

Spirituality & Religion

What is religion?

Is it good for us?

Is it possible to be a Christian without religion?

Announcement

- **MashCraft Gift Gathering** for LuFest *today* 2-5pm.
- Please join us for some food and fellowship.
- A couple of brews are on us; water and soft drinks will be available, as well as a variety of snacks.
- We encourage you to bring a new item for the silent auction, or cash or check (made out to Lutheran High School) to help purchase a larger gift from the congregation.
- **Questions?** Please contact Julie Pflug (julie@pflug.us, 317-432-0193 -- please leave a message) or Jake Allen (alle1lh@comcast.net).



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL



**LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Teaching Truth. Changing Lives.

Prayer

What will the study be like?

- Discussion
- A central theme
- Stand-alone sessions
- Biblical conclusions and take-aways

Review

Discussion:

- What is 'religion?'

re·li·gion

/rə'lijən/ 

noun

noun: religion

the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

"ideas about the relationship between science and religion"

synonyms: faith, belief, divinity, worship, creed, teaching, doctrine, theology; [More](#)

- a particular system of faith and worship.

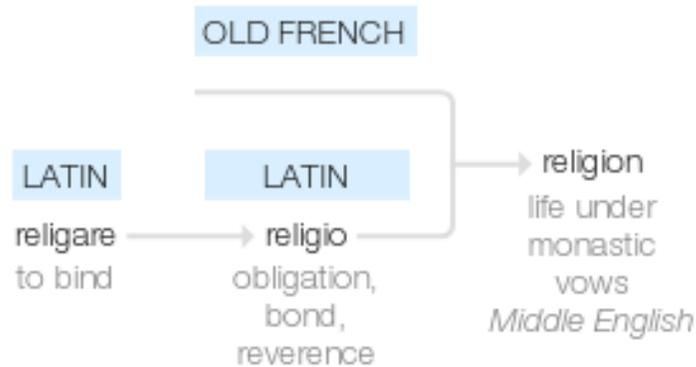
plural noun: religions

"the world's great religions"

- a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance.

"consumerism is the new religion"

Origin



Middle English (originally in the sense 'life under monastic vows'): from Old French, or from Latin *religio(n-)* 'obligation, bond, reverence', perhaps based on Latin *religare* 'to bind'.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=religion+etymology>

% who identify as ...

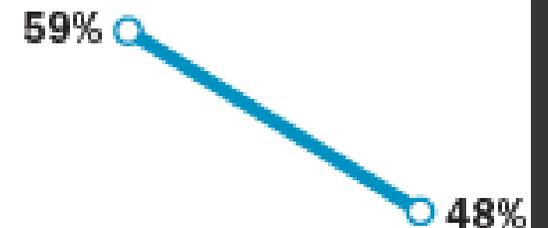
A quarter of Americans now see themselves as spiritual but not religious

Note: Respondents were asked separate questions about whether they consider themselves to be “a religious person” and whether they consider themselves to be “a spiritual person.” The “spiritual but not religious” category includes those who responded affirmatively to the question about being a spiritual person and also responded that they do not consider themselves to be a religious person. Statistically significant changes are indicated in **bold**. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted April 25-June 4, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Religious and spiritual



Spiritual but not religious



Neither religious nor spiritual



Religious but not spiritual



2012 2017

Discussion: What do you think people mean when contrasting ‘religion’ and ‘spirituality’?

Discussion:

- Can you be a faithful Christian without being 'religious?'

Thesis

- Religion, in Christianity, is the set of rules which govern both our individual lives as Christians and our life together as the Church.
- Christians, as sinners, need rules for themselves.
- The Church, especially, needs rules and structure.
- Many today try to isolate their faith from the community of other believers, but Christian faith is not a private enterprise. Christians need others.

Let's look at
Scripture

We looked at the *Spirit* in this passage last week.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in one *Spirit* we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one *Spirit*...

²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

Let's look at it again.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit...

²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

Does this say something about *religion*?

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¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit...

²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

-1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 20-25

God designed us to be *together*.

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More strongly put,
if the Church
is to survive,
we need others.

Hebrews urges:

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...

- Hebrews 10:24-25

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The devil will attack
even your
church attendance.

Discussion

- Was Jesus more religious or more spiritual?

Jesus says in Matthew 18:

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.
¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

• Matthew 18:15-20

If I need others, we need *order*.

²⁶ What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. ²⁷ If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰ If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, ³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Religion may not sound *fun*, but

1. God wants no division,
2. We need other Christians,
3. Christians are still sinners, &
4. Sin tends to divide us.

Therefore, we need rules and methods of *reconciliation*.

Therefore, we need *religion*.