



THE CSS POINT
Yes We Can Do It!

What is Religion?

Agha Zohaib Khan

What is Religion?

- ▶ Religion has been defined in different ways by different philosophical thinkers. The following definition seems to be nearest to truth: "Religion includes a world-vision, a daring belief, a set of absolute obligations, a range of imaginative, emotional and practical experience that is denied to the non-religious mind.
- ▶ Religion is Way of Life prepared by God for the benefit of Human beings.
- ▶ Religion is the natural urge of man.
- ▶ Religion is also a universal truth.

Revealed & Non-Revealed Religions

- ▶ Revealed religion is where a deity educates his followers about himself through revelation. Revealed religions are the Abrahamic monotheistic religions like Islam, Christianity and Judaism.
- ▶ Non-revealed religions are where human beings generally perceive their deity in the way they like them to be and are generally associated with pagan/polytheistic religions.
- ▶ Examples of Non-revealed religions are
 1. Confucianism
 2. Deism
 3. Taoism

Why We Need Religion

- ▶ Religion gives us moral values and answers the questions that cannot be addressed by science.
- ▶ It gives a meaning and purpose to human life and satisfies man's longing for peace and salvation.
- ▶ Religion has been defined as “the relationship between man and the super Natural power (GOD) he believes in and depends upon”.
- ▶ The goal of religion is getting in tune with the infinite. Moreover, the philosophy of religion is neither ceremony, nor ritual, nor going to the temple, but an inner experience to submit his will to God.
- ▶ Religion gave answers of fundamental problems of human, such as, does God exist? What happens after death? How did we come into existence? Why are we here? What is the purpose of life? Religion helps to extend the view of an individual beyond our dimensions.

Social effects of Religion

- ▶ Religion explains individual suffering
- ▶ Religion enhances self-importance
- ▶ Religion comes as a source of social cohesion
- ▶ Religion encourages social welfare
- ▶ Religion is the agency of social control
- ▶ Religion controls economic life

World Major Religions

1. Christianity: 2.1 billion
2. Islam: 1.5 billion
3. Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist: 1.1 billion
4. Hinduism: 900 million
5. Chinese traditional religion: 394 million
6. Buddhism: 376 million
7. Sikhism: 23 million
8. Judaism: 14 million
9. Jainism: 4.2 million
10. Shinto: 4 million
11. Zoroastrianism: 2.6 million