

cry (krī) n. - to call in a loud voice

re•pent•ance (rĭ-pĕn'tĕns) n. - the abandonment of all that offends a Holy God

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

### TEXT

I Tim 3:1-5 **Verse 5 in AMP** Form of godliness, but denying its power

Form = (Gr-morphosis) appearance, resemblance: processing of shaping and changing

II Cor 11:12-15 masquerading as apostle of Christ...angel of light.

**WHAT IS A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT** - A deceiving and lying spirit.

**Every time** a Christian yields to the flesh, they yield to some kind of satanic influence, because the flesh is yet unredeemed.

**Article Os Hillman** – “Dr. Peter Wagner defines the religious spirit as “an agent of Satan assigned to prevent change and maintain the status quo by using religious devices.”<sup>1</sup> The religious spirit seeks to distort a genuine move of God through deception, control and manipulation. This spirit operates out of old religious structures and attempts to maintain the status quo, favoring tradition over a genuine, intimate relationship with God.”

**John = God’s love to us (AND His struggle to reach man)**

**I John = Our love for God**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT** – 103 instances in John alone, 32 are below

**They will for a season rejoice in God’s work**

John 5:35

**Grumbling among themselves**

John 6:42-43

**Loves finding sin in others**

John 8:3

**Seeks opportunity to accuse**

John 8:6

**Challenges the Truth**

John 8:13

**Do not know Father God or Jesus**

John 8:19

**They rely on their religious heritage**

John 8:33 (We are Abraham decedents)

**Do not believe they are slaves, nor regard their sin as slavery**

John 8:33-34

**Will prepare to fight against Truth**

John 8:37

**They are hypocrites**

John 8:39

**They do what the Devil does**

John 8:41

**Unable to understand what Jesus says**

John 8:43

**Does not hold to the Truth**

John 8:44

**Dishonors Jesus**

John 8:49

**“Who do you think you are?”**

John 8:53

**Get offended when God works outside their box**

John 9:16

**Love people in their church who do not profess Christ**

John 9:22

**Hurl insults at those who follow Christ**

John 9:28

**Refuse to be taught, unteachable**

John 9:34

**Are not Christ's sheep, they do not believe**

John 10:26

**Are quick to find fault**

John 11:37

**Seek reports on matters they care nothing for**

John 11:57

**Seek to find reasons to not honor Jesus**

John 11:57

**Seek to have control of the money**

John 12:5

**Do not recognize when God speaks**

John 12:29

**Seek praise from man and not from God**

John 12:43

**Looks exactly like real disciples**

John 13:21-22

**Would rather ask questions than receive commands**

John 18:19

**Prefer the company of murderers and leaders of rebellion**

John 18:40 Luke 23:19 (rebellion and murder)

**Seeks to crucify those who have done no wrong**

John 19:6

**Reject the Lordship of Jesus**

John 19:15

**Seeks to hide their wicked deeds before attending religious gatherings (clean up before church)**

John 19:31

## **CLOSING**

Rom 12:1-2 Be ye transformed...!

God's blessing come to those who submit to the transforming. The true Christian walk is a perpetual surrender to the process of obedience that transforms us evermore into the image of Jesus. A religious spirit is comfortable being mistaken as Christian, but absolutely opposes being transformed into the image of Jesus. It will label it "legalism" or "works".

## **APPLICATION**

Identify any resemblance of a religious spirit. Repent of pride, self-love and opposition to be like Jesus!