

Definitions of Religion - 1

- "A man's religion is what he would die for rather than abandon." (H. Bosanquet) (Meaning: whatever man believes in, he holds firm on to...)
- "A body of samples which impede the free exercise of our faculties" (Salomon Reinach)
- "[T]he feelings, acts, and experiences of individual men in their solitude, so far as they apprehend themselves to stand in relation to whatever they may consider the divine" (William James).

Definitions of Religion - 2

- Religion is the "opium of the people" (Karl Marx).
- "The essence of religion consists in the feeling of an absolute dependence. Religion is the consciousness that the whole of our spontaneous activity comes from a source outside of us " (F. Schleiermacher 1768-1834).
- "Religion is the quest of life by means of symbols" (Lord Raglan).

Definitions of Religion - 3

- "Religion is morality tinged with emotion" (Mathew Arnold).
- "Religion is a set of beliefs, practices and institutions which men have evolved in various societies" (T. Parsons).
- "Religion is the recognition that all things are manifestations of a power which transcends our knowledge" (Herbert Spencer).
- Human recognition of a superhuman controlling power and especially of a personal God or gods entitled to obedience and worship (Concise Oxford Dictionary).

The Seven Dimensions of Religion (Ninian Smart)

- Ritual: Forms and orders of ceremonies (private and/or public) (often regarded as revealed)
- Narrative and Mythic: stories (often regarded as revealed) that work on several levels. Sometimes narratives fit together into a fairly complete and systematic interpretation of the universe and human's place in it.
- Experiential and emotional: dread, guilt, awe, mystery, devotion, liberation, ecstasy, inner peace, bliss (private)
- Social and Institutional: belief system is shared and attitudes practiced by a group. Often rules for identifying community membership and participation (public)

The Seven Dimensions of Religion (Ninian Smart)

- Ethical and legal: Rules about human behaviour (often regarded as revealed from supernatural realm).
- Doctrinal and philosophical: Systematic formulation of religious teachings in an intellectually coherent form.
- *Material:* Ordinary objects or places that symbolize or manifest the sacred or supernatural

Smart, Ninian. Secular Education and the Logic of Religion New York: www.sahayaselvam.org Humanities Press, 1968

Five dimensions of Religion

(1) *ritual* activities (including, but not only, "church" attendance);

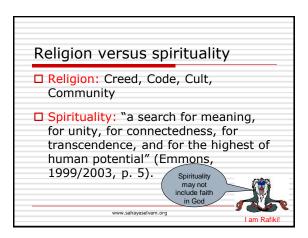
(2) *ideology* or adherence to the principal beliefs of the religion;

(3) experience or the "feeling" aspect of religion;

(4) the *intellectual* side of religion, which involved religious "knowledge" and was frequently measured by such activities as reading religious publications (including, but not only, sacred texts);

(5) the *consequential* dimension, which attempted to measure the "effect" of an individual's religion in its other dimensions upon his or her "life."

C. Y. Glock and R. Stark, Religion and Society in Tension (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1965)



Spiritual-but-not-religious	
40% of American respondents and 20% of German respondents identify themselves this way (Csof, Hood, & Keller, 2009).	
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Religiosity & Spirituality 1 2 High Spirituality Religious Spirituality Spiritual-but-not-religious Intrinsic Religion Quest Sacred or Secular Sacred & Secular Search for significance Search for significance Low 3 4 'Empty' Religion Neither religious nor spiritual Spirituality Extrinsic Religion Secular Searching OR Sacred No search for significance no search for significance Low Religiosity High Religiosity www.sahayaselvam.orgThanks to Dr. Joanna Collicutt