

# Can You Recommend Your Religion By the Way You Live?

Psalm 66:16

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is the third 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. Two weeks ago we asked, Are you dissatisfied with your religion?
  - 2. Last week we asked, Can you recommend your religion in light of the Scriptures?
  - 3. Today we ask, Can you recommend your religion by the life you live?
  - 4. One week from now we will ask, Can you recommend your religion by the way you support it?
  - 5. Two weeks from now we will ask, Can you recommend your religion by the way it works for you?

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

## Can You Recommend Your Religion By the Life You Live?

- A. This question gets rather close to home for each one of us. Do your life and your religion complement each other? Does each make the other more attractive, and easier to see?
- B. If a man’s religion doesn’t change him, then he needs to change his religion. The religion of Christ will change a man; it makes him into a new creature. **2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” Christianity is not a life of convenience; it is a life of conviction. If yours is not a religion of conviction, something is drastically wrong.
- C. Our lives must “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” **Titus 2:10**. The Pharisees did not adorn the doctrine of God, for they would say one thing, and practice another (Matthew 23:3). Paul condemns the practice of “having a form of godliness, but denying its power.” **2 Timothy 3:5**.
- D. The way you use a thing is the greatest recommendation for that thing you could give.
1. One is often heard to say, “I drink occasionally, but I wouldn’t recommend it.” In this he is woefully mistaken, for his doing it is, within itself, his recommendation. He might not recommend it in word, but he does in practice.
  2. Many things we would not recommend in word, we recommend by our practices. By your practices, can you recommend your religion?
  3. Note these passages:
    - a. **Philippians 1:27** – “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”
    - b. **Matthew 7:16-18** – “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?  
Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.  
A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”
    - c. **James 2:14, 18** – “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? . . . But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

- E. Christianity should be seen in your every day deeds. Are others seeing it in you? Through the kind of life you live, would others be constrained to live more righteously. Are you showing your faith - not only in word, but also in work? The life you live is the lesson you teach.
- F. Faith deals with the way man thinks. Can you see that which is locked up within a person’s mind? How can one see your faith? Is it not through its manifestations of good deeds? You cannot see a man’s thoughts, except as he expresses them in some way. You cannot see a man’s faith, except as it expresses itself in some way.
- G. By the way you express your faith, from day to day, you are either recommending or renouncing the religion to which you hold . . . If not, why not?
1. You show your faith by your works. James 2:18
  2. You show your faith by your love. Galatians :6
  3. You show your faith by your obedience to God. Romans 1:5. 16:26
  4. You show your faith by your purity of life. Acts 15:9
- H. **Matthew 5:16** – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” A light bulb does not merely shine that you might see the bulb itself, but that you might see what is in the room. A Christian’s light must shine, not that the Christian might be seen and glorified by his fellow man, but that his fellow men might see and glorify God!
- I. Oh, how we need to practice more of what we preach! There is too much of a professing of Christ, and not enough possessing of Christ! Paul said of some, “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work” **Titus 1:16**.
1. The KJV uses the word “reprobate” in this passage. The word “reprobate” has become more limited in its meaning than when it occurred in this passage. Originally, it meant “worthless.” It referred to old coins that had lost their value. They were said to be reprobate.
  2. Today, the word seems to be limited to the idea of “mean, vile, wicked, scoundrel.” There are many who do not come into the latter category, but who are reprobate in that they have lost their true value to the Lord by becoming worthless and useless to Him and His cause.
  3. People are watching us six days during the week, to see if we mean what we do and say on the first day of the week. Can we truly recommend our religion by the way we live?
- J. Christianity is not some push—button affair, that can be turned on and turned off at intervals. Rather, it is something that must permeate every fiber of our being.
1. People often say, “Religion and business won’t mix.” If a man can’t mix his religion with his business, then he’d better change his business, for he has the wrong kind.

2. Have often have you heard, “Recreation and religion won’t mix?” If your had better change your recreation.
  3. In fact, if you can’t mix your religion with everything you do, then you had better not do that thing.
  4. Many had rather change their religion than the thing they are interested in. Can usually find one to condone it.
- K. Christianity is a way of life. It will go with us into our homes and make better fathers and mothers of us. It will go with us into our occupations and make better men of us there. It will make better neighbors, schoolmates, better citizens. Christianity will just make you a better person.
- L. What a recommendation Paul put on his religion by the way he lived. Hear him in these words: “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” **Philippians 4:9**.
1. **2 Corinthians 11:1** – “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”
  2. Paul preached what he believed, and he believed what he preached. Through his life we see Christianity become flesh and blood, as it were. He was such an example of right living.
- M. You cannot be a **H-O-L-Y** Christian unless you are a **W-H-O-L-L-Y** Christian. Paul was both.
1. People pay very little attention to what you **say** about your religion - they are too busy watching what you **do** about your religion.
  2. People were greatly inspired when they watched what Paul did about his religion. Paul was so greatly involved in living his Christianity that he said, “It is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me” **Galatians 2:20**.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. What kind of a recommendation does your life give to your religion?
- B. There are some things in our lives that we would prefer others not to see. People see it all through your recommendation or the renouncing of it.
- C. Many people prejudge the whole church to be just like your life because that is the life you are living while being a member of the Lord’s Church.
- D. Christianity can change your life. Will you give it that opportunity.
- E. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation.**