

What lies ahead for organized religion?

Religion is decreasing. Spirituality is increasing. More and more people, including scientists, recognize the existence of a "higher power," life after death, and agree that love should be the primary basis for human interactions. The problem is that when you try to codify these beliefs into an organized system of thought and establish an organization to promote it, the organization eventually becomes corrupted by financial concerns. It takes money to advertise, pay for buildings and upkeep, and pay pastor or leader salaries. Once a belief system becomes institutionalized, it becomes rigid and resistant to change, and eventually loses its original focus and intent.

I personally like the Methodist approach, because they are theologically flexible and emphasize the doing and living of our faith rather than on the specifics which can be very controversial. Sadly, Methodism is declining, along with other mainline denominations. In this current era of "Trumpism" it is easy to see that most people are looking for "certainty" and "charismatic leadership," and are not at all interested in doing the necessary homework to make intelligent decisions based on their own study and exploration.

I sincerely hope that over time there will be a marriage between science and religion. At some point in the future, the most important aspects of religion will be verified by good science and less subject to uneducated opinions and financial motives.

What are your thoughts on this?

Richard Goyette