christianity isn't about "you reaching God," but rather, "God reaching you."

Religion makes you reach toward Heaven; Jesus came from heaven to earth to reach you.

Do you have any idea of the value God has placed upon you?

Religion screams that you hold little to no value to God.

Matthew 13:45-46 – ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one **pearl of great price**, went and **sold all** that he had and **bought it**. **NKJV**

You are his pearl of great price that He purchased with His blood.

Religion makes God distant and harsh, but Jesus revealed the **love of the Father**.

I am convinced that most people see God as a "Godfather," not a "Father God."

When you believe that you must "suffer for your sins," you are saying that what Jesus did for you wasn't enough!

The desire to live in **peace with God** will either bring you to the foot of a grace-filled cross or will drive you into despair, regret, guilt, and self-loathing.

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." **The Message**

Religion is full of people, all in an inescapable pit, judging each other about rules for pit dwelling. Jesus is about emptying the pit!

Anytime you take love and intimacy out of a relationship, it becomes harsh and task driven.

Religion has removed the nature of God, which is love from our relationship with Him. It becomes "EARN THIS!"

Living in the shadow of a cross can either lead you to a redeemer or drive you to an inescapable burden of guilt.

Ephesians 1:6-8 - Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the **free gift** he gave us in his dear Son! ⁷ For by the sacrificial death of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. **How great is the grace of God. TEV**