

the  Venues
Go Deep

The Spirituality of the Beatles

Eleanor Rigby

Let's Go to Church with Jesus and the Beatles

6.9.19

What is your strongest memory of going to church? What would you change about Christianity today?

“Eleanor Rigby” describes a dead, meaningless church experience.

Read the following passages and mark and discuss the characteristics of a dead, meaningless religion:

James 1:26; James 2:17; Galatians 5:6

The teaching Sunday mentioned 6 perceptions The Beatles had of the church and Christianity. *Which ones resonate with you?*

1. Fear-based. George thought that people attended church because of fear of damnation rather than out of a love of God. And that this fear, once instilled in children, was hard to shake off.
2. Church was no fun. John said, “*Being thrown out of church for laughing was the end of the church for me.*” Yes, 14-year-old John was banned from church for giggling.
3. After John’s interview in which he said “The Beatles are more popular than Jesus,” some Christians went berserk with protests, record-burning, banning their songs on radio. The Beatles saw this response in two ways: a. Christians are afraid to examine their faith. b. Christians are more interested in morality and power than spirituality and humility.
4. The church was spineless. Preachers didn’t talk about the issues of the day.
5. Paul was frustrated with hearing different Christian groups calling other Christian groups heretics for not believing exactly the way they did on core issues.
6. In comparing Christianity with Hinduism, George noticed that most Christians were “Sunday only” followers. Hindus, on the other hand, allowed their faith to permeate every area of their lives.

Barna Research revealed that only 2% of Americans under 30 believe attending church is important or worthwhile. 59% of millennials raised in church have dropped out. *Are you surprised with those statistics? Why do you think this is happening?*

Read Luke 19:45-47 and John 2:13-22.

What did Jesus see when he went to church? What are your observations?

What did Jesus mean when he said his house was to be a place for all nations?

How has the church done in making it a place for all people?

Jesus quoted Jeremiah 7:11 when he accused the religious leaders of turning the temple into a “den of thieves.” Religious leaders were treating the people unfairly by overcharging them for the sacrificial animals.

How are people being cheated and treated unjustly today?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Ephesians 2:22.

Where does God dwell? The questions we ask of the church, we have to ask of ourselves. What are our answers?