

RELIGION OR FAITH?

by Serge Lemée

2018-2023

Here are some thoughts that summarize the difference that may exist between religion and faith. In a society that is constantly influenced by religion and that question its purpose, it is important that everyone understand that religion can do things, take actions, or express itself in ways that have nothing to do with faith. As a christian believer, this faith is the result of a relation and not of religion.

I hope that these thoughts will help you understand the differences that exist between religion and faith. It is not that there cannot be a healthy religion, but it may only be directed by faith. When I will speak of religion here, as opposing faith, it will be to speak about this religion that do not consider faith. James 1.22-27

May God bless you.

- 1- In religion I turn to man; in faith I turn to God.
- 2- Religion is assurance of war by man; faith is assurance of peace by God.
- 3- Religion is seen externally; faith is expressed within.
- 4- In religion, man wants or says he wants to please God; by faith God is pleased in man.
Galatians 1:15
- 5- Religion is imposed by man; faith is asked by God.
- 6- Religion is a scream hurting the ears; faith is music to the heart.
- 7- Religion seeks to be triumphant; faith seeks to be radiant.
- 8- Religion relies on the law; faith relies on love.
- 9- Religion darkens history; faith enlighten the world.
- 10- You must fight for religion; you can only defend you faith.
- 11- Religion uses man to speak to God; God uses faith to speak to man.
- 12- We are enslaved by religion; we are freed by faith.
- 13- Religion hurts; faith heals.
- 14- Through religion I pray for the destruction of my enemies; by faith I pray for the salvation of my enemies.

- 15- In religion you make a sacrifice for yourself; by faith you make a sacrifice for others.
- 16- Religion wants to convince; faith desires to enlighten.
- 17- Religion is for those who believe themselves to be strong; faith is for those who know they are weak.
- 18 - Religion submits men for its god; faith submits itself to men through its God 1 Peter 2:11-17
- 19- I can die without religion; I cannot live without faith.
- 20- Religion uses a physical sword to hurt people; faith uses a spiritual sword (that is the Word of God) to bring goodness to people.
- 21- Religion is the opium of the masses (Karl Marx); faith is the detoxifier of the individual.
- 22- Through religion I want to accomplish the justice of God, “for God”; by faith I give back the love I received from God. Philippians 4:14-23
- 23- Religion acts by hypocrisy by hiding what we could see; faith reveals what we cannot see.
- 24- Religion cannot be explained by scholars; faith can be presented by illiterates.
- 25- Religion closes the doors on earth; faith opens the door to heaven.
- 26- Without symbols religion as not support; without faith symbols have no meaning.
- 27- Religion is irritated by the sin of others; faith confesses its own sin.
- 28- Religion comes from works; the fruits come from faith.
(Ephesians 5:9; Hosea 10:9-15)
- 29- Through religion I seek to be justified before God; by faith I recognize that I am unjust and lost before Him.
- 30- Religion wants to gain what belongs to another; faith desires to lose what is its own.
Philippians 3:7

31- Religion wants to be found just; faith obtains the righteousness from God.
Philippians 3:9

32- Religion makes us blind to visible evil; faith makes us see invisible good.

33- Religion comes from my works and I impose them on others; faith comes from God and others are blessed by it.
(Ephesians 5:9; Hosea 10:9-15)

34- In religion I join others to cry out for God; in faith I am alone and I cry to God (John 1.43-51)

35- Religion closes and hardens the heart of man; faith opens his heart to God until it touches the heart of God.

36- Through religion I protect my god; by faith God protects me.

37- Religion is based on man's desire to reach God; faith is based on God's desire to reach man.

38- Religion condemns the innocent; faith shows mercy to the guilty. Matthew 12.1-13

39 - Religion focuses on me; faith thinks of the other. Luke 22:24-27

40- Religion diverts from the truth and seeks to reveal what is defiled; faith seeks truth and seeks to reveal what is good and pure. Titus 1.10-16

41- Religion is trying to reach God; faith is the way to God.

42- Religion is ready to take out of self-love; faith is ready to give out of love for the other. 1 King 3: 16-28

43 - Religion wants to break down doors for its god; faith trusts God to open the doors in His time. Ezra 6:1-12

44- Religion excludes a member for the good of the community; faith unites the community to find a member.

45- Religion recognizes the work of man; faith recognizes the work of God. Matthew 13-44-58

46- Through religion the churches divide men; through faith believers unite in church.

47- Religion brought me to extremity and despair; faith made me know hope in Jesus Christ and love in the Father. 2 Corinthians 4.8-9; 1 John 3.1

48- Religion seeks in vain, with the eyes, what is invisible; faith sees what is essential, because it looks with the heart.

49 - Religion requires great faith to satisfy God; faith does not need religion to satisfy God.

50- Religion knows man by his riches (the rich); by faith I know that God knows my name (Lazarus) Luke 16.19-31

51- God does not need big religions; but God desires our little faith. (John 13.10-21)

52- Religion is a decision of man to accept man's program; faith is a decision of man to accept God's program.

53- Religion knows better and is understood through intelligence; faith loves better and is known through the heart.

54- Religion puts the other in the box of the judgments of all the things we do not like; faith frees me from my box to love the other as God loves them.

55- Religion wants to elevate God in others; faith recognizes the elevated place of God in my life.

56- Religion cannot do what it asks of others; faith serves others first knowing that God will give it the strength to do so.

57- Religion raises lambs to sacrifice them; faith accepts with sadness the sacrificed lamb.

58- Religion transforms grace into law; faith fulfills the law by grace. Psalm 119:25-32

59- Religion keeps a place of choice for the king, the rich man; faith sits with the poor whom God loves.

60- Through religion man wants to get closer to God; through faith man knows that he is now in the presence of God, who first drew near to man.

61- Religion raises its sacrifices to open the heart of God; by faith the heart is broken and the knees tremble from having caused a sacrifice. Isaiah 66:1-3

62 - By religion man rises to reign; by faith God lowers himself to serve. Hebrews 2:17-18

63- Religion seeks to be right; faith finds the truth.

64- Religion - these are my works that I do to find access to God; faith - it is God who has found access to my heart to accomplish his works in me.

65- Religion says NO to the other through war; faith says YES to God's offer of peace

66- Religion comes out of the mouth; faith enters the heart. Jeremiah 12.2

67- Religion is me for Him; faith is Him for me.

68- Religion looks to the judgment of God; faith desires to walk with God. Genesis 6.7

69- In religion I seek to be the first, the chosen one of God, to lead the other; by faith I trust God to bring life where death was. Numbers 17

70- Religion sacrifices out of obedience; faith sacrifices out of love. Genesis 22

71- Religion lives in secrecy, in darkness; faith confesses and lives in the light, the truth. 1 John 1-2

72- Religion presents God to men; by faith I present man to God. Psalms 5

73- Through religion man seeks to be good before God; by faith man knows that God alone is good and that which is good comes from Him alone. Mark 10.18; Luke 18.19

74- Religion seeks to receive from God; faith seeks to give to men.

75- Religion is enriched by taking from others; by faith I desire to impoverish myself for the other, in the image of my Savior for me. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

76- Religion is the logic of man; faith is the logic of God.

77- Religion seeks to be delivered from what is done to me; by faith I seek to deliver others from what I have done. Psalms 7

78- I must convert to a religion to satisfy men; by faith I turn from my way to join the way of God, and this is the true meaning of the word "conversion". Ezekiel 18.30-32

79- We stand and rise through religion, to free ourselves; we kneel and lower ourselves through faith because I am a slave of my God. Daniel 1-1-8

80- Religion is to submit to or make suffer the impatience of man; faith is to let oneself be led by a patient God.

81- Religion seeks to be ever more blessed by God; by faith I bless God, because I know myself entirely and sufficiently loved and blessed by God, through Jesus-Christ. Ephesians 1:3

82- Religion praises the great men of God, who have done great things, through their great faith; by faith I know that God is satisfied with my little faith to work miracles. (Miracle does not need a qualifying adjective, it is always... a miracle!)