

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: I Love Jesus But... | Part 4: I Hate Religion

**I love Jesus, but I hate religion.**

*...because religious people are just a bunch of hypocrites.*

*...I'm a spiritual person, but not religious.*

*...I hate "organized religion".*

**We do in fact need to understand that Jesus did indeed start a religion.**

**Luke 4:8** (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God  
and serve only him.'"

**John 14:6** (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

**Jesus started a Church.**

**Matthew 16:18** (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

**Galatians 5:17** (NLT)

<sup>17</sup> The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

**Matthew 18:15-17** (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. <sup>16</sup> But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."

**His Church is a communal life – not solo.**

**Hebrews 10:25** (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

### **Acts 8:30-31 (NLT)**

<sup>30</sup> Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup> The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

### **2 Peter 1:20 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding,

### **2 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> And remember, our Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— <sup>16</sup> speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

**It is in the context of community that we understand the meaning of Scripture.**

**A scriptural definition of pure religion:**

### **James 1:21-27 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

<sup>26</sup> If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

**Advice for sharing your faith with someone who is ‘spiritual but not religious’ (SBNR):**

- Don’t get defensive
- Find common ground
- Keep the main thing, the main thing

**1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)** <sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.