

**Introduction: Death by lethal religion**

- The Rationale
- The Process
- The Parallels

**Religion** – “to acquire a deep conviction of the validity of a religious belief or practice.”

Root – old French/Latin – religio – to fear the supernatural; religarē – to tie up, to bind (state of a life bound by vows)

(Webster's)

**Jesus' Commentary on Religion – Matthew 23**

**Question –**

What is the difference between dead religion and a living relationship with God?

**Pharisee** – Clean

**Focus** = Death

**Subject** = Murderer

**Jesus** = Rebukes

**Eyes** = Blinded

**Becomes** An Invalid

**“Get Up”** – “Go where I will tell what you must do.”

**Healed** = To carry His message to the Gentiles

**Healed** = By the name of Jesus

**“Get Up”** – “All Lydda comes to see what Jesus has

**Invalid** Begins to Walk

**Eyes** = Opened

**Jesus** = Resurrects

**Subject** = Doer of good works

**Focus** = Life

**Tanner** – Unclean

**Dead Religion vs. Living Relationship**  
**Acts 9 – A Study in Contrasts**

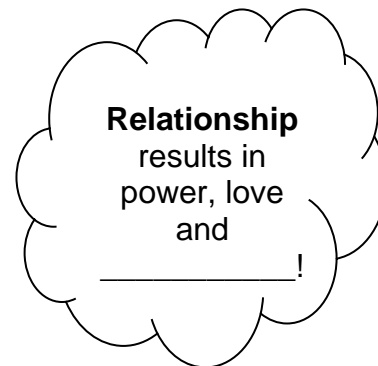


180°

Conversion

**Acts 9:20-22**

100% Called to Mission



**Lessons we must learn about religion:**

1. Religion focuses on \_\_\_\_\_ from the outside-in; life occurs from the inside-out.
2. Religion is rooted in \_\_\_\_\_, life is rooted in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Sincerity and \_\_\_\_\_ are no substitute for truth.
4. Religion is easy to spot in others and nearly \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves.
5. It is God's \_\_\_\_\_ that rocks our world to reveal our \_\_\_\_\_ and birth a fresh \_\_\_\_\_.

**Application Questions for Personal and Small Group Use:**

1. Where have you seen religion bring death in others? In yourself?
2. Read Matthew 23 and discuss Jesus' commentary on religion.
3. Where has religious thinking crept into your life?
4. What specific action do you sense God leading you to take?