

3 – Religion and the Gospel also differ in how we TREAT PEOPLE who do not SHARE OUR BELIEFS

4 – Religion and the Gospel also differ in the way each leads people to handle TROUBLES and SUFFERING

Religion is based on the premise that since we are doing such a good job of keeping the rules that we deserve a happy life.

5 – Religion is SAFE the Gospel is DANGEROUS

Romans 6:15 – 23 –¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that though you were slaves to sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were entrusted to, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ . . . For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what benefit did you then reap from those things that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God doesn't owe us ANYTHING – we owe him EVERYTHING

Further reading: *The Reason for God*, Timothy Keller



SCC Message by John Aldax, March 27, 2011

Part 12

RELIGION and the GOSPEL

Romans 7

*¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
Romans 1:16 & 17*

RELIGION: A SELF-SALVATION PROJECT

Why is Jekyll's bad side named Hyde?

- Because he is HIDEOUS
- Because he was HIDDEN

Romans 7:18 – 21 –¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I want to do the good, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want! ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me. ²¹ So, I find the law that when I want to do good, evil is present with me.

“**Live**” means to DWELL to OCCUPY A HOUSE, to settle down and be at home.

“**Flesh**” is the SENSUOUS NATURE of man with cravings that incite us to sin.

“**Present**” means to LIE BESIDE to be near, to be at hand.

Genesis 4:7 – “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Even in the very best people there is a capacity to do terrible things, driven by self-centeredness, and it's far greater and far worse than you ever imagined. And it's **hidden** from you.

Romans 7:21 – 24 – ²¹ I have discovered this principle of life — that when I want to do what is right, evil is right there with me – (NIV). ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (NLT)

Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? (NET Bible)

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Romans 2:14 – 15 – ¹⁴ Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness . . .”

And almost all cultures and religions try to apply THE MORAL LAW to our BAD NATURE.

Why would Jekyll become Hyde without the potion?

Keeping the moral law (self-salvation), does not REDUCE pride and self-centeredness – it makes it WORSE.

Romans 7:5 – For when we were controlled by the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. Romans 7:7 – 9 – ⁷ What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” ⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹ Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.

Philippians 3:4 – 6 – ⁴ If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Philippians 3:7 – 9 – ⁷ But these assets I have come to regard as liabilities because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I now regard all things as liabilities compared to the far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things – indeed, I regard them as dung! – that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law [religion], but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness – a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness. (NET Bible)

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOSPEL AND RELIGION

1 – The primary difference between religion and the Gospel is MOTIVATION

2 – Another difference has to do with our IDENTITY and how we SEE OURSELVES