

19 Therefore, brethren, since we
have confidence to enter the holy
place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:19–20



FREEDOM FROM THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

Part One:

The Religious Spirit ruins everything

20 by *a new and living way* which
He inaugurated for us through the
veil, that is, His flesh,

1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of *repentance from dead works* and of faith toward God,

Hebrews 6:1–2

2 of instruction about washings
[*baptisms*] and laying on of hands,
and the resurrection of the dead and
eternal judgment.

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

Genesis 3:1

The Religious Spirit

1. Questions and
undermines God's
words, replacing them
with other ideas.

2 The woman said to the serpent,
“From the fruit of the trees of the
garden we may eat;

Genesis 3:2–3

3 but from the fruit of the tree
which is in the middle of the garden,
God has said, “You shall not eat from
it *or touch it*, or you will die.’”

The Religious Spirit:

2. Adds extra requirements and burdens to God's actual words.

4 The serpent said to the woman,
“*You surely will not die!*”

Genesis 3:4–5

5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and *you will be like God*, knowing good and evil.”

The Religious Spirit:

3. Makes us work for something we already have for free.

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6–8

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and ***they knew that they were naked***; and they sewed fig leaves together and ***made themselves loin coverings***.

The Religious Spirit:

4. Makes its own covering for the shame of sin - a self-righteous "salvation" made of our own (religious) works.

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:6–8

The Religious Spirit:

5. Makes us dread His Presence — believing that we can live in Paradise without seeing Him face to face.

9 But now that you have come to know God, *or rather to be known by God*, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

Galatians 4:9

9 Then the LORD *God called to the man*, and said to him, “*Where are you?*”

Genesis 3:9–10

10 He said, “I heard the sound of
You in the garden, and ***I was afraid***
because I was naked; so I hid
myself.”

The Religious Spirit:

6. Believes that God will punish us when He "finds"

us, because if we are

ashamed of ourselves, He

must be ashamed of us, too.

11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

Genesis 3:11–13

12 The man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Religious Spirit:

7. Shifts the blame to the everyone else — God, others, even the devil for our choices.

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this, Cursed are you
more than all cattle, And more than every
beast of the field; On your belly you will go,
And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

Genesis 3:14–19

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

16 To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

The Religious Spirit:

7. Ruins everything God made good, introducing striving and pain into our purpose for existing.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Genesis 3:21–24

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” –

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

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