



Part 4: **TO SHUT DOWN RELIGION**

Re-li-gion \ri-'li-jen\ (noun)

From the Latin *re* meaning “again” and *ligare* meaning “to bind.”

Positively, religion is a re-uniting with something.

Negatively, religion is a return to bondage.

Religion is the most radical dividing of men from God.

~ Karl Barth, *The Epistle to the Romans*

Religion, far from being the happy solution to the basic human crisis of separation from God, is rather the very occasion for that crisis in the first place.

~ Matthew Myer Boulton, *God Against Religion*

Christian revelation is radically contrary to religion.

~ Jacques Ellul, *Living Faith*

To be a Christian does not mean to be religious in a particular way, to make something of oneself (a sinner, a penitent, or a saint) on the basis of some method or other, but to be a man--not a type of man, but the man that Christ creates in us.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letter to Eberhard Bethage*,
July 18, 1944

“Religion” in its purest and loftiest form is found to belong to the area of darkness. Not those who are blind, but those who confidently say “We see” are found to be in the realm of darkness.

~ Lesslie Newbigin, *The Light Has Come*

Religion doesn't save people. Religion, in fact, may be one of the greatest obstacles to being saved. To participate in the fullness of Life that comes from God, we must revolt against the idolatrous life offered us from religion.

~ Gregory A. Boyd, *The Myth of a Christian Religion*

Christians need no religion of any sort. Instead we already have everything we need to experience an intimate relationship with Jesus. Maybe our only real trouble is that we just don't know what we have.

~ Andrew Farley, *God Without Religion*

The former requirements are rejected because they are weak and useless. Moses' teachings couldn't accomplish everything that God required. But we have something else that gives us greater confidence and allows us to approach God.

~ The Author of Hebrews

God has now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us all our sins; he canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.

~ The Apostle Paul

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

~ Jesus