

flowing out into unquenchable love to others?

### What makes the difference?

NOT: --Looking to the outward trappings of your religion. --Seeking to perform up to religious standards. --Longing for the approval of church people. --Trying to be good enough to get God's approval. --Putting your hope in correct doctrine and strained obedience, or in feelings and experiences for Christian growth and victory.

BUT: --Looking directly to the Lord Himself. --Seeking to love the Lord alone. --Accepting your position in Christ and all that He longs to give you in Himself and of Himself. --Hoping in the Lord alone for more and more to be given you of HIMSELF as your life and victory.

Give yourself to seeking Him, loving Him, desiring Him, hoping in Him, communing with Him in the simplicity of love. Let there grow simply and spontaneously out of this the desire to trust Him, please

Him, yield to Him, obey Him, and serve Him and others.

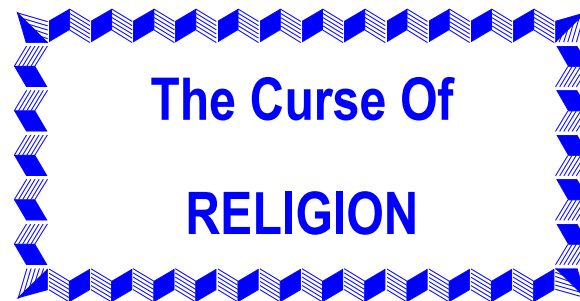
### Marvelous Result!

The results will be those very higher spiritual aspirations you now seek so futilely through dead works in the energy of the flesh. And to your surprise you will find them to be the work of the Spirit to whom you will have been so simply and unpretentiously lending yourself.

*(We acknowledge with appreciation that this article appeared first in its original form in the Christian World Report.)*

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The Curse Of RELIGION*

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By: Pastor Ronald Marr

Religion is a curse.

This is not the accusation of an atheist or communist.

It is a fact. It is, unless what is being described as religion is actually a living relationship with the Living God.

Religion has ground down the people for the benefit of the priests. Religion has led to human sacrifices and prostitution of children in temples. Religion has produced war and violence on a grand scale.

God did not send Jesus Christ to die on man's behalf to leave such a legacy as this. Ah, no. Instead His followers were to live by one principle above all others: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy

## THE CURSE OF RELIGION

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heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength:...and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Mark 12:30-31)

### Love, Our Hallmark

Love was to be the hallmark of the Christian. What better standard could ever be given? How different from that of mere human religion!

Jesus holds out His nail-scarred hands to you, scarred by the wounds of the religionists of His day, yet scarred for your sins and mine in his sacrifice of love on the awful cross. Now He holds them out in love to gather you into the arms of the God of love.

### Receive Your Savior

Come to Him, my friend. Receive Him as your Savior and your Lord. Let Him forgive your sins, cleanse your soul, and give you a new life, eternal life with Him in glory undreamed-of forever and ever. There,

in His own glorious presence, there will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain.

If you want more help in being sure that you are His forever, please write or phone me.

### There's More

Perhaps you already know the Lord. Perhaps you already enjoy the assurance of salvation and life everlasting in the presence of God and His angels.

But, my dear one, that does not automatically deliver you from a form of religion into the daily practical reality of a living, vital, dynamic love relationship with the One Who died for you, and with His Father and His Spirit.

Altogether unrecognized by most of God's people, religious legalism, self-righteousness, and works have every bit as much hold on today's church as they did on those who the Apostle Paul so vigorously warned against them. We may preach against law and for grace, against works and for faith;

but in practice, for many that doctrine ends at personal salvation. It seems to have little to do with our growth in grace –our daily walk with God.

### We're Doers

Talk to most Christians, and what do they talk about, if they get around to talking about the things of God at all? Why, what **they** DO for God, of course.

How are they seeking to live their Christian lives? How are they trying to grow in the Lord? By what **they** DO, of course.

Listen to them for a while. Who are they living to please? Whose acclaim do they seek? Whose disapproval fear? Why their peers, of course –and their leaders.

Where is the evidence of the living love relationship with God which is to characterize the people of God ...producing the fruit of the Spirit which is first love to God ...