

TALK IT OVER

New Kingdom

BOTTOM LINE

You will never understand what it means to be a Christ follower unless and until you see it is utterly different from religion.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a favorite childhood summer memory. Or, where would you most like to go for a two-week paid vacation?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [The Difference Between Jesus and Religion](#) by Andy Stanley (39 min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:6 NLT

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 NIV

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NIV

"The Sermon on the Mount teaches what it means to follow Jesus, a way of life that has a vastly different set of values than the world. The first step in understanding is to realize that Christianity is completely distinct from the world." – Dwight Mason

"The common people were fascinated with Jesus. But the religious people reacted to Jesus with anger." – Timothy Keller

"Religious people killed Jesus." – Karl Barth

"True Christians always make you feel better. But religious people always make you feel condemned." – Tim Keller

TALK IT OVER

How would you explain that Christianity is different than religion? Tim Keller says, "Gospel goodness is brighter, deeper, higher, and sweeter than religious righteousness." What does that mean? Religious people isolate from the world, but Jesus followers are **attracted** to go in with love and mercy. Discuss. Salt is not meant to make you think how great the salt is but how great the thing is with which it's involved. What does that mean related to us being salt in the world? Christianity is also **attractive**. Why are Christians too often unattractive to the world? What makes us attractive? Christians are **authentic** – real from the inside out. According to Jesus, His followers are to see their sins as a plank and the sins of others as a speck. How do you feel about that? Is that hard to receive? If so, why? Following Jesus is different from religion also because it is **freeing**. It's not trying to work your way TO God. You are accepted. Everything you need is tied up in Him, so you are increasingly not self-conscious or scared. Share your testimony of how God is helping you.

ACTION STEP

Religious people experience much deadness – little delight in their faith. I will work with God to grow brighter, deeper, and sweeter by _____