

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 5: Making The Cut That Counts

What the world craves today is a more spiritual and less formal religion. To the man or woman facing death, great conflict, the big problems of human life, the forms of religion are of minor concern, while the spirit of religion is a desperately needed source of inspiration, comfort and strength.

~ John (Jay) Davison Rockefeller, IV

Suppose Christianity is not a religion but a way of life, a falling in love with God. If anyone thinks this is perilous and revolutionary teaching, so much the better. That is exactly what they thought of the teaching of Jesus Christ. The light He brought to bear upon human affairs is almost unbearably brilliant: but it is the light of Truth, and in that light human problems can be solved.

~ J. B. Phillips

Christ fulfilled the Law, and made it possible for his followers to see the fulfillment of the Law and its requirements in their own lives simply by following his example.

~ Ben Witherington III, *Historian & Theologian*

For Christians, the bonds of Law are broken not that our standard may be lowered, but that it may be exalted.

~ Chrysostom, *5th Century Archbishop*

The cross is scandalous. It confounds all human religion and philosophy. It is the strange instrument by which God has shattered the old world and brought a new one into being.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

The trouble with the Law is that it cannot provide the power or life needed to enable the Christian to be who he or she ought to be. It may be good information, but information without transformation is inadequate.

~ Ben Witherington III, *Historian & Theologian*

In Galatians, Paul sets out a radical concept of Christian, and indeed human, freedom. The believer is delivered from old allegiances, whether Jewish or Gentile, because the Gospel transcends all human differences.

~ J. R. Porter, *Oxford Theologian*

Embracing the Old Testament Law as a system of salvation or source of identity is a retrogression to a world of categories that have been abolished by the cross.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

All humanity, apart from Christ, is bound together in a solidarity of servitude. Even the most religiously devout – indeed, perhaps especially they – are entangled in subtle forms of bondage.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

By his death he ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new person from the two groups.

~ Ephesians 2:14-15 (NLT)