

Christianity Is Not A Religion

Dictionary references showing the usage of the word religion:-

- 1) A state of life bound by monastic vows.
- 2) Action or conduct indicating a belief in reverence for and desire to please a divine ruling power.
- 3) The exercise or practice of rites or observances.
- 4) A particular system of faith and worship.
- 5) Recognition on the part of humans of some higher unseen power as having control of his destiny, and as being entitled to obedience, reverence and worship.
- 6) Devotion to some principle.
- 7) The religious sanction or obligation of an oath.

To classify Christianity under the above descriptions is to miss the very central object and heart of a Christian way of life.

Christianity is a way of life based on relationships.

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

Why did God decide to do this, create human beings?

1 John 4:7-8 [NIV] *“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, **because God is love.**”*

The Greek word translated here as “love” is “*agapé*” – which describes “*a spontaneous love, irrespective of rights or response of the recipient.*”

Such love describes the Great Creator God who gives and sustains our lives.

He is the origin of this love and such a nature demands other beings to be the objects of this love.

This love demands relationships.

Relationships that begins at a certain point of time in our lives and then mature over a period of time.

This is the heart of Christianity.

The Creator God of The Christian Bible initiated this relationship with human beings.

1 John 4:9-11 [NIV] *“**This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**”*

This relationship founded on God's love for us is then reflected in our love for other human beings.

1 John 4:12 [NIV] *"No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."*

No-one has ever seen God the Father, but He has revealed Himself as being the origin of this outgoing, compassionate, merciful, patient and faithful love through the life, death and resurrection of His only Son Jesus Christ.

John 14:8-9 [NIV] *"Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'" Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Today we can see Jesus Christ through the eyes of His disciples who walked and talked with Him during His earthly ministry as recorded in the Holy Christian Bible.

John 13:34-35 [NIV] *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

We can also see Jesus Christ as the manifestation of the love that the Creator God has for all humanity is His present day disciples.

Christians are to express this love in their relationships with other human beings.

Christianity is a way of life that is learning to love our Creator God and our fellow human beings in all the relationships we have with them.

To look upon Christianity as a religion among others is to miss the very goal and reason for our existence, to mature in our loving relationship with our Creator God and our fellow human beings.

This is the only way to bring peace and stability to this society so full of hate and hostility.

Such a change in this society starts with each of us as individuals, by our responding to the love our Creator God has for us.

Guidelines for our maturing in our love for our Creator God and our fellow human beings are given to us in the Christian Bible, the handbook for loving relationships.