Religious vs. Spiritual

Text—Romans 8: 1-8

Intro.

1. One way to rationalize clear disobedience to Christ is to assert one is “spiritual” while acknowledging one is not “religious”.
	1. Co-worker who talked religion all the time.
	2. One day she announced, "I'm not Religious, but I'm Spiritual"
	3. What does that mean?
		1. Religion is for those who are afraid of going to hell. Being spiritual is for those who have already been there.

Day to Day living

Surviving the trials and tribulations

Coming out the other side, for the better

* + 1. Christianity is more of a relationship than a religion.

More and more churches promoting relationships.

Let’s go along, to get along.

Division is ugly.

1. “Organized religion” is offensive, oppressive and opportunistic, while being "spiritual" is “cleansing” and fulfilling because one “connects with their inner self”.
	* + 1. Social Media meme—Spirituality is a personal relationship with the Divine. Religion is crowd control.
			2. None deny that the abuses and sins of "organized religion" harms the good way of truth (Matt. 15: 7-9)
			3. But we readily accept that one’s life must conform to religion’s claims in order to have a worthy influence,
	1. Jas. 1: 26-27, **If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**
	2. 1 Pet. 2: 11-12, **Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul; having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that, wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**
2. False Comparison/Devil's Lie: Not "Religious" vs. "Spiritual", but rather, *Spiritual vs. Natural*.
3. We wholly reject that one can be “spiritual” in the Scriptural way while rejecting the very Scriptures that teach what it means to be spiritual in one’s life!

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SPIRITUAL?

## The World’s Definition of “Spiritual”. (Humanistic view)

### Defined by self for self.

### Self-discovery, self-definition, self-fulfillment.

*Margaret Paul, Ph.D., “What Does it Mean to be Spiritual?”*

**“Being a spiritual person is synonymous with being a person whose highest priority is to be loving to oneself and others. A spiritual person cares about people, animals, and the planet. A spiritual person knows that we are all one, and consciously attempts to honor this oneness. A spiritual person is a kind person....**

**If you want to be a spiritual person, then let kindness be your guiding light - kindness toward yourself, toward others, toward animals, and toward this beautiful planet that is our home. Recognize that we all have the spark of love that is God within us, and learn to honor that love so that you can know and experience the Oneness of all that is.”**

* + 1. “Highest priority”—To God, not self and others.
		2. “…honor this oneness”—putting God second.
		3. “…kindness be your guiding light”—God’s word is our guide—Ps. 119: 105, ***“You word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”***
		4. “…spark of love that is God…” God is more than a spark of love.

## The Bible Definition of “Spiritual”, Rom. 8: 5-8.

### Mind set on “the things of the Spirit”, 8: 5.

### Live according to the Spirit, 8: 5; Gal. 5: 16-17.

### Spiritually-minded produces “life and peace”, 8: 6

2 Pet. 1: 3, “seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue.”

### Subject to the law of God, 8: 7.

### Pleases God, 8: 8.

### Enjoys fellowship with God, 8: 9-11.

## The Opposite of Spiritual is "Natural", or to be Carnal, Carnally-minded.

### To live by sight, not by faith, 2 Cor. 5: 7, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

### To live according to the flesh,

#### Rom. 8: 5-8

#### 1 Jn. 2: 15-16, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

### The "natural man" is void of spiritual discernment because he rejects the word of God,

#### 1 Cor. 2: 14. “Now the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually judged.

# THE FRUIT BORNE BY SPIRITUAL PEOPLE, Gal. 5: 22-26.

## The Spiritual Person Sets His Mind on Things in Heaven, Col. 3: 1-4.

### His thoughts, motives, intentions, goals and decisions based on Christ's authority, not the earth (1-2).

### Because of conversion and hope of glory (3-4).

## The Spiritual Person Receives the Word of God, 1 Cor. 2: 14-16.

### Spiritual man is guided by revelation - He receives the things of the Spirit of God (2: 10-13), the mind of Christ (16).

### Natural man is not guided by revelation - He rejects the things of the Spirit of God and lives solely on human reasoning (14).

### Application, 1 Cor. 3: 1-3. Christians may not only be "unspiritual" (1), but even anti-spiritual (3)!

## The Spiritual Person Conforms to Will of God, Rom. 12: 1-2.

### Moral choices that conform to God's will, not the world.

### Obedient faith is our reasonable (rational) service.

## The Spiritual Person Communes with God in Prayer, Phil. 4: 6-7.

### Peace in life is borne out of a relationship with God, not self-discovery!

### Prayer is not selfish, it is "self-emptying", Jas. 4: 3; Heb. 4: 16.

## The Spiritual Person Using Heavenly Wisdom to Bear the Fruit of Righteousness toward Others, Jas. 3: 13-18.

### Treat others with meekness (13), with integrity (14), purity, peaceably, gently, deference, mercy, sincerely (17).

### Not with: Bitter envy, ambition, boasting (14) - Earthy, carnal, of the devil (15).

## The Spiritual Person Fights Against Evil, Eph. 6: 10-13.

### It is not spiritual to "go along to get along".

### Spiritual battles demand spiritual warriors, 2 Cor. 10:2-5.

Conclusion

1. Christians must be spiritual! Phil. 3: 20
2. We live *"according to the Spirit"* by obeying the gospel of Christ - No condemnation, Rom. 8: 1.

3.  Put off the old man of sin and put on the new man - *"be renewed in the spirit of your mind"*, Eph. 4: 23 (22-24).

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