

# Let's talk about the Secularization of Religion

Secularization – : the transfer from ecclesiastical to civil or lay use, possession, or control

Secularism – : indifference to or rejection or exclusion of religion and religious considerations

What do I mean by “The Secularization of Religion?” Let's investigate the indifference to religious considerations in religion.

Does “evil” exist?

What is “evil?” Merriam Webster : morally reprehensible SINFUL, WICKED <an evil impulse> b : arising from actual or imputed bad character or conduct <a man of evil reputation

We live in a pluralistic society.

## Pluralism

1 : the holding of two or more offices or positions (as benefices) at the same time

2 : the quality or state of being plural

3 a : a theory that there are more than one or more than two kinds of ultimate reality b : a theory that reality is composed of a plurality of entities

4 a : a state of society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups maintain an autonomous participation in and development of their traditional culture or special interest within the confines of a common civilization b : a concept, doctrine, or policy advocating this state

Tonight we will have Spanish, Mexican, Italian, French, Chinese, etc., food or maybe just a hamburger. Which is best? Which is the right one? It depends on you. What do you like? Or more precisely, which do you want tonight?

What about pluralism in religion? Which one is right? Are they all the same, depending on what you want tonight?

There are those who complain that Christianity is so exclusivistic. That is, some believe that only Christians are going to be saved.

All other major religions of the world have a core that is non-negotiable. Only the Bahai claim to make no distinctions. They only exclude the exclusivists.

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

“When I read the Bible, I get a completely different picture than you do. But we’re all heading toward the same place, merely using different paths.”

Is that really true?

There are an increasing number of people who cannot distinguish good and evil! People who have grown so used to pluralism that they no longer deal in exclusivism.

What is the difference between food and garbage?  
Consider breakfast at your favorite foreign restaurant.

Milk is the secretion of a cow. If we happen to be out of milk, would you care for another secretion of a cow?

An egg is the embryo of a chicken? If we happen to be out of eggs, would you care for an alternative embryo?

You are ready to be exclusivistic about your breakfast.

As you try to assemble a coherent answer to one who would question you about your life, how will you determine what is good and what is evil? How will you exclude evil?



You might say, “I will follow my parents.”

What if your father was Saddam Hussein?

You might say, “I will follow the religion of my  
parents.”

What if your father was Josef Stalin?

You might say, “I will follow the major religion of  
my country.”

What if you were born in Borneo?

The apostle Paul could have answered affirmatively to all of the questions above and yet he says that he was the chief of sinners.

Acts 23:1 Paul , looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."

1Tim 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.

Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; 14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

“A culture that loses its shame, its power of reason and its sense of meaning has little to hope for.”

Our country has reached that point and is completely secular. A number of Democratic congressionals recently held that a person who devoutly holds to their religion has no place to be a judge in our society.

And Christians are losing their sense of reference about what a shameful – an evil – act is!

When the judge asked Ted Bundy, who gruesomely murdered at least 36 young woman, if he felt any guilt, he replied, “I do not feel any guilt. In fact, I feel sorry for anyone who does feel guilt.”

Evil – morally reprehensible SINFUL, WICKED

On the walls of Auschwitz where 20,000 Jews a day were gassed, Adolph Hitler is quoted, “I want to raise a generation of young people devoid of a conscience; imperious, relentless and cruel.”

Evil – morally reprehensible SINFUL, WICKED

“All truth is relative.”

If truth includes that statement, then truth is not true! Truth must exclude that statement to be true.

What is truth? What is sin? What is evil?  
Everyone has their own thoughts about these matters. Who decides in a pluralistic society?

Where will we find the correct answers to these questions?

## Truth

Jn 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth

## Sin

1Jn 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness

## Evil

1Jn 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.



The difference in the evil evidenced in the statements by Ted Bundy and Adolph Hitler and that given in this verse is one of degree. Yet, the degree of sharing with someone who does not “abide in” and “bring this teaching” would be one that many Christians would not call “evil”.

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“Let us divide and acknowledge that everyone can go their own way”

1Cor 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Brethren, we need to pay more attention to the word of God.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him

2Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2Pet 3:15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Are you ready to be an exclusivist in religion?

You must acknowledge that there is but one right way!

You must travel that way and no other.

You must realize that anyone traveling on a different way is lost – undone by evil!

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'