

Organized Religion: Can I please God without it?

“Increasingly, we hear glowing talk of a churchless Christianity. ...These days, spirituality is hot; religion is not. Community is hip, but the church is lame.”

*Kevin DeYoung, **Why we love the Church: In praise of institutions and organized religions***

Spirituality – belief in ideas of religious significance, such as God, Heaven, etc

Organized Religion – the structure and creeds of a specific religion or faith; i.e. Baptist, Catholic

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- **How do we please God?**
 - **Doing good and sharing – Heb. 13:16**
 - **By rejecting sinful nature – Rom. 8:8**
 - **Having faith – Heb. 11:6**
 - **Following the apostle's commands – I Thess. 4:1-2**

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- **Following the commandment:**
 - **Baptism is the means of entering into the church, making it an act of “organized religion” – Acts 2:38-39, 41, 47**
 - **The church is the body – Col. 1:18, 24**
 - **Baptism is the means of entering into the Body of Christ – Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, I Cor. 12:13**
 - **Baptism is the means of entering into the Kingdom of Heaven – John 3:5**

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- **Is organized religion found in the NT?**
 - **Yes!**
 - **Matt. 16:18; Acts 13:1; 14:23; I Cor. 11:18; I Cor. 14:33, 40; Col. 4:16; Rev. 2 & 3**
- **Is spirituality found separate from organized religion?**
 - **No!**
 - **Acts 2:41, 47; 10:1-4, 48; 19:1, 4-5**

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- **So what do I have to do to please God?**
 - **Pleasing God means following the apostle's commands – I Thess. 4:1-2**
 - **The apostles taught the same thing in every church – I Cor. 4:17**
 - **The church is the pillar and ground of the truth – I Tim. 3:15**
 - **Jesus told the apostles to tell us what to do – Matt. 28:18-20**