

Why Mankind Should Abolish Religions

First of all, I would like you to try to think as clearly as possible, trying to understand the different aspects of human culture that I'm going to explain, **without assuming you are the only person who has the right beliefs.** Remember that is a characteristic of intelligent people to think and analyze **without prejudices.**

Many people think how nice it would be to live in a world without war, where all cultures can respect each other, where mankind can work together towards common goals.

It is pretty obvious that the only way in which such an objective can be attained is by searching for positive things we can all work on, and feel comfortable with. In other words, we have to look first for those aspects we, as human beings, share.

When people try to find something common to all cultures, most people will immediately say: "religion". However, our concept of religion, or what it means to be a religious person, might differ greatly to what another person living in a different place could think.

Now, what is the common most important aspect all religions have? Should it be the existence of a god? The concepts of heaven and hell? Well, we all know many religions don't believe in one single god, but in many gods, and the concept of heaven and hell is not a common thing to all religions (Hinduism for example, does not believe in hell, but in reincarnation)

There are 19 major world religions which are subdivided into a total of 270 large religious groups, and many smaller ones. 34,000 separate Christian groups have been identified in the world. *Over half of them are independent churches that are not interested in linking with the big denominations.*"

Most people in the world follow one of the religions listed in this table (**show "number of adherents of world religions"**)

NUMBER OF ADHERENTS OF WORLD RELIGIONS ¹

Religion	Date Founded	Sacred Texts	Members	% of World
<u>Christianity</u>	30 CE	The Bible	2,015 million	33% (dropping) ₅
<u>Islam</u>	622 CE	Qur'an & Hadith	1,215 million	20% (growing) ₅
No religion *	No date	None	925 million	15% (dropping) ₅
<u>Hinduism</u>	1,500 BCE	The Veda	786 million	13% (stable) ₅
<u>Buddhism</u>	523 BCE	The Tripitaka	362 million	6% (stable) ₅
<u>Atheists</u>	No date	None	211 million	4%
Chinese folk rel.	270 BCE	None	188 million	4%
New Asian rel.	Various	Various	106 million	2%
Tribal Religions	Prehistory	Oral tradition	91 million	2%
Other	Various	Various	19 million	<1%
<u>Judaism</u>	No consensus	Torah, Talmud	18 million	<1%
<u>Sikhism</u>	1500 CE	Guru Granth Sahib	16 million	<1%
Shamanists	Prehistory	Oral Tradition	12 million	<1%
Spiritism			7 million	<1%
<u>Confucianism</u>	520 BCE	Lun Yu	5 million	<1%
<u>Baha'i Faith</u>	1863 CE	Most Holy Book	4 million	<1%
<u>Jainism</u>	570 BCE	Siddhanta, Pakrit	3 million	<1%
<u>Shinto</u>	500 CE	Kojiki, Nihon Shoki	3 million	<1%
<u>Zoroastrianism</u>	No consensus	Avesta	0.2 million	<1%

* *Persons with no religion, agnostics, freethinkers, humanists, secularists, etc.*

¹ More data is available in the web page of the organization "Religious Tolerance":
<http://www.religioustolerance.org>

What we can infer from this table is that there are many different religious groups spread all over the world; and that **most of them are not compatible with each other**. This is a main cause for misunderstandings; it even goes beyond the normal cultural differences, and sometimes it becomes a reason to see other people as something that has to be avoided and sometimes even hated.

Mankind has seen how during most of its history, human beings that are supposed to be together, had killed each other just because of their spiritual beliefs. In ancient times, clans used to kill people from other tribes so they could then offer their enemies' heads to the gods. Nowadays, Protestant believers are killing Catholics in Ireland, Buddhists and Tibetans have continuous problems in China; Muslims and Hindus are fighting in Pakistan, and Islamic groups are killing Jews; in the same way they have been doing it since the very foundation of these religions.

The worst massacres in history have had religious connotations. Take Christian Religion for example (I chose this religion because it has the most records of such events). In the name of Christ, the Americas experienced the systematic extermination of its ancient cultures. Christopher Columbus described American aborigines as "idolaters" and "slaves", and in every place he would land, he always said: "I hereby testify that though the grace of God; we will cause as much damage as we can to the unfaithful vassals that refuse to accept their Lord, and fight him and contradict him". By the end of the sixteenth century, more than **60.000.000** Native Americans had been killed in order to please "God".

In the same way, John Winthrop, first governor of the British colony in Massachusetts said: "I justify the works in the new England...to take the gospel to all parts of the world...and build a fortress against the kingdom of the Antichrist". This territory was colonized by the people who some years later, founded some of the most important "American Style" religions, such as the "Jehovah's Witnesses", "The Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints" or the "Seventh day Adventists"; all of these well known because of its lack of tolerance to other groups.

The same things happened everywhere the world powers of the time (Spain, England and Portugal) went, inflicting the same suffering they received when they were dominated by the Roman Empire.

Again, what do all these “loving and caring” religions have in common? As history tells us, its most common thing is their **need of reaffirmation over other religions, by whatever means necessary**. How come we, intelligent humans still can't accept this truth?

Nowadays it is well known the fact that human beings evolved from the first creatures that lived on this planet, in the same way plants and the other animals did. Seeing these totally amazing processes occurring in front of our own eyes, how come some people can still believe the world was created in seven days? Or that we have to work because of some “divine punishment?” Analyzing history I have come to the idea that **most of human sufferings had happened out of fear and ignorance, and since religions promote these two concepts, in a way of “lack of tolerance”, we should try to abolish these movements for the good of all mankind**.

Now, the superficial message almost every religion sends to their followers is very different. Religions usually stress on the need to “love your neighbor of your fellow men”, among many other nice values and beliefs like compassion, respect, and honesty. **Do we really need to belong to any religious group in order to behave this way?**

The one thing that sets us apart from the rest of the other animals on earth is our inner capacity for **thinking and reasoning**. Now, more than any other time in our short history, we are in the capacity to effectively reach to all humans on earth, and promote and most importantly **show with our actions** how these values are the ones that will help us take our **next step in evolution**. Freeing ourselves from the ancient beliefs, that had only brought suffering to our race.

Now, please note that I haven't denied the existence of a God, I think the universe works wonderfully well because of something. **This way of things just had to be “created”** by someone or something. It is our mission to improve ourselves so we can (hopefully) come to understand how our world works. **Our existence is so much complex and rich and there are still so many things to discover, that we should feel proud of living at this stage in history; instead of living in fear, waiting for “the end to come”**.

I know this is an extremely difficult task to accomplish, however, **I believe in the power to improve ourselves, and to go beyond our own imagination as the way to**

fulfill our dreams.

Can we do something to make this happen? Confucius, the founder of an ancient Chinese religion once said: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. So it is within ourselves if we want to change our world, or just let our life pass us by without doing anything to improve the future of our family; the human family, that is.

Teach our children how they can change the world around them, instead of letting things around them affect their lives, sometimes in very negative ways. Teach them there is a God, and that our mission on earth is to do our best to improve the way we **ALL** live. Teach them compassion, respect, tolerance, and help them develop a **thirst for knowledge**. Only by knowing our weaknesses and strengths we can get to know how to best help ourselves and the people around us. The capacity to take the next leap is at hand, let's not fall ourselves into the traps of ignorance, of hundreds of years doing the wrong things. **Together, we can make the world the best place to live in the whole universe!**

A quotation from Jesus Christ says:

“My people perish because of a lack of knowledge.”

Hosea 4:6

Thank you

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