

An Eternal Conflict

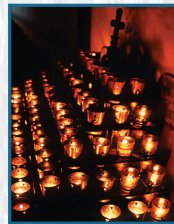
You might think that "God versus religion" is a strange topic for a teaching. But really, there is no greater challenge to the truth about God and His ways than religion. Just for an example, who was it that killed Jesus? It was religious people. Religious people opposed Jesus throughout His time of ministry. They would not accept the truth about who He was and what He taught. And religion still opposes the truth about the things of God today.



The problem is, religion encompasses anything that has to do with God. And so of course, it will include the "true" with the "fake." Fake religion is man's way of reaching God. It originates with man. To the senses, it appears to be quite spiritual. But in reality, it is a substitute for the real. This teaching covers the "fake."

A Substitute for the Real

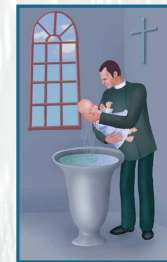
Maybe an example will help. How many times have you seen people light candles as a form of prayer? Some churches have multitudes of candles. They are there, dancing and flickering away in the dark, often placed before a statue. But what is this candle accomplishing? Is it really prayer? Prayer is when we personally engage God in a conversation. And there cannot be any substitutes for that. Sure, someone else can pray for you, but not something else! A candle is only what it is! It looks nice, smells nice, and helps provide a nice atmosphere. But it is not a means of prayer!



Unfortunately, religious things are contrary to what God intended. They are a substitute for what God wants and have actually little or no spiritual significance or value. People lighting a candle expecting that somehow this will be a blessing and have spiritual meaning to God actually accomplish nothing. What God originally intended was for us to have relationship with Him. And so when we substitute this with candles, it

Another Example

Another even more serious example is the practice of baptizing babies. Just why do churches do this?! Water baptism is for someone who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It is an acknowledgment of our faith, and identifies us with His death and resurrection. (See 1 Peter 3:21 & Romans 6:4-6). Can a baby profess his or her faith, and identify with the death of our Lord? Certainly not! Infant baptism unfortunately has no spiritual meaning to God. And yet this is a foundational truth for many churches.



Please try to understand just how harmful infant baptism is to the reality of God. Countless people have been baptized as babies. And what is the consequence? They automatically believe that they are Christians. But the Bible teaches that in order to become a Christian, we must be born again. We must repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ into our lives. We experience salvation personally and come into a living relationship with God.

If the churches would teach this, so many more people would grow up with a true faith in God. Instead they baptize infants, declare them to be Christians, and send them on into life without them knowing about having a personal relationship with God. Do you think that God is pleased with this?

Faith is Based upon Truth

You see Friend, faith is important. Commitment and sincerity are also very important. But these things must be based upon the truth and not upon the ideas of man. After all, salvation and the process of salvation are God's ideas and not man's!

There are many traditions/religious practices common to the churches. Some of them, such as Communion and the baptism of believers are valid. They are ordained by God. But even with these, we must see the true meaning behind them and how God intends for us to practice them.



The Bible is the Standard

How do you judge if something is real or fake? It is all in the Book! If it is in the Book, do it! If it is not in the Book, run from it! Jesus explained it like this. He said "true worshippers" worship God according to the truth, John 4:23. And in verse 24, He said that true worshippers "must" worship God in truth and in the Spirit. For sure, you want to be a true worshipper of God! Then seek the truth in the way you worship Him. Do not settle for the ideas and traditions of men. He will bless you as you do!



God versus Religion



Sponsored by
**Faith
without
Walls**

www.Faith_without_walls.com

© 2012 Robert Arnold