

THE SPIRIT OF



RELIGION

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A Study guide for Leaders in the Body of Christ

BY TIMOTHY II

THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION

INTRODUCTION:

Many times, churches and/or individuals have been accused of having a “spirit of religion”. Although, there definitely can be a “religious attitude” or “demonic influence” in people or in a church; there is no such thing as a “religious spirit”. It is not in the Bible.

If a ‘demonic spirit’ is involved in causing a “religious attitude”, it is either a “spirit of whoredoms” (Hosea 4:12, 5:4); a “spirit of bondage” (Romans 8:15 Galatians 5:1); a “spirit of anti-christ” (1 John 2:18, 19, 22 4:3 2 John 7); or a “spirit of error” (1 John 4:6 Isaiah 28:7 1 Timothy 6:20, 21).

These spirits should be called out, and cast out in the name of Jesus Christ.
(Read the Study Guide on Demons)

Religious Cults of course are from Satan, and therefore *do* have demonic sources.

It is important to know the difference between having a “religious attitude” or being influenced by demons, because you cannot cast out a ‘spirit’ that is not there.

In the case of Christian Churches that are caught up in a ‘religious attitude’, and are of the “Seven Golden Candlesticks” of Revelation 2 & 3; the problem is usually caused by the individual Pastor, Priest, or Church Leaders.

(Read the Study Guide on The Seven Golden Candlesticks);

These Leaders are usually caught up in money, the lust of the flesh, the things of the world, evil, pride, arrogance, etc.

These things do not need to be cast out, but are ‘sins’ that need to be ‘Repented’ of.

Sometimes it is the ‘denominational Leadership’ that is at fault; but the Pastor or Priest is ultimately responsible for his/her church, not the denomination. (Revelation 2 & 3)

When dealing with the problem of a “religious attitude”, whether in a church or in an individual, it is important to look for the underlying cause or causes of the problem. Once the cause is identified, it can be revealed and dealt with in the proper manner within the church. If it is not dealt with within the church, then this should be done by those Called of God to “Stand in the gap” for these churches and individuals. (Isaiah 58:12 Ezekiel 13:5 22:30)

Amen!

THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION

I. WHAT IS RELIGION?

The Dictionary says:

RELIGION:

A system of faith or worship - Conscientious devotion to a principle or ideal.

RELIGIONISM:

Strict observance of religion - an affectation of religion.

RELIGIOUS:

Person devoted to the monastic life; monk, nun.

RELIGIOUS:

Pertains to religion; pious; godly; belonging to a religious order; conscientious; faithful.

The Bible says:

2356 threskeia (thrace-ki'-ah);
from a derivative of 2357; ceremonial observance:
KJV-- religion, worshipping.

1175 deisidaimonia (dice-ee-dahee-mon-ee'-ah);
from the same as 1174; religion:
KJV-- superstition.

RELIGION:

James 1:27

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

II. EXAMPLES OF RELIGION:

Paul gives us some examples of religion; of religious proselytes, straight sects, and traditions which led to the persecution of the church for profit.

Acts 13:43

43 Now when the congregation was broken up, **many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul** and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 26:5

5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that **after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.**

Gal 1:13-14

13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past **in the Jews' religion**, how that beyond measure **I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:**

14 **And profited in the Jews' religion** above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

III. THE CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM OF A 'RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE' BY A SPIRIT:

1. IF THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM IS A 'SPIRIT':

We need to have the “Charisma Gift” of the Holy Spirit of “discerning of spirits”; in order to determine if the underlying cause of the problem of a “religious attitude” is a ‘spirit’. (1Corinthians 12:10)

If the cause is a ‘spirit’, then we must know our ‘Authority’ in Jesus, and how to cast it out. Then do it! (Read the Study Guide by Timothy II on Demons)

Luke 9:1

1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and **gave them power and authority over all devils**, and to cure diseases.

Luke 10:19

19 **Behold, I give unto you power** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

2. IF THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM IS NOT A 'SPIRIT':

If the cause of the problem of a “religious attitude” is not a ‘spirit’, then it is a problem of the flesh. Then the person or persons need to ‘Repent’, not be delivered.

Gal 6:7-8

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

8 **For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;** but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

IV. THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF A 'RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE' MAY BE 'RICHES':

The cause of the problem of a 'religious attitude' may be caused by riches. These individuals and/or churches sometimes tend to act pious or more spiritual because they think they have it all together. Little do they know that God will spue them out of His mouth unless they Repent. (Revelation 3:15-18)

Jer 5:26-28

26 For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.

27 As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: **therefore they are become great, and waxen rich.**

28 **They are waxen fat,** they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, **yet they prosper;** and the right of the needy do they not judge.

Ezek 34:2

2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; **Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves!** should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Micah 3:11

11 **The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money:** yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

1 Tim 6:9-10

9 **But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts,** which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 **For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith,** and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Tim 6:5,6

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness:** from such withdraw thyself.

6 **But godliness with contentment is great gain.**

V. THE PROBLEM OF A 'RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE' MAY BE DUE TO 'REBELLION OR STUBBORNNESS':

Notice that these are sins of the flesh.

1 Sam 15:23

23 **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Gal 5:19-21

19 **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;** Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,**
 21 **Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

VI. THE PROBLEM MAY BE THE 'LUST OF THE FLESH':

James 4:2-3

2 **Ye lust, and have not:** ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, **that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

James 4:5

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, **The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?**

I Jn 2:16

16 **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

The answer is:

Gal 5:24-25

24 **And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

Gal 5:16

16 This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

VII. THE PROBLEM OF A 'RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE' MAY BE DUE TO LOVE OF THE THINGS 'OF THE WORLD':

Matt 13:22

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and **the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**

2 Tim 4:10

10 **For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,** and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

3 Jn 9-10

9 I wrote unto the church: **but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them,** receiveth us not.

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

James 4:4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

The answer is:

I Jn 2:15

15 **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.** If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I Jn 2:17

17 **And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:** but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Rom 12:2

2 **And be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

I Jn 5:4

4 **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

VIII. THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF A ‘RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE’ IS THAT THEY HAVE NO “FEAR OF THE LORD”:

What is the ‘Fear of the Lord’?

Prov 8:13

13 **The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.**

We must learn to ‘Fear the Lord’ by learning to ‘hate’ Evil. This is done through God the Holy Spirit. (Read the book “The Seven Spirits of God” by Timothy II)

Isa 11:2-3

2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, **the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**

3 **And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD:** and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

1. WE MUST HATE EVIL:

Evil comes from within the heart of man.

Mark 7:21-23

21 **For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts,** adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, **an evil eye,** blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 **All these evil things come from within,** and defile the man.

James 3:16

16 **For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.**

3 Jn 1:11

11 **Beloved, follow not that which is evil,** but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but **he that doeth evil hath not seen God.**

Heb 5:14

14 **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age,** even **those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

2. WE MUST HATE PRIDE:

Ps 10:2-4

2 **The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor:** let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.

4 **The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.**

Prov 11:2

2 **When pride cometh, then cometh shame:** but with the lowly is wisdom.

Prov 13:10

10 **Only by pride cometh contention:** but with the well advised is wisdom.

Prov 16:18-19

18 **Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, **than to divide the spoil with the proud.**

Prov 29:23

23 **A man's pride shall bring him low:** but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Ezek 7:10

10 Behold the day, behold, it is come: the morning is gone forth; **the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded.**

Ezek 16:49

49 **Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride,** fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

The answer is:

2 Chr 32:26

26 Notwithstanding **Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart**, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them** in the days of Hezekiah.

Matt 23:12

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and **he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

Or else, God will!

Isa 25:11-12

11 **And he shall spread forth his hands in the midst of them**, as he that swimmeth spreadeth forth his hands to swim: **and he shall bring down their pride together with the spoils of their hands.**

12 **And the fortress of the high fort of thy walls shall he bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, even to the dust.**

3. WE MUST HATE ARROGANCY:**1 Sam 2:3**

3 **Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth:** for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Isa 13:11

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and **I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.**

Jer 48:29

29 **We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogance, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart.**

4. WE MUST HATE THE EVIL WAY:**IKing 13:33**

33 **After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places:** whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

Prov 28:10

10 **Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit:** but the upright shall have good things in possession.

Jer 23:22

22 **But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.**

Jer 25:5

5 They said, **Turn ye again now every one from his evil way**, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever:

Jer 35:15

15 **I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets**, rising up early and sending them, **saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way**, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

Jer 36:3

3 **It may be that the house of Judah will hear** all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; **that they may return every man from his evil way**; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Jonah 3:10

10 **And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way**; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

5. WE MUST HATE THE FROWARD MOUTH:

Prov 6:12

12 **A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.**

Prov 16:28

28 **A froward man soweth strife**: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Prov 10:31

31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but **the froward tongue shall be cut out.**

Prov 4:24

24 **Put away from thee a froward mouth**, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Prov 2:11-12

11 Discretion shall preserve thee, **understanding shall keep thee**:

12 **To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;**

A WARNING:

Jer 48:10

10 **Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully**, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

CONCLUSION:

Man's religion is vain and so are those persons that have a 'religious attitude'.

James 1:26

26 **If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.**

These people with a “religious attitude” have been taught the ‘Fear of the Lord’ through man’s ideas.

Isa 29:13

13 **Wherefore the Lord said,** Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and **their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:**

The results are:

Isa 29:14

14 **Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people,** even a marvellous work and a wonder: **for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.**

Isa 29:20-21

20 **For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:**

21 **That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.**

THE GOOD NEWS:

The Good News is that when the people with a “religious attitude” see the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the children in the “Body of Christ”, they will sanctify the Name of Jesus and will ‘Fear the Lord’.

This will bring them into ‘Understanding’ and the learning of ‘Sound Doctrine’.

Isa 29:23-24

23 **But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.**

24 **They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.**

THE END

TIMOTHY II

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Text :

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Comments:

This text has been used as the source for all scriptures.
Some verses of scripture have been shortened or used in partial form.
This is to strengthen their importance to the subject matter; not to change their meaning nor meant to be taken out of the context in which they are written.

Text:

Webster's New American Dictionary
Produced By:
Books, Inc., Publishers - New York & Washington, D.C.
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Comments:

The Dictionary is used to help clarify our understanding of what certain words mean in today's English language.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

By:
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