

Why join a church?

Assure yourself

“You look like a Christian. So join us. Watch over our lives and we’ll watch over yours.”

While membership doesn’t guarantee someone is a Christian, it should assure believers of the genuineness of their faith.

Evangelize the world

We can preach the gospel to our community/
the world much better together than apart.

As Christians love, encourage and admonish
one another, we display a living, breathing
image of the gospel to the world.

Expose false gospels

As the members of a church collectively say, “This is the truth” their unity in doing so works to expose corruptions and imitations of the true gospel.

Edify the church

Let the members know we will attend regularly, give faithfully, pray for the church, and serve as we have opportunity.

You can do far more to build up the church as a committed member than as an autonomous attender.

Glorify God

By committing to one another as members of the same church we display the glory of God's love—a committed, persevering, transforming love—as we image it in our lives together we bring Him glory.

Exploring a relationship w/Jesus

Members: Be a part of showing what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Explorer: The teaching of the church will make this clear and God will use His Word to bring you into His family.

Just started a relationship w/Jesus

Meaningful membership isn't just for the benefit of the long time Christian; newer Christians need someone to come alongside them and help out.

For long time Christians

Longtime Christians need to make their love for Christ definite by loving others in a purposefully committed fashion.

For the leadership

How can pastors watch over a flock that doesn't identify with the church in membership? How can leaders serve the church if they do not know who the church is?

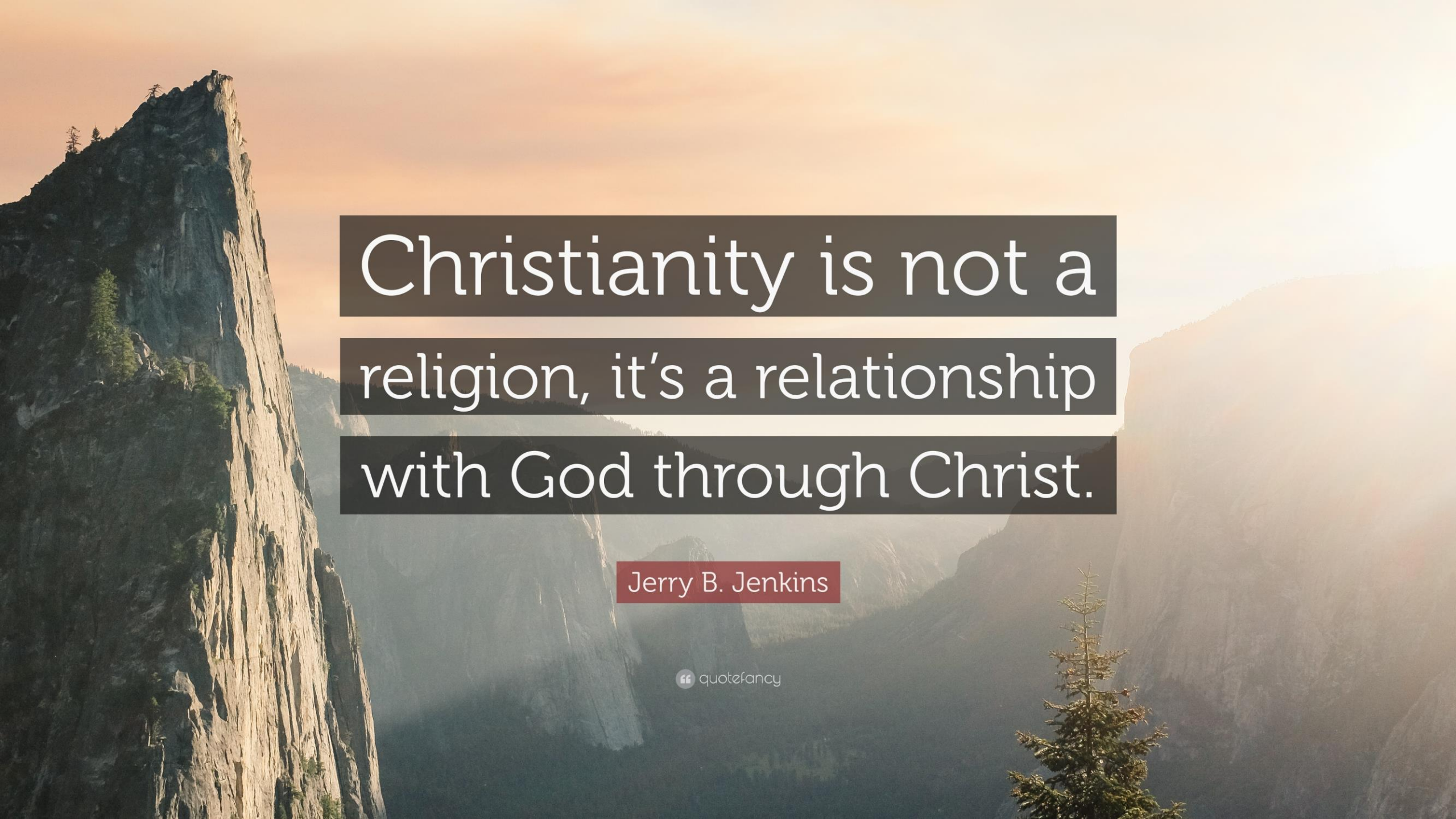


FREE CHURCH

**GROUNDING IN FAITH,
FREE IN CHRIST**

S U



A scenic view of a mountain peak at sunset or sunrise, with a quote overlaid in three dark boxes. The background shows a rugged mountain range with a prominent peak on the left and a valley below. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting the time is either dawn or dusk. The quote is presented in three stacked dark rectangular boxes with white text.

Christianity is not a
religion, it's a relationship
with God through Christ.

Jerry B. Jenkins

Symmetry



1-7

8-10

11-15

16-17

18-20

21-22

23-27

Ritual
Sacrifices

Priest
Ordination

Ritual
Purity

Day of
Atonement

Moral
Purity

Priest
Qualification

Ritual
Calendar

Adapted from "The Bible Project"

Where have we been so far...

- Live a life demonstrating God is in our midst
- Live a life revealing Jesus is our sacrifice
- Live a life of obedience, which is a life of love
- Life of love is a life with God
- Immense is the cost of the life with God
- Life of love is a life of holiness
- Life of love is a life of high calling

What are your expectations
for our national leaders?

Leviticus 21:1-4

And the LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them, No one shall make himself unclean for the dead among his people,² except for his closest relatives...”

- Priorities

Leviticus 21:5-6

They shall not make bald patches on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts on their body...For they offer the LORD's food offerings...

- Priests represent their God
 - Appearance is important

Leviticus 21:7-8

They shall not marry a prostitute or a woman who has been defiled...a woman divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God...

- High Priest's son succeeded his father
 - Spousal choice is a matter honoring God

Leviticus 21:9

And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by whoring, profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.

- Profanes the One her father represents
 - Behavior is a matter of God's reputation

Leviticus 21:10-15

The priest who is chief:

...shall not let the hair...hang loose

...nor tear his clothes

...shall not go in to any dead bodies

...shall not go out of the sanctuary

...shall take a wife in her virginity

- Service takes priority

Leviticus 21:16-24

None of your offspring throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach...²² He may eat the bread of his God... but he shall not go through the veil...

- Priest's "perfection" is essential
 - But this is not punitive / discriminatory

Leviticus 22:1-9

If any one of all your offspring throughout your generations approaches the holy things that the people of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off...

- Priest's performance must be persistent

Leviticus 22:10-13

A lay person shall not eat of a holy thing;

...the slave may eat of it

...anyone born in his house may

...priest's daughter widowed / divorced

- Precise obedience is necessary

Leviticus 22:14-16

¹⁴ And if anyone eats of a holy thing unintentionally, he shall add the fifth of its value to it and give the holy thing to the priest.

- As well as a protection...
 - It would be an expensive meal!

Leviticus 22:17-25

20 You shall not offer anything that has a blemish, for it will not be acceptable...

- Sacrifices must be perfect

Leviticus 22:26-28

When an ox or sheep or goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, ...²⁸ But you shall not kill an ox or a sheep and her young in one day.

- Ritual is not to be heartless

Leviticus 22:29-33

*And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted...
I am the LORD who sanctifies you, ³³who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD.*

- Identity / authority statement

Bottom line

- Priests led the nation
 - Serving is of the highest priority
 - Serving requires higher standards
 - Serving requires self-sacrifice

Leader qualifications in the NT

- Elders - 1 Tim 3:1-7 / Titus 1:6-9
- Deacons - 1 Tim 3:8-13

The Gospel

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Pet 2:9-10)

How do we proclaim His excellencies?

- Live life like Jesus
 - Priority
 - Purity
 - Proactively