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Commonly Confused

sacrilegious
sacrosanct

Synonyms

supernatural
punctilious
sacrosanct
fastidious
meticulous
righteous
spiritual

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Nearby Words

religionless
religiose
religiosity
religious
religious belief
religious ceremony
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re·li·gi·ous

[ri-lēj-uh s] Show IPA

adjective, noun, plural -gious.**-adjective**

1. of, pertaining to, or concerned with religion: *a religious holiday*.
2. imbued with or exhibiting religion; pious; devout; godly: *a religious man*.
3. scrupulously faithful; conscientious: *religious care*.
4. pertaining to or connected with a monastic or religious order.
5. appropriate to religion or to sacred rites or observances.

-noun

6. a member of a religious order, congregation, etc.; a monk, friar, or nun.
7. the religious, devout or religious persons: *Each year, thousands of the religious make pilgrimages to the shrine*.

[Use religious in a Sentence](#) [Hunt v. City of Los Angeles No. 09-55750 archived on March 24, 2011](#)**Origin:**

1175–1225; Middle English (< Old French) < Latin *religiōsus*, equivalent to *religi* (*ō*) religion + *ōsus* -ous

—Related forms

re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
re·li·gi·ous·ness, *noun*
an·ti·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
an·ti·re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
non·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
non·re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
non·re·li·gi·ous·ness, *noun*
o·ver·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
o·ver·re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
pre·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
pseu·do·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
pseu·do·re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
qua·si·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
qua·si·re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
ul·tra·re·li·gi·ous, *adjective*
ul·tra·re·li·gi·ous·ly, *adverb*
ul·tra·re·li·gi·ous·ness, *noun*

—Can be confused: Ireligious, sacrilegious, sacrosanct (see synonym note at the current entry).

—Synonyms

2. reverent. Religious, devout, pious indicate a spirit of reverence toward God. Religious is a general word, applying to whatever pertains to faith or worship: *a religious ceremony*. Devout indicates a fervent spirit, usually genuine and often independent of outward observances: *a deeply devout though unorthodox church member*. Pious implies constant attention to, and extreme conformity with, outward observances. It can also suggest sham or hypocrisy: *a pious hypocrite*.
3. devoted, unwavering, meticulous.

—Antonyms

2. impious.

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World English Dictionary

religious (rɪ'lɪdʒəs) ?

— *adj*

1. of, relating to, or concerned with religion
 2. a. pious; devout; godly
b. (*as collective noun* ; preceded by *the*): *the religious*
 3. appropriate to or in accordance with the principles of a religion
 4. scrupulous, exact, or conscientious
 5. *Christianity* of or relating to a way of life dedicated to religion by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and defined by a monastic rule

- 1 -

6. *Christianity* a member of an order or congregation living by such a rule; a monk, friar, or nun

re'ligiously

= adv

re'ligiousness

- m

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religious

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"[Religious establishment] is adverse to the diffusion o..."
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"The equal right of every citizen to the free exercise o..."

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