

**Acts 1-10: God's Blueprint for Ministry in the Church
Getting Past the Barrier of Religion To Jesus
Acts 7:1-60 (page 760)**

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Religion = man's attempt to make himself acceptable to God through his own works, rites, rituals and traditions (Mark 7:5-13; Gal 2:21)

Christianity = submitting by faith to God's salvation and entering a living relationship with the living God (John 5:36-40; 14:21,23-24)

When telling religious people about Jesus, I should understand that:

- There will likely be a failure to understand that faith involves a living relationship with God (7:1-8)
- There will likely be a rejection of God's deliverance in favor of their own righteousness (7:9-36)
- There will likely be disobedience to God's word in favor of the pursuit of their own desires (7:37-43)
- There will likely be a substitution of dead traditions for authentic worship of God (7:44-53)
- I am to faithfully witness of Jesus to others no matter how great the cost (7:54-60)

Thinking it through...

1. How would you describe the difference between "religion" and "Christianity"? Or do you see any difference?
2. What do you learn about God from Stephen's sermon in Acts 7?
3. In what ways would you like to be more like Stephen? What step(s) can you begin to take this week to move more in that direction?