

Can You Recommend Your Religion? in [Edward Rangel](#)

Pre-Service Loop

2 slides in 1 item • 40s

Image Slideshow



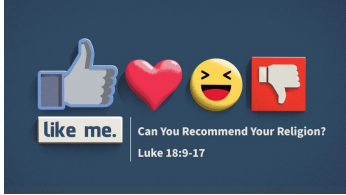
Warm-up

0 slides in 0 items • 0s

Service

50 slides in 28 items

Can You Recommend Your Religion



Thesis: There are many religions in this world. The question that we need to ask is: Can this religion be recommended by God?

Businesses have always depended on good customer reviews. - Mr. Falcón's barber shop: "If we please you tell others; if we don't please you, tell us"

Today customer reviews are mostly online-based - how many stars and reviews usually determine whether or not a customer makes the purchase, takes a vacation, or stays in the hotel.

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The same is true about man-made religions today. Online reviews are based on what religious institutions offer in terms of comfort:

nursery

food, coffee, donuts

gymnasium

counseling

swimming lessons

after-school day-care and programs

good music and bands

hip and relevant preaching

children's church

football, baseball, and/or soccer leagues

Jesus had an incident where he was not able to recommend a religion. Actually, he condemned it. It was called the Pharisee religion: Luke 18:9-17

The Pharisee's arrogance was one of his many sins that made it where Jesus could not recommend his religion. (vs. 13 - I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.)

Jesus goes on to explain to the crowd that in order for the religion to be recommended the Pharisee needed to become childlike.

In this lesson we want to ask if our religion can be recommended, but not from the worldly view.

*(Additional information: Paul could recommend his religion to Agrippa, yet Agrippa refused it. Acts 26:27-28)

Luke 18:9-17

⁹ Now He also told this parable to some people who **trusted in themselves** that they were **righteous**, and **viewed others** with **contempt**:

Luke 18:9-17

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Lesson about

In this lesson we want to ask if our religion can be recommended, but not from the worldly view.

recommend? 

Does God's Word Recommend it?

Does God's Word Recommend it?

1 Thessalonians 4:15

recommend? 

1 Thessalonians 4:15

¹⁵ For we say this to you **by the word of the Lord**, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:15

NASB 2020

Everything we do must have God's approval and support. (1 Thess. 4:15; "For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep.")

He meant that what he was saying came from the Lord.

He could not say anything that did not come from God.

Not all religion has the support of the **Lord's word**.

For example, the religion of the pompous Pharisee could not be recommended by the Lord. He was justified in his mind, but not in the mind of God.

He *felt* justified. But feelings don't matter. What matters is God's word.

What about the **name one wears** in religion?

Can it be recommended by the Lord?

Whatever we do in word or deed we must do in the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17)

We can recommend the name "**Christian**" because that is the name the Holy Spirit gave the followers of Christ. (Acts 11:26; prophesied in Isaiah 62:2)

χρηματίζω, chrēmatisō a divine calling by God, Holy Spirit... (Matthew 2:12; 2:22; Luke 2:26; Acts 10:22; Romans 7:3; Hebrews 8:5; Hebrews 11:7; Hebrews 12:25).

What about the **worship** in which we engage?

Lord's Supper on every 1st day of the week (Acts 20:7)

Singing/fruit of the lips (Ephesians 5:19)

Teaching (Acts 20:7)

Giving of our means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Praying (Acts 2:42)

Everything

- Everything must have God's approval

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:17

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Acts 11:26

²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers of people; and the disciples were first **called** (*chrēmatizō*) **Christians** in Antioch.

Acts 11:26

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Isaiah 62:2

² The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the **mouth of the LORD will designate**.

Isaiah 62:2

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Everything

- **EVERYTHING** must have God's approval
- Not all religions have the support of God
- Our name should come from God (Acts 11:26)

Acts 17:11

¹¹ Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Acts 17:11

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Whatever religion you find yourself in, you should not be presumptuous as to believe that it is right or good enough just because. You must do your job and search the scriptures to see if those things which you practice are from the Lord's mouth! (Acts 17:10-12)

If our religion does not harmonize with God's word, then God cannot recommend it!

Does Our Way of Life Recommend...

Does Our Way of Life Recommend it?

1 Corinthians 11:1

recommend? 

1 Corinthians 11:1

¹ Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

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Philippians 4:9

⁹ As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

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Does Our Way of Life Recommen...

Does Our Way of Life Recommend it?

- Paul believed in his religion
- Pharisee's conduct did not do much for him
- In how we treat people (Golden Rule)
 - Business
 - Relationships

Does the Way You Support it Rec...

Does the Way You Support it Recommend it?

Acts 4:19-20

recommend? 

Does the Way You Support it Rec...

- The support one gives to his religion will show how much we value it.

Can You Recommend it the Way ...

Can You Recommend it the Way Your Religion Supports You?

recommend? 

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

One often recommends a thing because of the good one has received from it (service, warranty, i.e., insurance when disaster strikes)

Paul was in prison when he wrote to the Philippians and joyfully said, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Many people would have given up long before ending up in prison if they had been Paul. (threatened, persecuted, beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked, mistreated by Christians, etc.)

Paul had a different view. In each catastrophe, God had delivered him, and he was able to continue in the service of the Lord. He knew this time it would not be different. He could always count on the Lord to deliver him, even into eternity.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16; "we *are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body...Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day."

The *worthies of the hall of faith* in Hebrews 11 suffered many trials, even death but they remained faithful because of the support they received from their religion - their God!

Their religion would support them in their times of need and that is why they could recommend it to the entire WORLD!

"I can do all things through Him w...

- Why do we recommend goods and services?
- Paul was in prison because of his religion and still recommended it!

Philippians 4:13

¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 2 Corinthian...

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (NASB 2020)

worthies of the hall of faith



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Can You Recommend it for the Go...



Looking back at the self-righteous, selfish, self-centered, arrogant Pharisee answer these questions:

Would you want him as a next-door neighbor?

Marry into the family?

Be the parents of your children?

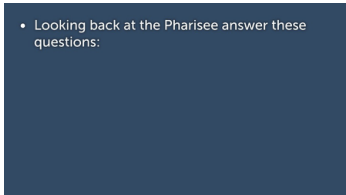
Be the parents of your grandchildren?

Would this person make a better wife or a better husband?

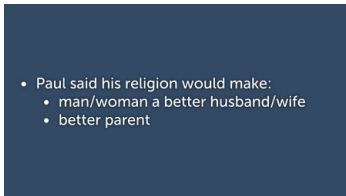
Manage your business?

According to Paul, his religion would make a man and a woman a better husband/wife, and a better parent (Ephesians 5:23-25; "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be to* their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,").

Can You Recommend it for the Go...



Can You Recommend it for the Go...



23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

APPLICATION

Suppose YOU could convert every person in your community to the Lord and would adhere to God's Word and live by His standards, what kind of community would we have?

This would be a community that you COULD and WOULD WANT TO RECOMMEND.

BUT IT STARTS WITH YOU, WITH HOW YOU LIVE, AND YOUR DEDICATION TO THE LORD AND HIS WORD.

It starts with you

APPLICATION

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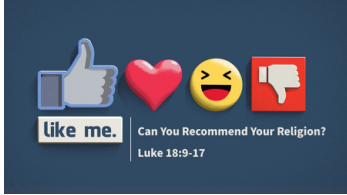
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