



QA: Can "Corporate Religion" Save Anyone? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Can corporate religion save anyone?

ANSWER: Those who condemn "corporate religion" usually don't understand either "religion" or "church."

1. Useless Religion -

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you."

(**Acts 17:22-23**)

"Religion" literally means "fearing some deity," in this case, idols. Some people are "very religious" about the "gods" of: power, sex, money, sports, themselves, or things. "Worship without knowing" the God of Heaven and Earth and the Bible is vain.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

(**James 1:26**)

2. So-called "Corporate Church" -

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours. (**1 Corinthians 1:2**)

So, Paul wrote to "the church" (a.k.a. "assembly") "of God" (Who originated it) "at Corinth" (this particular place). Since Jesus promised "on this rock I will build My church" (**Matthew 16:18**), then in Scripture Jesus built but one "church." To the Corinthian church, Paul wrote, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (**1 Corinthians 12:13**), then said, "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (**1 Corinthians 12:27**). The Gospel preached and obeyed makes the "body of Christ." It is not a "corporate church" (a.k.a. "man-made"), but an assembly of sinners who are converted to Christ.

3. Wrong Religion, "Sorcery" - When King Manasseh completely abandoned God,

[He] caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. (**2 Chronicles 33:6**)

All societies that abandon God resort to these same kinds of practices: heartless sacrifice of their children; vain and completely false sources of spiritual information; and immoral behavior before God. "Sorcery" today would be called "drug abuse." Problems then, and Jesus' answer now, is to:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:15- 16**)

--- jtpll, July 31, 2022