

CAN I RECOMMEND MY RELIGION?

Acts 17:22-31

Introduction:

- 1. When we find something good, we like to recommend it to others.**
 - a. A good place to eat, shop or stay.**
 - b. A good product, movie, or book.**

- 2. We may be asked to recommend someone for a job or admission to a school or college.**

- 3. We only recommend those things which we have found to be dependable and in which we have confidence.**

- 4. The Psalmist recommended his religion:**

“Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul” (Psalm 66:16).

- 5. Let’s ask ourselves: “Can I recommend my religion?”**
 - a. Can I recommend it by the Scriptures?**
 - b. Can I recommend it by the way I live?**
 - c. Can I recommend it by the way I support it?**
 - d. Can I recommend it by the way it works for me?**

Discussion:

- I. CAN I RECOMMEND MY RELIGION BY THE SCRIPTURES?**
 - A. God does not approve a religion not proved by His Word.**
 - 1. I must “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks me for a reason of my hope” (1 Peter 3:15).**
 - 2. I must “test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thess. 5:17).**
 - 3. I must “examine myself as to whether I am in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5).**

B. It is not enough to be religious; one must be religiously right.

- 1. Jesus said of some very religious people: “In vain, they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 13:15).**
- 2. Some at the Judgment will profess great things they have done in His name, but He will declare, “I never knew you” (Matthew 7:23).**
- 3. We must “abide (continue) in His Word” (John 8:31,32).**

C. If I cannot recommend my religion by the Scriptures, I have the wrong religion.

- 1. I need to follow the example of the noble Bereans who “searched the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11).**
- 2. I need to be like Thomas who demanded evidence before he would believe (John 20:19-31).**

D. Can I recommend the following by the Scriptures?

- 1. The acts of worship in which I engage (John 4:24)?**
- 2. What I did in order to be saved (Mark 16:15,16)?**
- 3. The name I am called religiously (Acts 4:12; 11:26; Romans 16:16)?**

II. CAN I RECOMMEND MY RELIGION BY THE WAY I LIVE?

A. If my religion does not change me, I need to change my religion.

- 1. The religion of Christ makes one a new creation (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17).**
- 2. My life ought to “adorn the doctrine of God” (Titus 2:10).**
- 3. I must “let my life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27).**

B. A Christian shows his faith by his works (James 2:18).

- 1. We see faith when it is expressed in action (Mark 2:1-5).**

2. I must “Let my light shine that the world may see my good works and glorify God” (Matthew 5:16).
3. If I were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?

III. CAN I RECOMMEND MY RELIGION BY THE WAY I SUPPORT IT?

A. Do I support it by the time I give to it?

1. God gives each one of us 168 hours in every week.
2. Is He asking too much for us to give Him just 4 hours?

B. Christians are workers by definition.

1. A Christian is one who works like Christ (John 9:4).
2. Christians are “zealous of every good work” (Titus 2:14).
3. Christians are “ready for every good work” (Titus 3:1).
4. George Bailey told of woman in New York City who saw a ragged little girl shivering in the cold, looking in a bakery window; she took the girl inside and bought her food; then she took her next door and bought her a coat and gloves; the little girl asked her, “Are you God’s wife?”

C. Do I recommend my religion by how much I give to support it?

1. God gives us everything we have (1 Corinthians 4:7).
2. We are stewards of His blessings (1 Corinthians 4:2).
3. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

IV. CAN I RECOMMEND MY RELIGION BY THE WAY IT WORKS FOR ME?

A. Does my religion sustain me in the trials of life?

1. Do I receive comfort from the promise, “All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28)?
2. Do I trust God’s promise, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5)?

B. Will my religion sustain me in the day of my death?

- 1. Death is an appointment every one of us must keep.**

“It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the Judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

- 2. David faced death without fear, but with blessed hope.**

“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me” (Psalm 23:4).

- 3. At the funeral of a faithful Christian man, his teenage granddaughter said to me: “I know Granddaddy is so happy right now as he meets the people in the Bible.”**

- 4. Christians are “more than conquerors through Him Who loved us” (Romans 8:37).**

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us each ask ourselves, “Can I recommend my religion?”**

- a. Can I recommend it by the Scriptures?**
- b. Can I recommend it by the way I live?**
- c. Can I recommend it by the way I support it?**
- d. Can I recommend it by the way it works for me?**

- 2. If I cannot recommend my religion in these ways, then one of two things is wrong:**

- a. I do not have the religion taught in the Bible.**
- b. I am not practicing what I profess I believe.**

- 3. I must not only have a faith to uphold; I must also have a faith which upholds me.**

- 4. Let us accept the religion of Christ so that we can truly recommend our religion (Mark 16:15,16).**