

Religion and Spirituality

(Formatted in a bible school or seminary perspective, would not minister in this style if were speaking to a congregation or in a conference.)

Religion: In general for most Christians the term “religion” is a colloquialism defining some system of belief or law which embraces either non-Christian beliefs, or some form of “legalism” applied to Christianity *as understood by the observer*.

Spirituality: In general for most Christians the term “spirituality” or “spiritual” is also a colloquialism defined by a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as well as doctrinal knowledge of the Scriptures, acts of kindness, and in some cases accurate usage of ones spiritual gifts, again *as understood by the observer*.

Observer: The person (or persons) evaluating the degree of legalism and spirituality. This is solely done on the basis of a one’s (or group’s) *sense of awareness* established by experience, in both theology and practicality. Thus, what ever *relative basis* is established in the moment (their *sense* of truth or certainty), a person or group decides what is spiritual or what is not. **This becomes the measurement in the observation.**

Example: Each denomination (or group) has their sense of truth (or certainty), and will establish what is considered “spirituality” based on that. Anything outside of that scope will be considered non-spiritual, legalistic, carnal, and maybe demonic. In the end, there are different denominations and non-denominations because of this *relative sliding scale of truth (or certainty)*. This is not simply a different point of view that can be shared, because in many causes this goes into the root of one’s sense of reality. In some cases, people will break relationships, leave churches, and fight over such views and more.

Solving the Problem: In “true reality” there is only one standard of defining “religion” and “spirituality” and that is defined by Christ. *The only way to solve the problem is in changing the perception of the observer.*

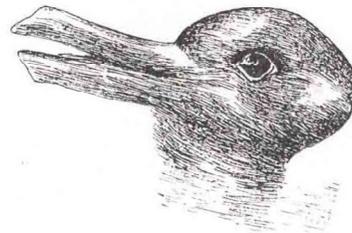
For example:

If a man was standing on the ground observing a 747 flying at 25,000 and another man was standing right next to him, but with a set of binoculars, and yet another man was standing next to both, but with a super high-powered telescope, all three would see the aircraft differently, but in reality the aircraft *doesn’t change*.

Old and Young Woman Illusion



Duck and Rabbit Illusion



Foundation of Reality

Hebrews 5:12-6:3 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again **the first principles of the oracles of God**; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. 6:1 **Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ**, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits. NKJV

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection...”
Διὸ ἀφέντες τὸν τῆς ἀρχῆς τοῦ Χριστοῦ λόγον ἐπὶ τὴν τελειότητα φερώμεθα...
“**Consequently, letting go of the chief of Christ’s expression, toward completion carry on...**”

There are several foundational aspects that make up the first principles of the oracles of God: they are an understanding of *the spiritual qualities* of Light and Dark, Heaven and Earth (in this case neither sky nor planet), The Adam, and The Two Trees.

Concept of Genesis Chapter 1 is not about how God created the earth. It was about God finding a place to Rest. God cannot rest until His Image is revealed.

Basic concept of the spiritual qualities of Light and Dark. Darkness is not an equal quality to Light. It is the absence of Light. From Christ’s perspective there is no darkness it is all light (Ps. 139:12, 1 John 1:7). Darkness occurs when something “obscures” the Light (Ex. 26:33; Luke 8:16-18). People do works of darkness (Rom. 13:12; Eph. 5:11), because there is the absence of Light, not because darkness is a force. *The key question is what “obscures” the Light?*

For the sake of today’s discussion, we will focus on the Two Trees:

Genesis 2:9; 15-17 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ... 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." NKJV

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is the Tree of Death. In the knowing of Good and Evil (or as we say, right and wrong) there is NO LIFE! Right and wrong, good and evil are not part of the Tree of Life.

וְעַיִן הַחַיִּים בְּתוֹךְ הַגֵּן וְעַיִן הַדַּעַת טוֹב וְרָע:

וְעַיִן from עָצָה Means *to shut*, to fasten, or blink (related words are firm, spine and counsel). You cannot effectively eat from both the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Death); this is not possible. When you partake of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you “shut” your eyes to the Tree of Life. Another way to say it would be, when you partake of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you veil the Tree Life.

The Formation of Religion: Where our revelation of Life ends, many times “religion”; the knowledge of Good and Evil begins. In many cases, what the Christian Religion calls baby Christians are not at all what Christ calls babies. In many cases the deception of religion is that those who are new to Christ are immature and those who are not “new” are further along and mature. This not spiritually true. Many times “baby” Christians are more susceptible to Life, while those further along are more susceptible to religion. After all there is a reason why Jesus said, “...*whoever humbles himself as a little child will be*

the greatest in the Kingdom...” (Matt. 18:4) and “*whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it...*”(18:17). Knowledge is a killer!

The reason why knowledge kills is because of “the nature” of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The tree was born by the Serpent, self-centeredness, self-preservation, self-gratification, self-justification: in short, the Ego.

Lucifer’s fall was because of his Ego: “*For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation ... I will ascend ... I will be like the Most High.*” (Is. 14:13-14).

The Ego (I will) and Lucifer are one in the same. When the Adam partook of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he became one with it. He, Satan and the Tree of Death are all the same. The result of this condition, Ego, is the illusion of separation, individuality, difference and detached identity.

One of the key things that feed the Ego in addition to self-gratification; is knowledge (1 Cor. 8:1). Religion is the deception of what I know or who I know that makes me spiritual. Spirituality is defined by “who you are ONE with” (John 17:21). One is defined by spiritual quality.

Example: *Love is a quality not a knowing.* Love is always concealed (therefore separated) by virtue of my knowledge. It’s very difficult for us to love, if we believe someone is evil. The two systems do not occupy the same world (κόσμος), system of reality. Thus, the Ego (Satanic Nature), the knowledge of Good and Evil, (right and wrong), becomes the veil. Paul said:

2 Corinthians 4:2-4 2 Indeed, we refuse to make use of shameful underhanded methods, employing deception or distorting God’s message. On the contrary, by making very clear what the truth is, we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. 3 So if indeed our Good News is veiled, it is veiled only to those in the process of being lost. 4 They do not come to trust because the god of the ‘olam hazeh has blinded their minds, in order to prevent them from seeing the light shining from the Good News about the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of God. CJB

2 Corinthians 4:2-4 2 We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. 3 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. 4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. NLT