

Can You Recommend Your Religion By the Way You Support it?

Psalm 66:16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is the fourth in a series of lessons concerning some serious questions about your religion.
- B. The first lesson asked this question? Are you dissatisfied with your religion?
 - 1. Literally millions of people are dissatisfied with their religion.
 - 2. Many of these dissatisfied people are looking around for another religion.
 - 3. Can you recommend your religion to them?
- C. This question might appear to you to be out of place, but I believe it is indeed a timely one. We take too much for granted. We had rather drift with the crowds, rather than put forth the effort to see for sure whether or not we stand with Christ.
- D. If your religion is worth dying for, then certainly it is worth recommending. If it is worth recommending, then certainly it is worth examining.
- E. David said in “**Psalm 66:16** – “Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.”
 - 1. This was the Psalmist’s way of saying, “I can honestly recommend my religion to the whole world!”
 - 2. What about you; can you recommend yours?
- F. It goes without saying, and I think most of us would agree, that some religions in the world aren’t worth recommending. They are: vain, shallow, empty, inadequate and contradictory.
 - 1. Perhaps it has never dawned upon us that ours might be in that class.
 - 2. Some have never stopped to find out.
- G. Whether one realizes it or not, he is each day either recommending his religion or renouncing it as not being worth the efforts. A man shows day by day, through his speech and actions, what kind of recommendation he places on his religion.
- H. Concerning some serious questions about your religion:
 - 1. Three weeks ago we asked, Are you dissatisfied with your religion?
 - 2. Two weeks ago we asked, Can You recommend your religion in light of the Scriptures?
 - 3. Last week we asked, Can you recommend your religion by the life you live?
 - 4. Today we ask, Can you recommend your religion by the way you support it?
 - 5. One week from now we will ask, Can you recommend your religion by the way it works for you?

6. Two weeks from today we will conclude our questions by asking, “Do you need to change your religion?”

Can You Recommend Your Religion By the Way You Support it?

- A. One of the greatest recommendations you can give to your religion is to support it properly. How do you measure up in this respect?
 1. Let some lady discover some new detergent, or some other product, on which she is completely sold, and try to keep her quiet about it. She just can't wait to tell a neighbor lady, “Look what I've found; you must try it; it is the best thing I've ever seen.”
 2. Why does the lady spread the news about so enthusiastically? Simply because she is thrilled with her discovery, and wants to share it with others.
 3. The same things will be true with our religion, when it means what it ought to mean to us.
- B. **2 Corinthians 4:13** – “. . . I believed therefore I spoke . . .” Paul spoke because he believed, he supported what he believed by speaking about it. It is only natural to talk frequently about what you firmly believe in.
 1. Politics - supporting a candidate.
 2. Hobby
 3. Sports team
 4. Soap operas on television
 5. Etc.

When one really believes about Christ, he can't keep quiet about it.
- C. Consider these questions:
 1. What support do you give to your religion?
 2. How much time do you devote to it?
 3. How much effort do you put forth for it?
 4. How much financial support do you give to it?
 5. How faithful are you to the Lord in your religion?
- D. Christianity doesn't come in capsule form to be taken in Sunday doses. It isn't something to be dished out only a spoonful at a time. Christianity is not some side-line affair. It should be a person's chief thought.
- E. There is a difference between one's vocation, and his avocation.
 1. A vocation is one's main means of support.
 2. An avocation might bring in some support, but not the main support. It is a hobby, a side-line in which a person might spend a few hours now and then.
- F. Is Christianity a vocation, or an avocation? To some it is nothing more than an avocation, but to so look upon it is to fail miserably. We must “. . . walk

worthy of the calling with which you were called” **Ephesians 4:1**.

G. A man’s main object in life should be to serve the Lord. His business must not come before it. Our occupation ought to be just a way of “paying expenses” while we try to serve the Lord.

H. Consider these important questions:

1. Are you “zealous of good works” **Titus 2:14**?
2. Are you “ready to every good work” **Titus 3:1**?
3. Are you “careful to maintain good works” **Titus 3:8**?
4. Are you “fruitful in every good work” **Colossians 1:10**?
5. Are you “a pattern of good works” **Titus 2:7**?
6. Do others “see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven” **Matthew 5:16**?

I. **ILLUSTRATION:** On the streets of New York City, a woman once came upon a little girl who was shivering from the cold, but who was standing wistfully looking at the good things to eat in a bakery window. The child didn’t have enough clothes on to keep her little body warm. She was undernourished and

While the woman knew that some other type of food might be better for the child than the cakes, etc., she couldn’t resist taking the child into the shop and purchase for her that which her heart desired. Then she took the child to a clothing store and bought some clothing.

The child then looked the lady in the face, and said, “Are you God’s wife?” What a question? How grateful she was. What kindness had been shown her! What an example of Christian service!

J. And, that is exactly what the Lord said — We are the wife of Christ. The Church is His Bride! Are we supporting the cause to the extent that others might be compelled to ask of us: “Are you Christ’s wife?”

K In Luke 10, the Good Samaritan recommended his religion by the way he supported it. What about the priest and the Levite?

1. They were reputed to be very religious — more than the Samaritan — yet they didn’t have much to show for their religion.
2. **Luke 10:36** – “So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”
3. **1 John 3:17-18** – “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

L. What financial support do you give to that in which you believe?

1. **2 Corinthians 9:7** – “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2. Is your religion worth liberal, cheerful financial support?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Can you recommend your religion by the way you support it.
 - 1. With your time.
 - 2. With your talents.
 - 3. With your influence.
 - 4. With your money.
 - 5. With everything you are and have.
- B. People are waiting to see if our religion is worth supporting ourselves before they decide to become a part of it.
- C. Whatever your problem has been in the past, it can be corrected now
- D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation.**