

“To the Religious”
April 12th, 2026
What Would Jesus Say? - Part 2
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**The Essence of Christianity:
A personal relationship with the
living God, made possible by the death, burial,
and resurrection of Jesus.**

Jesus, “You only have religion. . .”

**1. “when your outward appearance is more
important than your inner purity.”**

“When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal. Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”
Luke 11:37-39 (NIV)

“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

**2. “if rituals are more important than a
relationship with God.”**

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.” Luke 11:42 (NIV)

**3. “if being seen by others is more
important than serving God.”**

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.”
Luke 11:43 (NIV)

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” Matthew 6:11 (NIV)

**4. “if rigid rules are more important
than love.”**

“Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.” Luke 11:46 (NIV)

“The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”
Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

**5. “if relying the past is more important
than recognizing God’s present activity.”**

“Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them.” Luke 11:47 (NIV)

“Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.” Luke 11:52 (NIV)

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.” Revelation 2:2-5 (NIV)

**The difference between Religion & Relationship:
Intimacy**

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Revelation 3:20 (NIV)