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Religion: Definition

Religion is a complex organized system in which ceremonies and other religious rituals are performed with rules that are established to worship a certain god. Religions have been around since the creation of earth. During the Neolithic Era, civilizations such as the Egyptians had a complex religion which consisted of many gods as they were polytheistic believers which stated that they believed in more than one god. Christianity; however, is another religion in which the believers believe in one god and one god only. Religion, although it has influenced many people in their beliefs, has caused division among billions of people. For example, wars such as the Crusades were fought due to different beliefs among the people of that time period. To most civilizations if not all, religions are essential to the way of living as each country has developed their own religion whether it is polytheistic or monotheistic. In most religions, instructions, traditions, rewards and/or penalties are simple guidelines that everyday believers look up to.

Many individuals consider religion to be a guideline to the way that they live their lives. In holy books such as the Bible, many instructions are given in order that you follow them and that if you follow them you will be considered righteous or in right standing with God. One of the most prominent set of instructions that most people are familiar with are the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are instructions that were given to Moses in the Old Testament on the top of Mount Sinai. These instructions were not only given to the Israelites in the desert, they were a set of instructions they everyone needs to abide by even to this day. Other instructions that holy books instruct their believers to keep are to “Love your neighbor as you love yourself” Matthew 22:39 which was instructed by Jesus. Jesus ordered that you love you neighbor because “Love covers over a multitude of sins” 1 Peter 4:8. Just as the law that is established by the government needs to be kept, so is the instructions that a religion such as Christianity needs to be kept without being broken, but “everyone sins and falls short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23 but that doesn’t give us an excuse to break the law; instead, we need to “repent” Matthew 4:17.

A common tradition that is among most Christians is that they go to church every Sunday. Thousands of churches across the world go to church on Sunday because in the Bible that Sabbath day was a day in which the believers rested from all of the work that they have accomplished during the week so that they could rest. During the Sabbath day, you rested and celebrated and feasted on all of the food that the people brought. When God had finished creating the earth, he rested on the seventh day. Many Christians believe that the seventh day that God rested on was a Sunday. Many other religions believe Saturday is considered as the Sabbath such as the Seventh Day Adventist religion.

Religion is a part of many lives around various countries around the world. Although religion is practiced by billions upon billions of people throughout the world, it is not necessarily essential. What is essential is the relationship that we have with our God. God just wants you to be close to him and talk to him just as you would talk to one of your friends or your family members. Although he is not physically seen by us, he wants us to “walk by faith and not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7. Religion can be viewed differently by many individuals as some believe in different religions than others but all are alike in that they contain traditions, a deity and a purpose for life.