

# True Religion Leads To Moral Action

**Genesis 1:26-27** [King James] *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

**This is the supreme purpose of Christian religion, to make human beings who have been created in the “image” [a shadowlike resemblance] of God into the “likeness” [of same character] as God.**

**Only when this character transformation has been made can a human being stand in the presence of the Holy Creator God, that is, be given the gift of eternal life.**

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**This transformation requires a complete sacrifice of our human will to the will of our Creator God.**

This active change of mind and action is a result of our gratitude to Jesus Christ in sacrificing His perfect life as a substitute for our sinful life so that we do **not** then face eternal death. [**John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**]

**True religion leads to moral action.**

**The only true Christian is the practicing Christian who is constantly becoming more like his Saviour Jesus Christ.**

God always acts like Himself wherever He may be and whatever He may be doing.

When God became flesh [**John 1:1-2, 14**] in Jesus Christ the Son of God and Son of Man, He did **not** cease to act as He had been acting from eternity.

**Philippians 2:5-8** [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!”*

Jesus Christ restrained His powers but He did **not** violate His holiness.

**When the Son of God is incarnate in the human flesh of a believer He continues to act in character with the Holy Creator God.**

**John 14:15-18** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

**This is the method by which God makes the redeemed human holy.**

**Galatians 5:22-25** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to*

*Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

These are the characteristics of indwelling Jesus Christ, that with our intimate relationship will gradually “*rub-off*” on us and become a part of our new nature.

**Faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for all humanity [John 3:16-17] was never intended to be an end in itself but a means to mature morally.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10** [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

**Not only are we to mature morally towards the Holy character of our Creator God but we are given physical tasks of love towards our fellow human beings to complete, as the Holy Spirit flows through us out to other human beings. [John 7:38-39]**

**James 2:14-17** [NIV] *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

For a Christian to just tell a person that they will “*pray for them*” and their problems, knowing that they intend to use prayer as a substitute for service.

**1 John 3:16-24** [NIV] *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”*

True religion is a life of faith-filled action.

Then we will have more **not** less faith along with Godly works.

Then we will have **not** less prayer but more service.

Then we will have **not** a weaker profession but more courageous witness to this world.

Then we will have **not** a religion that is a substitute for action but a religion that is full of faith-filled loving action.

We will then have returned to the original teaching and lifestyle of the early Christian Church.