

Discriminating Between Genuine And Demonic Religions

Genuine Religion

Purpose: To foster the modes of earning peace and distributing justice so that all manner of cultural, religious and moral activities thrive and expand by “building out” (economics), flowering like perennials.

Faith: Reliance on or resting in God. Faith is a gift from God, not an achievement by man. Where God is concerned, man has no standing, no claims ... besides belonging to Him by nature, yet now estranged.

Presence in Community: Quiet, embracing, uplifting, trustworthy, prophetic, inspiring, self-effacing, unarmed, beautiful and beautifying. Spontaneous laughter, sweet song and graceful dance.

Effects in Community: Support of local, regional and national identities and entities, including national armed forces capable of prompt deployment to destroy those who attack the nation. Universal, free education and medical care but not income. Restraint on debilitating impulses such as gluttony, egoism, etc.

Scripture Reading and Teaching Method: Correlation, taking the language of scripture symbolically and showing how those realities to which the symbols point, and in which they participate, answer questions arising from the human condition and an individual life. Basic attitude and activity: dialectical (conversational) and participatory.

Signs of Authenticity: Self-authenticating because others see in their own experience of them that they are health-bearing and therefore induce expansions of love, peace, culture, morality and prosperity.

Demonic Religion

Purpose: To dominate the financial, social and political life of a group, including from local inhabitants to every inhabitant of the globe, but without caring for them or fostering their happiness and welfare.

Faith: Acceptance of dogmatic phrases and/or emotional submission to wishes and laws manufactured by demonic clergy from their ego-driven literalistic reading of books, such as Koran, Torah, Bible, Veda.

Presence in Community: Noisy, fanatical, polluting, contentious, demanding, assertive, violent, ugly, disruptive, defacing, armed, domineering, swaggering. Grim/menacing or jubilant/triumphant.

Effects in Community: Opposition to local, regional and national identities and entities, including armed forces, in favor of discrete, non-inclusive groups bearing arms and organized by personal, family/tribal, commercial and/or caste loyalties. (No actual religion or loyalty supports radical independence of either groups or individuals.)

Scripture Reading And Teaching Method: Literalism, taking the language of scripture literally, extracting phrases out of context and compelling literalistic obedience to those phrases by groups and individuals. No interest in that which concerns man ultimately. Basic attitude and activity: confrontational and hegemonistic.

Signs of Authenticity: Not self-authenticating because not participating in a revelation of God. Adherents must be coerced by emotional, financial, racial, political, etc., threats and propaganda.

Religion is man's response to a revelation, a self-expression or self-manifestation, of God. **Revelation** is a saving event, a salvation, for all who participate in it, either by anticipation or by direct experience, because it reunites, restores as one, that which has come apart. **The religions** are systems of expression (thoughts, words and acts) that preserve the symbols and participate in the power of man's response to a history-guiding revelation of God. "There is only one religion, the religion of Love. There is only one caste, the caste of Humanity. There is only one language, the language of the Heart. There is only one God, He is Omnipresent." Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

