

**Recap:**

- Bible translation
- Chronological order of books of the Bible
- Jesus is Christ

**Learn:**

Perspective, Promises, Purpose,  
Principle, Position

**Root word for Religion:** Though the origins of the word are not completely clear, it seems to come from the Latin **re-**, meaning ‘back’ or ‘again’, and **ligio**, meaning ‘a tie’ or ‘a connection’.

- So, if we go by its origins, the word ‘religion’ could apparently mean either or both of two very different things.
- It could mean a *tying back*, a restraint, a bind that stops you doing things.
- It could also mean a *reconnection*, a way of getting back in touch – perhaps, back in touch with the divine.

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**What is your world view?**

- A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world.
- “It’s any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man’s relations to God and the world,” says David Noebel, author of Understanding the Times (focus on family).
- A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action.
- Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life

**What’s a biblical worldview?**

How serious are  
you?

- A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God.
- When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do.

Perspective

**Your theology should define your morality not the other way around)**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Why does a biblical worldview matter?**

- If we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world around us.
- We are taken “captive through hollow and **deceptive philosophy**, which depends on **human tradition** and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ” (Colossians 2:8).
- However, by diligently learning, applying and trusting God's truths in every area of our lives whether it's watching a movie, communicating with our spouses, raising our children or working at the office.
- We can begin to develop a deep comprehensive faith that will stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture's nonbiblical ideas.
- If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses.

**Purpose**

**Because, in the end, it is our decisions and actions that reveal what we really believe.**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

- There is a world view that is revealed in God’s Word and the other is based upon man’s opinion in its many variations.
- Jesus contrasted those who lived their lives based upon the **traditions of men** over against the Word of God.
- Christians who follow the tradition of men read into the verses things that are not even there. (Example Mormon church).
- Mary, priests, purgatory, prayers to Mary, popes, holy water, cardinals, canonization of dead saints, lent, celibacy.
- **Mark 7: 6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.” 9 And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!**
- Because God has clearly revealed himself in creation, **religion is first of all a response to God’s revelation**, either in faith or rebellion. **It is either based on God’s Word or man’s word.**
- As God’s image bearer, are you being religious or not?

**Purpose**

**“True religion is neither rules-based nor ritual-based. True religion is a relationship with God.**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Position**

**Christianity is not a religion but a relationship!**

- Both religion and relationship have a broad range of meaning
- There is a difference between religion to look religious and religion to cultivate a deeper relationship with Christ
- True Religious practices, help us deepen our relationship with Him.
- In true religion we are “bound” to God through Christ and it is this religious behavior that enables our relationship with God and carries with it certain covenantal obligations.
- God is God of order, not confusion or chaos. This means that God requires both our faith and function.

**God wants us to pursue a relationship with Him, with faith and fervor**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Mark 7:8-9**

**<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”**

**<sup>9</sup> And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!**

- Jesus was deeply interested in people and relationships
- If we excuse our inconsistency attitude, we will only strengthen them.
- If we face up to our consistencies and hypocrisy, then we will grow in wisdom and faith.
- **Jesus said: My sheep will listen to my voice.** A person’s voice convey more than words, it conveys intent. Sometimes it is comfort and encouragement and at other time it conveys warning and instruction.

Topic: Religion & Relationship

- **Form of Religion Without the Power – John Wesley**  
- *hold fast to the doctrine, spirit, and discipline*
- **2 Timothy 3:5, where the Apostle Paul warns against people who "have a form of godliness but deny its power."**
- "Form" here signifies an outward appearance or outward display of religious practices.
- **Denying the power:** This refers to not allowing the teachings and principles of the faith to truly influence one's life and behavior.
- **By definition, a relationship requires a mutual connectedness. God certainly has brought us salvation by grace through faith alone, and it's true that we can do nothing on our own to earn our salvation.**
- **However, by God's grace at work in our lives, we can respond. And the practices by which we respond are collectively called "religion."**

Orthodoxy?

The word orthodoxy literally means "correct or righteous opinion". It comes from the Greek words orthos, which means "right, true, or straight", and doxa, which means "opinion".

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Let's see What Jesus say about Religion.**

**Matthew 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup>“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup> So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.**

- **23:13-39 He called the religious leaders hypocrites, lawless, blind guides, greedy, self-indulgent, snakes, a brood of vipers**
- **Jesus’ problem with the Pharisees is not religion. Jesus himself was a very religious Jew. If that were not the case, his concern for how the Pharisees practiced Judaism would be senseless.**
- **Jesus disagreed with how the faith of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Zealots had been misdirected.**
- **In the case of the Pharisees, Jesus took issue with the appearance of religion. His concern was with those who act religious but lack the love of God.**
- **Jesus criticized false religion and hypocrisy, but also embraced authentic religion.**
- **He believed that true religion is based on a relationship with God, and that it should be demonstrated through action**

**Jesus hated false religiosity, He embraced authentic religion.**



Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Know the Father is through Jesus Christ, not false religion or religious acts.**

- So, what must we do to enter into right relations with God? The answer is to believe in Jesus Christ.
- Tradition – Relationship = Religion (false)
- Righteousness + Relationship = Faith (true religion/standard)

**Jesus' embrace of authentic religion:**

- Jesus believed that religion should be based on relationship with God.
- He said, "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15).
- He believed that religion should be based on what God has done for us, rather than what we do for God.
- He believed that religion should be based on obedience and love.
- Because true religious practices keep us accountable and stay committed

**Chesterton said: those who reject God are “capable of believing in anything.”**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**How to follow Jesus relationally?**

- Many like the Pharisees, many people talk about bible but don't let its truth transform them.
- They say they follow Jesus, but they don't live by his standards of love. We must make sure our actions match our beliefs.

**Luke 10:4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.**

Extra baggage!

**Luke 22:36 He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one**

- The first was simply to carry the message of His impending arrival, the second was to carry the message of his triumphant return
- If you don't know the purpose for your life or the person of life giver, religion is useless.
- Once you know the life mission and decide to passionately pursue it, religion within the context of relationship with God will help you to grow and stay committed
- To believe Jesus and stand firm to the end will take perseverance because our faith will be challenged and opposed.

**The call for us is to move from being curious to committed; admiration to adoration**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Right Relationship with God sets the stage to have proper relations with each other.**

- For Relationships to grow, it require sacrifice – how we spend our time is a true reflection of our relationship.
- By devoting our energy and resources for others welfare.
- Relationship is dynamic – because our personalities are such., they are subject to change from time to time

**Luke 21: 19 Stand firm and you'll win life!**

**Stand firm:**

**Where?** In your faith in Christ and in your relationship with God and people of God

**How?** Value relationships over issues **(ROI)** & End pride in relationships **(RIP)**

**Why?** It is more important to have and live eternal life than anything else we do or say

**When?** Now is the acceptable time

## **Matthew 21:18 – 21 Jesus Curses the Fig Tree**

<sup>18</sup> Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. <sup>19</sup> Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered. <sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked. <sup>21</sup> Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. <sup>22</sup> If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

### **Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?**

- It is because Jesus is showing his anger at religion without substance. (Refer to the verses 12-16)
- This is not a thoughtless, angry act but an acted-out parable.
- Just like the fig tree looked good from a distance but was fruitless on close examination, the temple looked impressive from first glance, but its sacrifices and activities are hallow and deceptive.
- God is looking for genuine, authentic believers to advance his kingdom

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Matthew 11:25-27** At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the **wise and learned**, and **revealed them to little children**.<sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. <sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and **those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him**.

- Jesus mentioned two kinds of people in this prayer: “the wise and the learned” – the religious leaders & the little children were those who followed him with trusting faith.
- Jesus must be invited into our daily lives to satisfy our hungry souls
- **Revelation of God comes to us as a result of spontaneous faith in God’s word**
- **This truth is exemplified through our inter relations with our family and friends**

Without  
Agenda

Topic: Religion & Relationship

**Luke 9:48** Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”

- Our care for others is a measure of our greatness
- **Relationships rely on trust** – Bring your inner life under God’s control and your outer life will naturally reflect him.
- Right Relationship with God sets the stage to have proper relations with each other.
- **For Relationships to grow, it require sacrifice** – how we spend our time is a true reflection of our relationship. Giving our energy and resources for others welfare.
- **Relationship is dynamic** – because our personalities are such., they are subject to change from time to time

**We don’t become great people because of the great things we do.**

**It is the greatness in us (Christ in us) that let us do great things.**

Topic: Religion & Relationship

In our relationship with each other we ought to live humbly, love generously

**James 1:27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.**

**Conclusion:**

- The right place of religion is within the context of right relationship with God and with each other.
- **Our love & commitment to God is seen in our commitment to family, community and church**
- Let us establish a Biblical worldview by submitting ourselves to God, studying His Word, and letting it influence our lives.
- Our focus should be on Jesus, not religion.
- We should be careful that we are in a relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ and not through religion.
- Jesus is the key to eternal and abundant life (See John 10:10).

**Prioritize relationship, practice religion, preach Christ,  
proclaim the gospel, persevere in faith, preserve the truth.**

**Be a blessing to someone, everyday!**