

Beyond Religion

Following Jesus, that is Christianity, was never meant by Jesus to be a religion, but an eternal RELATIONSHIP based on authoritative and authentic REVELATION.

Religion Always Fails

Mark 3.1-6

Following Jesus is a relationship not a religion.

Conflict

Religion is defined as a belief system that encompasses the practices, doctrines, and institutions of a group of people, often involving a set of moral and ethical principles.

3.1 He entered a synagogue again; and a man was there whose hand was withered.

2 And they were watching Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

3 He *said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!"

4 And He *said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He *said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

6 The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might put Him to death.

The Pharisees focused on their systems, structures, and law. Jesus focused on revelation and relationship.

The Pharisees looked for religious conformity and self-righteousness. Jesus looked for faith and obedience to God.

Conflict that led to the Cross

Faith

Jesus never established systems or structures for his followers. He let his followers do that.

For the religious, religion can become more important than people.

Religion always fails because religion comes from us, not God.

We need a relationship with Jesus. The authentic and authoritative Jesus revealed to us in the New Testament. We need to follow him in faith.