Losing Your Religion #3 :: The Eight Commandments
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INTRODUCTION

A famous Christian author wrote that the world's major religions have eight major themes, eight commandments in common. That list included *loving others… respecting others… and being honest…* among other ethical standards. So in light of those eight commandments, what makes Christianity so different?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could create a brand new religion today, a modern-day super-religion, what would be its central message/theme/focus?

2. How do you respond when you hear that all religions essentially teach/believe the same thing?

3. Do you ever feel guilty when you fall short of your own ethical standards? How do you handle the guilt when you mess up?

4. Read Romans 8:1-4. Paul refers to the law of sin and death. Do you agree that when you sin, something dies? How have you seen that principle reflected in your life? How have you seen that reflected in your relationship with God?

5. When you have wronged another person, how have you reconciled that relationship? Did it require something on your end or did it require something from the other person?

6. The Bible tells us that God did something… he sent his Son (Jesus) to right all of our wrongs. As a result, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. How is that comforting? How is that discomforting?

MOVING FORWARD

All religions point to three things:
1. *We ought to live a certain way.*
2. *We're not perfect, so we don't.*
3. *We are at odds with God because of our failures.*

And here's where Christianity becomes less of a religion and becomes something more personal. In light of this gap, God sent Jesus to this world to stand in the gap. God invites you to lose your religion and embrace your Savior.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.
Romans 8:1-2