

# Religious Intolerance:

# Let's drop some knowledge and kick the habit

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Human Rights University for a Day

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# Discussing Religion

- **Listen with respect.** Try to understand what someone is saying before rushing to judgment.
  - Make comments using “I” statements.
  - **Do not** interrupt others while they are speaking.
  - If you don’t understand something, **ask a question.**
  - Think with your head & heart.
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# Essential Questions

What is religion?

What are the major world religions?

What is religious intolerance? (and how is it different from racism)?

What are the causes of religious bias?

What does religious intolerance look like?

How can we work to improve religious intolerance and increase respect for diversity?

# **What is Religion?**

# What is Religion?

- **A personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices.**
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# Quick Do Now:

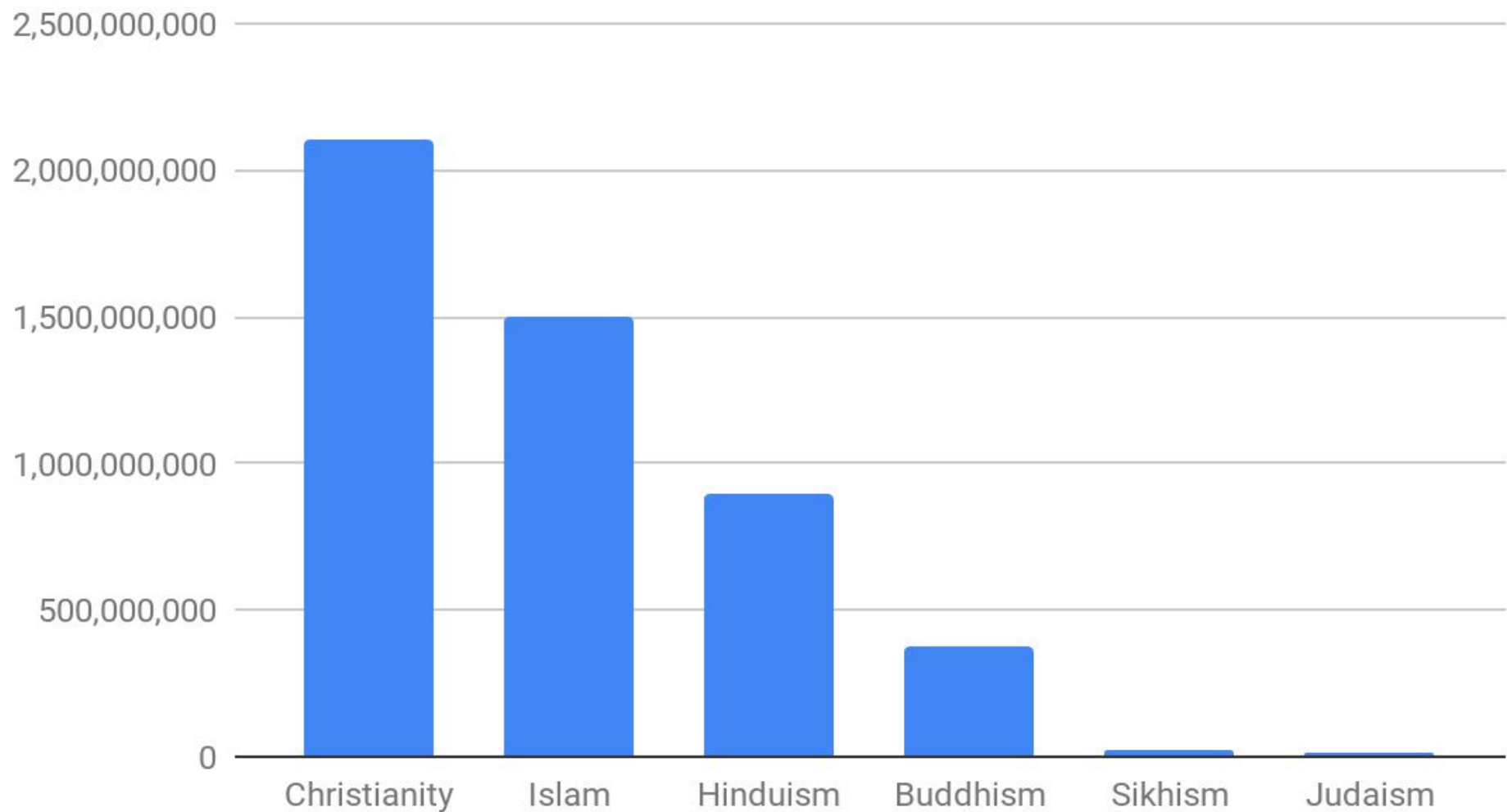
Take out a sheet of paper and list at least 5 religions you can identify.

...

If you rank them from greatest to least amount of followers, you get brownie points!!

# Six Major Religions of the World

- Christianity 2.1 Billion
- Islam 1.5 Billion
- Hinduism 900 Million
- Buddhism 376 Million
- Sikhism 23 Million
- Judaism 14.5 Million





# Did you know...

- Jihad is an important component of Islam - but is often negatively portrayed in the media
  - Literally means “Struggle” such as poverty, internal etc.
- The reason why Christianity is the largest practiced religion is because of the spread of western civilization and colonization.
- Sikhism and Hinduism are predominantly practiced in the same part of the world.
- You can be any religion and any race, there is no race that belongs to a religion or vice versa.

**FAST FACTS**

**In 3...2...1...**

# Christianity

- Monotheistic Faith
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God - Died for the sins of his followers
- Revolves around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- They follow the Holy Bible
- Christmas, celebrates the birth of Jesus, and Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ are considered the two MOST important holidays.
- Divided into 5 main groups or sects
  - The Church of the East, Oriental Orthodoxy, Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism
  - Though altogether there are more than 30,000 subdivisions



# Islam

- Monotheistic Faith
- The belief in Prophets: Prophet Mohammed
- Revolves around the words of God (Allah) with stories of the life of Prophet Mohammed
- They follow the Holy Quran.
  - There has only been one version.
- They Practice Ramadan and 2 Different Eids (Muslim Festival)
- Has two main sects: Sunni and Shia
  - Each sect has 4 subgroups
- 5 pillars in order to fulfill the duty of being a muslim
  - Shahada
  - Salat
  - Zakat
  - Fasting
  - Hajj



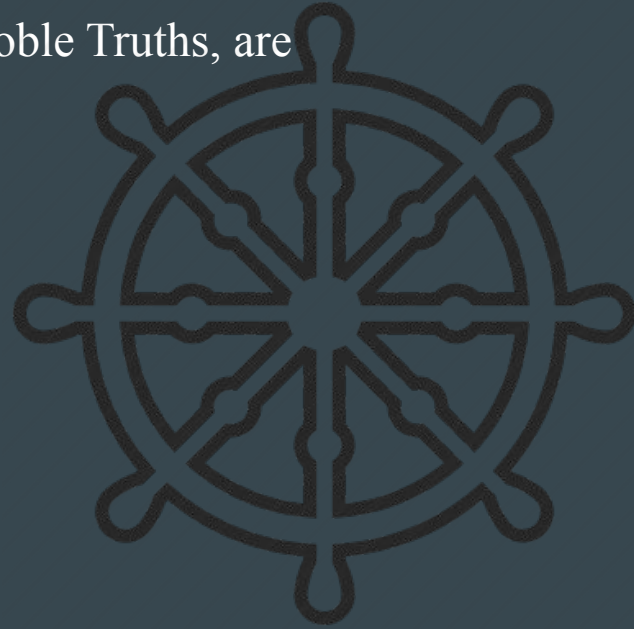
# Hinduism



- Polytheistic
- Belief is that gods or divinities can take many forms.
  - All form one universal spirit called Brahman
- Eventually the soul will achieve moksha, or salvation, and stop the cycle of rebirths to become a part of the absolute soul
- Paths to salvation are called the margas or yogas
- No one specific religious text to follow - but multiple
  - These are called The Vedas
- Predominantly goes hand in hand with the Indian culture; practiced in India

# Buddhism

- Nontheistic
- Don't acknowledge a supreme God.
- They focus on achieving enlightenment—a state of inner peace and wisdom.
- The religion's founder, Buddha, is considered to be man, but not a god. The word Buddha means “enlightened.”
- Buddha's most important teachings, known as The Four Noble Truths, are essential to understanding the religion
- The Teachers: Buddhist monks, or bhikkhus
  - Must follow a strict code of conduct
- The path to enlightenment is attained by:
  - utilizing morality, meditation and wisdom.



# Sikhism

- Monotheistic
- Sikhs believe men and women, has equal status before God.
- Human beings are encouraged to develop their moral character through generosity, humility and self-reliance.
- They follow the Guru Granth Sahib
- Sikh means “seeker of knowledge” in Punjabi, the language of India’s Punjab region and of Sikhism’s holy books.
- The Sikh place of worship is known as a gurdwara
- Sikh is properly pronounced “sik”



# Judaism

- The World's Oldest Monotheistic Religion
- God is referred to as Yahweh
- They follow the Holy Torah
  - This includes the 5 books of moses
  - Shares the Old Testament with Christianity
- They celebrate 5 major holidays:
  - Passover
  - Rosh Hashanah
  - Yom Kippur
  - Purim
  - Hanukkah
- There are 3 denominations: Orthodox, Conservative and Reform
- They consider Abraham, the Prophet, the father of Judaism





**Critical Thinking Check: Is Atheism a religion?**

# What is Religion?

- **A personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices.**
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# Critical Thinking Check: Is **Atheism** a religion?

Under the definition of religion. Yes they are considered a religion.

If you feel otherwise, ask yourself **why...**

And on that note...

What is Religious Intolerance?

# What is **religious intolerance**?

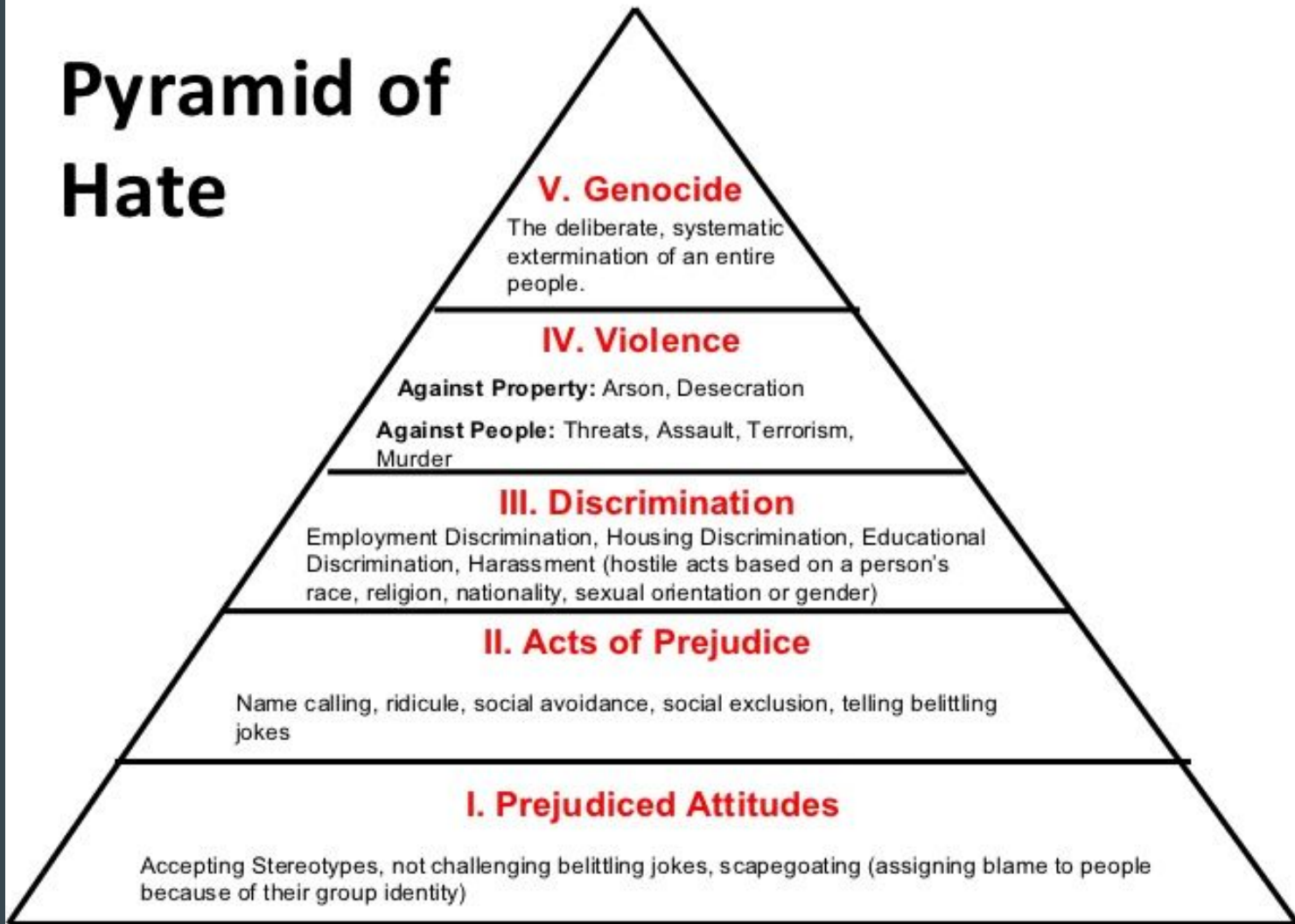
The inability to accept others' religious beliefs and practices as valid.

Looking down on or disparaging a person or group because of their religion.

**Critical Thinking Benchmark:**  
**How is Religious Intolerance different than  
Racism? Or is it the same?**

With the previous question in mind: Use your own experiences or world experiences to fill in the levels.

# Pyramid of Hate





**Genocide:** Holocaust and Armenian  
Genocide

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**Attacks:** New Zealand Terrorist  
Attack. Pittsburg Synagogue  
Shooting.

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**Discrimination:** Muslim Woman  
Denied Job at Hollister over her  
Headscarf

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**Acts of Prejudice:** Hate speech by  
People in power.

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**Prejudiced Attitudes:**  
“Terrorist Jokes”, “Don’t be  
such a \_\_\_\_ Nazi”



# The Psychology of Hate:

- The Video will discuss why one may commit a hate crime. Specifically, it discusses the attack on African American worshippers at the Charleston Church in South Carolina.
- KWL Chart to break it down
- Some content and language may be sensitive.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2015/06/20/charleston-church-shooting-psychology-of-hate-fisher-nr-cnni.cnn>

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Have Learned

**How did you feel about the things being said in the video?**

How can we **stop** religious intolerance and **honor** diversity?

Let's take 3-4 minutes to come up with at least three solutions to the rise of this issue.

# How can we **stop** religious intolerance and **honor** diversity?

Let's take 3-4 minutes to come up with at least three solutions to the rise of this issue.

1. **Be an Upstander**
2. **Educate yourselves and those around you**
3. **Make friends across cultures, religions, etc.**

## FUN FACT:

If Every faith we have discussed “requires” their followers to wear a dressing....

Then why do specific religions get persecuted more for wearing their dressings?

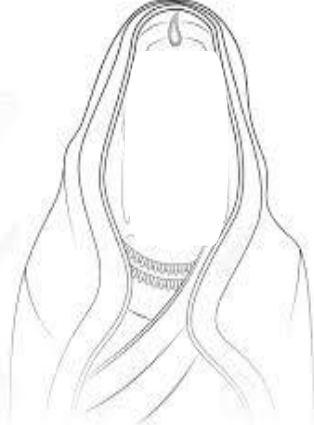
Which faith wears *this* required dressing?



**JUDAISM**



**HINDUISM**



**SIKHISM**



**CHRISTIANITY**



**BUDDHISM**



**ISLAM**





Are we all *really* that different?



WE ARE STRONGER UNITED.



# The Golden Rule

That nature only is good  
when it shall not do unto  
another whatever is not good  
for it's own self.



What is hateful to  
you, do not do to  
your fellow man.  
That is the entire  
Law; all the rest is  
commentary.



Blessed is he who prefers his brother  
before himself.



Hurt not others with  
that which pains  
yourself.

This is the sum of duty:  
do naught to others that  
which if done to thee  
would cause pain.



No one of you is a believer  
until he desires for his  
brother what he desires for  
himself.

Do unto others as you  
would have them do  
unto you.