

CHRISTIANITY AS A SPIRITUAL RELIGION!

Here is what makes our spiritual religion distinct from all other religions: The creator became the created, so that we could become a new creation. In other words, “Spirit” created “matter” that ultimately matters spiritually!

The creator . . . the Father

- God is not something, but someone who loves us into existence.
- God loves us and there is nothing that we can do to change that.
- We tried to change things through sin, but God loved us still.

Became the created . . . the Son

- Jesus was and still is like us in all things but sin.
- Jesus embodied reality, morality, and immortality.
- Jesus shows us the way back to the Father.

So that we could become a new creation . . . the Holy Spirit

- Jesus continues his work through the community of his Church.
- The Spirit of Jesus lives on in us who repent and believe in him.
- Life is difficult, but victory in Christ is our sure and certain hope.

Religion is what connects our highest spiritual ideals to our practical daily lifestyles. In other words, religion is the bridge between spirit and world. Without religion, our spirituality is just a bunch of unrelated ideas and feelings. Without religion, our world is confused, broken, and incoherent.

That is why having the right religion is essential. Another word for right religion is orthodoxy. And orthodoxy leads to orthopraxy. In other words, what we believe affects how we live out our daily lives. To learn more about being spiritually religious in the world, please contact us at Saint Daniel Church: Prayer@StDaniel.org, or please come and pray with us.

SAINT DENNIS CHURCH . . .

LOOKING UPWARD IN FAITH, MOVING FORWARD IN HOPE,
LEADING ONWARD IN LOVE . . . TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!

WE ARE A FAITH COMMUNITY OF PRAYER, LEARNING AND SERVICE.
PLEASE JOIN US AS INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
AT SAINT DENNIS CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LOCKPORT!

SO, WHAT'S YOUR RELIGION?

Everyone has a religion! Even the so-called “nones,” those who identify as having no religion at all – they are actually the most religious of all! Once you know what religion really is, you will understand why all of us are very religious. This booklet will help you identify your religion and, in this process, you will also be able to clarify who or what is your own god!

The word religion comes from the same root word as ligament. Yes, it is right there in the “l-i-g” of both words. What does a ligament do for your body? It holds your body together. The muscles may move your body, but your ligaments keep the parts of your body together. In a similar way, religion is what keeps your whole life together in a congruent perspective.

Call it a philosophy of life, a worldview, or a personal mission statement – that is your religion. There can be as many different religions as there are people. However, not all religions successfully keep our lives together. They may work for a while, but most fail in the end. And the reason why they don't work out well, is because they just do not have the right god.

All religions – secular, spiritual, and even atheistic – have three things in common. First, there is a belief system. Second, there is a set of values. Third, there is an organizational principle. Are you skeptical about this? Let us examine a common religious expression that is prevalent today so that we may not only understand it better but also our own religion as well.

As we do this, please do not play the nationality game. Americans are fond of describing their ethnic background as their nationality. However, this is a mere social convention because we are sociologically and politically only Americans, either by birth or by naturalization. Let's not make this mistake in regard to our religion. We really are our religion too!

*“Everybody believes in something or someone.
Those who claim not to believe, don't believe in nothing.
They usually believe almost anything!”*

Secular Religion 101: Belief System

I am my own person. I am an autonomous individual.
I did not ask to be born. I don't owe anybody anything.
I create my own reality. I discover my own truth.

Secular Religion 102: Set of Values

I can do no wrong. I always do what I think is right for me.
There is only one absolute: all values are relative and situational.
Don't you dare judge me! I will not tolerate any form of intolerance.

Secular Religion 103: Organizing Principle

I am in charge of my own life. Don't you dare get in my way!
Important people agree with me: celebrities, gurus, and woke leaders.
Everyone else is a hater, a denier, a hypocrite, or a "phobe."

Secular Religion 104: Promoting Religion

This is the new state religion, supported by the secular media.
If you disagree, you will get diversity training until you submit.
Otherwise, they will cancel you, terminate your job, or worse.



Spiritual Religion 101: Belief System

I am part of a loving plan of someone who created me and all reality.
I admit that I am not all that I was really created to be by my own fault.
I rejoice that my creator also became my savior because he loves me.

Spiritual Religion 102: Set of Values

There is meaning and purpose to life, and Jesus lived all of this to the full.
Jesus loves me and there is nothing that I could ever do to change that.
When I think, feel, and act like Jesus, only then am I living life to its fullest.

Spiritual Religion 103: Organizing Principle

No one is ever alone. We are part of a family and part of a faith community.
The creator became the created so we could become a new creation.
Jesus taught, apostles preached, saints lived, and the catechism explains.

Spiritual Religion 104: Promoting Religion

We are all called both to holiness of life and also to mission in the world.
Holiness is for our salvation, and mission is for the salvation of the world.
Affirmative orthodoxy is how we promote the gospel in word and deed.

