

---

## Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Lesia - 2005/09/18 00:56

---

Any others who aren't Xtian? Or perhaps wish to discuss Spirituality in general without assigning to any one religious belief system?

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by AmandaInNYC - 2005/09/18 14:54

---

I hate labels, including the ones that can sometimes be placed by religion. I personally don't believe in any ONE organized religion. There are things I like from Christianity, things from Islam, things from Hinduism, things from Judaism, even Paganism! I've also seen the bad things that can come from each of those religions. My beliefs are my beliefs and you won't find them all between the covers of just ONE book.

I don't mean to offend anyone by this I feel that everyone should cherish their own beliefs and practice whatever religion you want. This country was founded on Freedom of Religion after all, wasn't it?

Amanda

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by momof2gg24 - 2005/09/18 15:26

---

I am more spiritual than anything else. I took a world religion class and loved it I still have the site that went with my class marked. I will discuss anything you please just to gain an understanding.

Heather

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Payenanny - 2005/09/20 06:23

---

Hi Lesia..welcome to this site..:)

I enjoy much about spirituality and the discussions that come with the subject..would love to hear anything you have to say, or ask...welcome again....Peace PN

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by cleopatra - 2005/11/23 17:01

---

I am a Christian, however discussing other spiritual beliefs is absolutely one of the most enjoyable subjects. Perhaps some assume that when a person is a Christian anything they have to say has to do with conversion, not just the give and take of knowledge. Some may say that because we chose a religion to base our lives upon makes us closed minded. I disagree. I used to be an atheist. I would not discuss any spiritual areas without attitude and arrogance. I judged others as lesser because they had made a choice and it did not please me. No, I don't agree with many behaviors that are okay today, but that is because I have been through hell and back. I simply would wish others to have a better life than I had. I don't demand it, I pray for it. I have met so many Christians who do want to learn about how others face their spirituality-they may not agree, but disagreements are not necessarily judgements. My husband loves reggae, but I can just tolerate it, it's a difference not a point of judgement in our marriage. So, don't think that every Christian forum is in exclusion of others. I don't see this forum as an exclusion of me. We don't have to have our separate forums. We can express our thoughts and I think because of the fact that we watch SO we know we can be different and be respected.

---

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by netty - 2005/11/23 17:04

---

I always respond the same as momof2gg24 did. I am spiritual! I was raised Anglican and baptized as an adult Anglican. My honey is Catholic and so are his children. My cousin is agnostic which means she doesn't disbelieve but she wants it proven to her. That is tough for me because without spirituality, I don't know how I'd get through the struggles of life!

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by asparagus - 2005/11/24 09:12

---

I was raised in the United Church of Christ and became Lutheran through marriage. It was in the Lutheran church I was sexually abused and exploited by the pastor of the congregation. My now ex-husband and I were having difficulties in our marriage and the pastard suggested I come to him for counseling. I did. Huge mistake. I used to believe churches were safe places. I no longer do so. My sons and I were thrown out of the church. For me, organized religion has become a thing of evil--something to be avoided.

It took a lot of REAL counseling for me to find my way back to sanity. My counselor was a Roman Catholic sister who was very open to one's finding God on one's own path. So, today I no longer consider myself a Xtian. But I do consider myself still somewhat a follower of Jesus as revealed to me in "conversation" with the Creator.

Currently, I have found comfort and spiritual peace in the Native American Lakota understanding of Spirit. In that I am in the process of constructing my own Medicine Wheel sacred space in my garden and find that to be nurturing to my soul.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Dionysus - 2005/12/12 16:46

---

Lesia -- sister,

Great to see you here.

I'm not often but it is nice to read a familiar name.

As far as traditionalism goes you know I am traditional but love discussing all the cool ins and outs of religiosity.

Dionysus

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2005/12/13 00:08

---

Wow, just saw this thread. I really learn so much from everyone who honestly posts beliefs, thoughts, etc. I'm Christian, but recently am discovering that I want to be "spiritual" not "scriptural" along with all the hypocrisy that goes with that like how I was raised.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Dionysus - 2005/12/13 09:54

---

Grizzlys4,

---

You make an important point. While I think nothing is wrong with having a mastery of the scriptures; all too often this mastery comes at the expense of spirituality and thus hypocrisy. A true student of the scriptures will note the prophets' constant fight over hypocrisy in the church -- where the "believers" and some "leaders" stop following the spirit of the religion and fall into diverse practices and evil. Hence the story of the good Samaritan, he was not one of the "chosen" people, yet he was the only one to do good and be spiritual.

So it must follow that "the good" are found both in and out of every religion.

I would contend that it is not any particular religion that is evil, but the hypocrite that does one thing and says another who practices evil and not spiritual.

D

---

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by peace - 2005/12/14 12:01

---

Can you explain the difference between "Scriptural" and "Spiritual" ?

The reason I ask is because I think maybe the semantics are confusing me.

I think of Scriptural as more of a basis for a belief system (so if you have a belief, you should know what it is you're believing in - if your belief includes some scriptures, you should read them and know what they say).

I don't see spiritual as an opposite to scriptural in that way.

However, I can surely see how differing interpretation of scriptures can lead to all sorts of disagreement, hypocrisy, judgmentalism, and downright bad behaviour. That doesn't make the scriptures themselves unworthy of study though. But it may make it necessary for a person to separate themselves from religious labels, groups, interpretation or influence - and in a way allow the scripture to speak to or be understood by the individual themselves - and in that way become more spiritual.

JMO. Great discussion folks.

---

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2005/12/14 14:06

---

Probably the difference in "scriptural" and "spiritual" in my post is due to the way I was raised. I was referring to having the scriptures quoted at me, twisted to fit my mother's every thought, but nobody else's and also her belief that it "proved" her way of thinking and her right to judge everyone. My attempt at teaching my kids and learning myself to be "spiritual" is to incorporate the actual scriptural teachings (as well as other lessons learned in love and humanity) into becoming a loving, spiritual, giving, non-judgemental person. So that's what I specifically meant when I said that, not that reading and learning scriptures (or any other tenets) was a negative thing in the whole, well-rounded viewpoint. Hope I explained it better this time.....I still have lots to learn and am learning to be open about that!!!! :)

---

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by peace - 2005/12/14 14:52

---

I totally understand what you meant now. Very well said and explained.

What you describe reminds me of a person in my life who tries to use words and perspectives that they "think" correlate to my religious viewpoint - they use words and phrases and quotes to try to tell me how they think I should act/react/behave in a given situation.

It's beyond annoying.

---

The viewpoint and words they use to bolster their argument and prove their point are not from their religion and actually are not from mine either (although they don't seem to get that).

This is an example of manipulating and twisting religion to fit one's own agenda.

Just as you describe, the twisting of scripture to fit your own view or to give you permission to judge others is wrong, wrong wrong and spiritually backwards. Scripture is for the reader - to start throwing it at others in a "you should, you're wrong, you're bad" is totally unenlightened IMO.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Randi44 - 2005/12/14 23:14

---

I happen to be catholic...but really who cares about the labels right? It's not the rules of your church or the building that matters...just the feeling of spiritual faith in a higher being that matters. I think it is important and helpful in one's life if they have a faith...it keeps them going in tough times. I think it's more of an internal feeling, than an exterior practice.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Lunabeam - 2006/02/21 18:24

---

Hi - I have a ??

By Non-Traditionalists - do you mean those who observe organized religions other than the Christian religions? Or do you mean those who believe in a Supreme Being in other ways, that are not generally looked upon as 'the norm'? An example would be reincarnation.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by PeterJ - 2006/02/21 21:12

---

I was brought up catholic, but I don't practice much now, but this is an area I love talking about, as I took some classes in this area while in school. I am now more of a spiritualist, leaning more toward having faith in a Supreme Being, more in a paganistic light. Celebrating seasons and all. I have nothing against organized religious organizations and all, but when they all become too legalistic, misinterpreting their meanings and all that kind of cooled me from that. My fiancée is catholic.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by LAB - 2006/02/23 17:34

---

Do "Pagans" count here or Wiccans? How about Gnostics?  
Or just lovely spiritual people who enjoy the Earth and its blessings, wonderful people sharing joy.

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by asparagus - 2006/02/26 19:24

---

For me, folk who are spiritual are folk who believe in a "something"--a higher power, a creator, whatever it is for them.

Folk who believe in scripture believe in a book, a dogma, someone has written and believe it is the "truth" of their "god".

=====

---

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Amanda28 - 2007/03/23 21:30

---

For myself I think spirituality is almost more important than organized religion. I believe this because I use to belong to a organized religion but was not really spiritual. but now I'm more spiritual than ever and I heard this a lot more lately. I believe is it more of the norm lately, it is perfectly ok for someone to be spiritual without having to belong to a church. which for myself took a long time to understand.

Amanda

=====

## Re:Non-Traditionlists

Posted by Debby - 2007/03/26 10:26

---

Although I was brought up in a very structured and traditionally religious home, I believe that spirituality is quite different from just belonging to a certain denomination. I have felt that I was spiritual most of my life, even though there were periods when I didn't attend church. However, I find that when I go to church, I feel so much better. I walk out and just feel so much peace. I feel so good that I wonder why I don't always attend.

=====