

RELIGION FREEDOM

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What is religion?

Religion is a matter of faith with individuals or communities and it is not necessarily theistic.

A religion has its basis in a system of beliefs or doctrines which are regarded by those who profess that religion as conducive to their spiritual well being. But it will not be correct to say that religion is nothing else but a doctrine of belief. A religion may only lay down a code of ethical rules for its followers to accept, it might be prescribe rituals and observances, ceremonies and modes of worship which are regarded as integral part of religion, those forms and observances might extend even to matters of food and dress. In a society where there are no moral values there would neither be social order nor secularism. Religion is the foundation for value based survival of human beings in a civilized society.

Freedom of religion is a doctrine that supports the freedom of individual or communities. Every person has right to profess, practice, propagate religion without the government interference.

TO PROFESS a religion means to declare freely and openly one's faith and belief. He has right to practice his belief by practical expression in any manner he likes .TO PRACTICE a religion is to perform the prescribed religious duties, rites and rituals and to exhibit his religious beliefs and ideas by such acts as prescribed by religious order in which he believes. TO PROPAGATE means to spread and publicize his religious view for the edification of others. Freedom of religion is considered by many people and many countries provide fundamental rights and protect the rights of individual. It also includes the freedom to change ones's religion and faith. Freedom of belief is different. It allows the right to believe what a person , group or religion wishes . Every person has right not only to entertain such religious belief and ideas as may be approved by his judgement or conscience but also exhibit his belief and ideas by such overacts which are sanctioned by his religion.

Freedom of religious worship was established in the Buddhist Maury Empire of ancient India by Ashok the great in the 3rd century BC, which was encapsulated in the edicts of Ashok. Most major religious festivals of the main communities are included in the list of National Holidays. Although India is an 80% Hindu country, India is a secular state without any state religions. The right to religious freedom as granted by the constitution of India (articles 25-28) can be the bedrock of a secular democractic state it fulfils the promise of equality and non –discrimination in matters of religion to all groups of people whether minorities or majority. The ancient doctrine in India that the state protects all religions but interferes none. It should treats all religions equally.

Many scholars and intellectuals believe that India's predominant religion , Hinduism has long been a most tolerant religion. But India is a country built on the foundations of a civilization that

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is fundamentally non-religious not only Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism which are the native religions but also Christianity and Islam have flourished here. Religious tolerance is inherent in Indian tradition.

In ancient times many nations did religious persecution, religious intolerance, islamophobia. It means unfair treatments of particular group of people because of their religion. It aims at forcing the religious to go away or give up their religion. It may occur in the following forms:

1. Violence including pogroms
2. Social discriminations
3. Not giving a job to a person because of their religion.

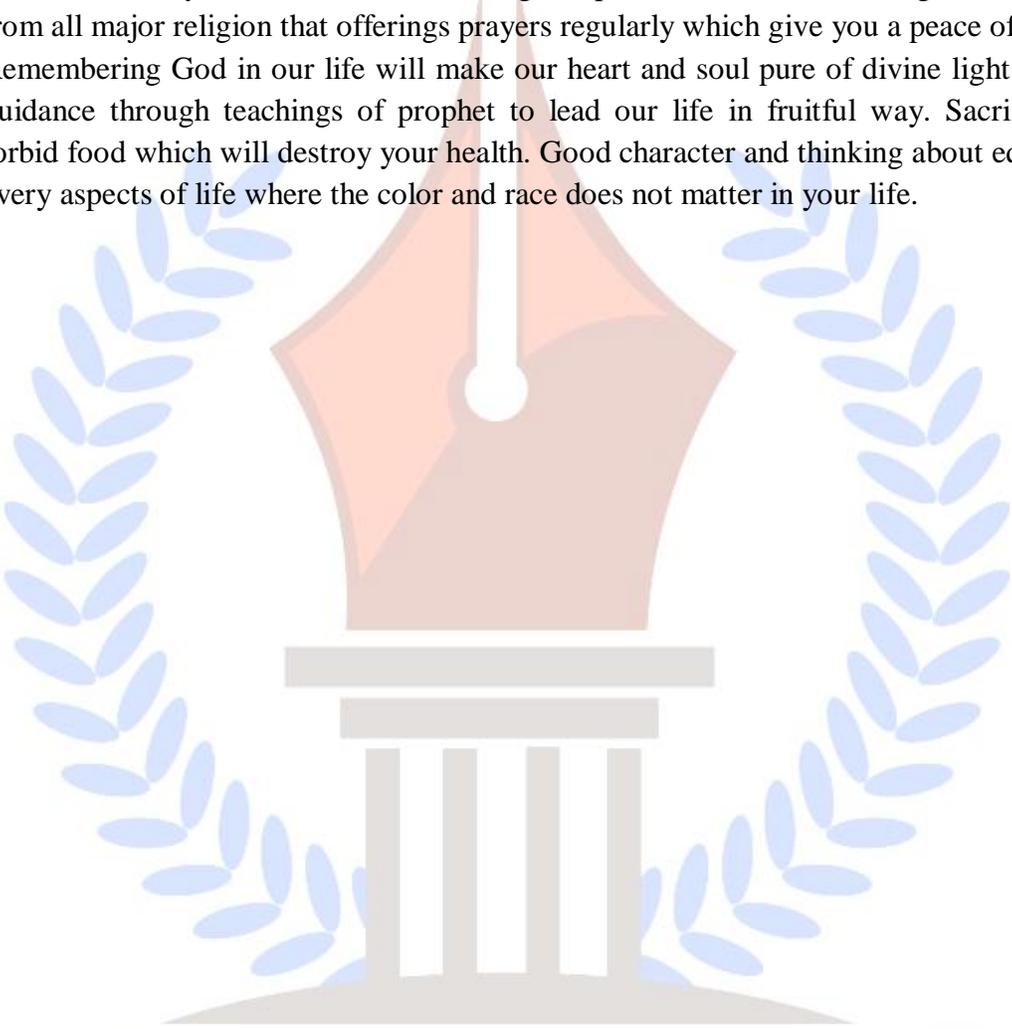
Incidents of persecution are periodically reported in many countries. Because of these incidents ON 25 November 1981, the UN general assembly passed the declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief. This declaration recognizes freedom of religion as a fundamental human rights in accordance with several other instruments of international law. On 27 October is declared as International Religious Freedom Day.

RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION

1. Religious liberty subject to public order, morality and health. In the name of religion no act can be against public order, morality and health. It prohibits the slaughter of cattle or indecent exposure one's person in a public place.
2. Regulations of economic, financial, political and secular activities associated with religious practices. The freedom to practice extends only to those activities which are the essence of religion. It does not cover secular activities which do not form the essence of religion.
3. Social welfare and social reforms. The state is empowered to make laws for social welfare and reforms. The state can eradicate social practices and dogmas which stand in the path of the country's onwards progress. Social evils can not be practiced in the name of religion.

In conclusion, after reading and observing all major religions of the world (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism) are different in their concept of worshipping, fasting, festivals and tradition. I found one significant thing in all major religions that they believed in one God and accept of God existence. No matter whom we are and belongs which religion but at end of the day we all stand up on a single platform of one God. In Judaism, worship is only for god and god is everlasting with no concept of death and born. This the same belief in Islam that Allah is eternal with no wife and son.

The Best Religion which makes you a better human than a religious person. The supreme religion which teach you to serve our life for human welfare, help support them without discrimination . The great religion which guide you to walk on straight path of deed and revoke you from doing sin , the perfect religion which tells you to feel others pain and more respectful and humble to your parents in a lovely manner. Moreover the best religion which command you to help poor people and orphans by providing necessary facilities of daily life. The most interesting , important and valuable things that I learned from all major religion that offerings prayers regularly which give you a peace of mind. Remembering God in our life will make our heart and soul pure of divine light , getting guidance through teachings of prophet to lead our life in fruitful way. Sacrificing of forbid food which will destroy your health. Good character and thinking about equality in every aspects of life where the color and race does not matter in your life.



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