

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ...God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ ” (Gen.1:27-28 NASB)

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” (Rom. 1:25 NASB)

Opinion —

The Bible says “judge not...” so it’s not right for me to judge *anyone*.

Fact —

“For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.” (I Cor. 5:12-13 NASB)

“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” (John 7:24 NASB)

“Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,” (I Cor. 6:1-5 NASB)

“And why do you not even on your own initiative judge what is right?” (Luke 12:57 NASB)

For further discussion on judging see *Diligence* Vol.5, Issues 1, 2, & 3 at the web address listed below.

There are many other topics relating to religion that fall into the category of opinion without any Biblical foundation whatsoever. It is imperative that when we express an opinion, we can back it up with chapter and verse. If not, we should keep our opinion to ourselves since others may follow our erroneous belief.

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Fact And Opinion

Everybody has an opinion about something. The most common subjects people have opinions about are religion, politics and sports. Opinions are not necessarily based on facts. More often than not, opinions are formed when people rely on hearsay, personal bias and prejudice, ethnic background or family tradition. “I’ve always been taught...” is often the reason given for an opinion.

Job’s friends — Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11) had opinions about the reason for Job’s suffering — but —

“...the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, ‘My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.’” (Job 42:7 NASB)

Whoops! So opinions surely aren’t always *right*, huh?

It is good that people *have* opinions however, because it *does* mean that they are at least *thinking* about a particular subject. The problem with opinions is that the mind is often closed to the true facts on the subject. A desire to be right *should* overshadow the desire to cling to an opinion. However, stubbornness and personal pride will often destroy the correction of an erroneous opinion.

Opinions about *many* subjects can be overlooked, but unfounded opinions on religion are dangerous. Opinions on religion that are based on anything *other than* the Bible are of no value and can even cause one to lose his or her soul. Let’s look at some erroneous opinions about religion that have become popular in today’s world and compare them to their corresponding Biblical facts.

Opinion —

God is love and He will not condemn anyone to hell.

Fact —

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;’” (Matt. 25:41 NASB)

“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev. 20:15 NASB)

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.” (Matt. 7:13 NASB)

Opinion —

A person does not need to be baptized to be saved. One needs only to say the “sinners prayer” and invite Jesus into his or her heart to be saved.

Fact —

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.” (Mark 16:16 NASB)

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Gal. 3:27 NASB)

“...when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;” (Acts 2:37-38 NASB)

The Scriptures contain no “sinners prayer.” God’s stipulation for salvation is repentance plus baptism. Without these, condemnation is the result.

Opinion —

One church is as good as another

Fact —

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matt. 16:18 NASB)

“...shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28 NASB).

The church belongs to Christ and should be recognized as His by bearing His name.

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NASB)

Opinion —

You don’t need to attend church services to be pleasing to God. You can simply have a “relationship” with Jesus and not attend a church.

Fact —

“and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Heb. 10:24-25 NASB)

Encouraging one another is very necessary and if we don’t assemble, how can we encourage one another?

Opinion —

Any form of baptism is all right.

Fact —

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4 NASB)

“John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized” (John 3:23 NASB)

Baptism is by immersion and *only* by immersion. It is a *burial* — therefore “much water” is required.

Opinion —

Christians and Muslims worship the *same* God. Muslims just *call* him Allah.

Fact—

“But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’” (Matt. 1:20-21 NASB)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1 NASB)

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14 NASB)

Islam denies that Jesus is the Son of God. The Qur’an claims that Jesus was nothing more than a prophet and was of the *same* beginning as Adam.

The Qur’an - Sura 3:59 — “The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He [Allah] created him [Jesus] from dust, then said to him: ‘Be’. And he was.”

Allah *had* no son. The Qur’an denies there are three persons in the Godhead.

The Qur’an - Sura 17:111 — “Say: ‘Praise be to Allah, who begets no son, and has no partner in (His) dominion: Nor (needs) He any to protect Him from humiliation: yea, magnify Him for His greatness and glory!’”

The Qur’an even states that it is “blasphemy” to say that Allah had a son.

Sura 19:88-92 - the Qur’an — “⁸⁸They said, ‘The Most Gracious has begotten a son?!’ ⁸⁹You have uttered a gross blasphemy. ⁹⁰The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble. ⁹¹Because they claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son. ⁹²It is not befitting the Most Gracious that He should beget a son.”

Opinion —

God is *in all* things — rocks, trees, streams, etc.

Fact —

“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (Gen.. 2:7 NASB)