



KILLER RELIGION

RELIGIOUS IDEAS THAT BRING SPIRITUAL DEATH

PT. 4, MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES

Today's Killer Religion is Multiple Personalities Religion. This religion is where our Christianity is just tacked on as one in a long list of "personalities" that describe who we are. Sure we're Christians but we are also a lot of other great things. What gets our primary attention is determined by what we see as most interesting or urgent at the moment.

Luke 9:57-62—Three men who had Multiple Personality Religion.

- **Verse 57-58**—if you want to be a Christian you have to be willing to give up even the basic necessities of life.
- **Verses 59-60**—Family emergencies take second place.
- **Verses 61-62**—Once you've taken up the Christian walk don't let anything distract you—Even family.

Why was Jesus so harsh to these three people who wanted to follow Him? Jesus was making the point that it's all or nothing. You can't balance Christianity with a list of other things that you consider equal. Either your life is based on following Jesus or it isn't. You must choose either to turn your back on the world and follow Jesus or turn your back on Jesus and follow the world. You can't do both.

Who are you? Most people would answer by listing the many things that they do. I'm a rancher/business owner, family person, I play golf, I do artwork, I'm a Christian, I go to church, I go to work...

But if we are to have a Christian world view, then, when we describe ourselves, we would simply say, "I'm a Christian—A follower of Jesus Christ." We are first and foremost a Christian and the other things that we do are under that main heading. "Because I'm a Christian I have a job that fits into my values as a Christian." "Because I'm a Christian I spend time with my family to bring them to Jesus."

Matthew 12:33-35—Jesus isn't looking for Christians who are like ornamental fruit trees. He wants those who say they are Christians to bear the fruits of that statement—not just on Sabbath but 24/7! It's not ok for an apple tree to produce an occasional orange or banana.

GOD'S ANTIDOTE: NOT HORIZONTAL BUT VERTICAL

1 Corinthians 10:31—In whatever we do, we should seek to glorify God. If we see our faith and other things in our life as equally important—A horizontal relationship—then when a conflict of interest arises we will think that it is sometimes ok to go with one of our other personalities which will end up not bringing honor to Him. When we put our faith uppermost and filter all of our

activities through the one personality of "Christian"—Vertical Relationship—then our whole life will bring honor to God. All these other things, which may be good things, can become bad when we put them level with or higher than being a Christian.

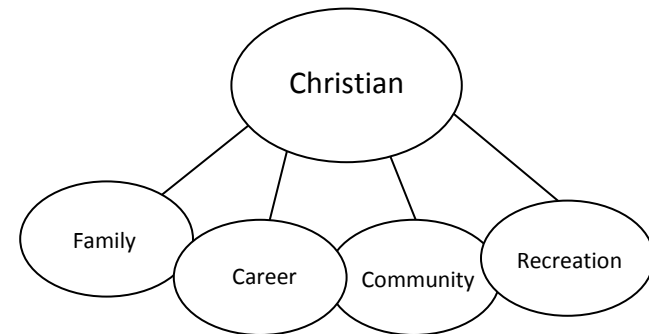
Multiple Personalities Religion is Killer Religion not only because it distracts us from following God but it gives a bad example to those who are watching and may turn them off.

Ephesians 2:8-10—We're not speaking of legalism or works based salvation. We're saved by grace alone but we are saved for good works.

Romans 6:1-4—When we became a Christian our old self died. Now we have a new, God given, life. That's why we should see ourselves as Christians and the other things in lives through that lens.

HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

1. I will do what's right regardless of what my job, family, community, or recreational interests say.
2. **1 John 4:7, 8**—I will show love to people by telling them how to get to Heaven.
3. **Matthew 28:19-20**—I will obey Jesus by using every aspect of my life to fulfill the Gospel Commission.



NEXT STEPS:

1. Create your own large sized version of the Christian flowchart. Replace the given activities with those that you take part in.
2. If you find that you have allowed multiple personalities to crowd out your number one commitment to God, confess that to God.
3. Determine to place God first in every aspect of your life trusting Him to take care of the details.
4. Make a list of people you love (family, friends, etc.) and ask yourself if you have demonstrated that love by telling them the gospel and living it out in their presence.