

RELIGION: The Great Questions

by Denise Lardner Carmody and John Carmody

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What is religion?

Religion is the personal and social dimension of human life that deals with the mysteriousness of life revealed by the ultimate questions of our origin, depth and destiny.

Why should we study religion?

Not for profit, but to understand better what is happening in the world, in our communities and families and within ourselves.

How should we study religion?

With a global perspective, focusing on the following profound questions religion tries to solve, with academic and impartial respect for every tradition, and emphasizing that every religious tradition has relevant, personal implications of its own teachings for its adherents.

Part 1: What matters most in human living?

What are we searching for in life?

What reveals what life is all about?

How can we continue to grow?

What do we owe one another?

How should we think about reality?

Part 2: What is evil?

How should we view nature?

Why do states fail?

Why do we get depressed?

How should we think about death?

What is the greatest evil?

Part 3: What is ultimate reality? What is meant by God?

Where is God in our lives?

Is there a privileged way to God?

Why have religious rituals?

What does God require we do?

(Are there special persons to help us with these questions?)

Part 4: How Are We To Live?

How are we to work?

(How are we to love others?)

How are we to sexually love others?

Why pray (and how are we to) pray?

How can we achieve justice?

How are we to relate to the earth??