
RELIGIOUS PEACE VALUES FOR PEACE, UNITY & ONENESS OF HUMANITY

ASHOK BALA

Abstract: Our modern society is driven by a culture of violence & materialism while the whole of human life is in a state of turmoil due to conflicts & violence in the society. Our world is divided disharmoniously; it is torn by social conflicts of different nations, groups of people and religious classes, so it is unsustainable. Human peace & spiritual values are decreasing at very fast rate resulting in division of humanity.

Human values are eroding at a very fast rate resulting in a decline in the quality of life of the people. At the dawn of the new millennium, what is required most is Religious Peace Values for creating peaceful & sustainable society.

God has many different names because there are many different religions but essentially, it is the same God. As there is only one God who created the whole universe, then there should be no difference from one person to another. Major world religions involved are Baha'ism, Buddhism Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism they all teach about universal peace & Human unity through Love & compassion. All religions teach about Universal Peace & Human unity through Love & Compassion.

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“The 21st Century will be the century of girls and women, declared by UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet at the 39th Annual Commencement 2011 of LaGuardia Community College during the ceremony on 23 September 2011 at the Lincoln Center, New York.

Women are the peace makers not only for making good families but also shaping the society & Peace building for unity and also for developing world peace in 21st Century

The Paper on “Religious Peace Values for Peace, Unity & Oneness of humanity” is based on Indian religious peace values and holistic approach of creating a global peaceful society

The main objectives of the paper are:

- 1) to explore the religious peace values Peace, Ahimsa (Non-violence), Compassion, Respect, and Tolerance in the world religions for creating Peace, unity & oneness of humanity.
- 2) To promote culture for Peace & interfaith harmony in the world through dialogues, cooperation & respect to each other and to build the bridges of Peace & harmony to create a Peaceful planet..

Respectable Chairman . Distinguished Guests, Brothers & Sisters : Today, I'm very much pleased and honoured to be invited to this International Conference on Science, Technology, Women Studies, Business & Social Sciences 2016. in Madgaon, Goa, India.

10 Introduction:

India is second most populous country in the world with population of 1.2 billion (census 2011), more than sixth of the world's population. Its population growth rate is 1.41% and population expected to reach 1.6 billion in 2050 and becoming most populous country surpassing China.

India is one of the most diverse places in the world geographically, religiously, culturally, and lingually. . In terms of religious diversity its population constituted as: Hindus 80.5%, Muslims 13.4%, Christians 2.3%, Sikhs 1.8%, Buddhists 0.8%, Jains 0.4%, others 0.7% and unspecified 0.1%. Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism taken together account for 3% of the population; and Christianity accounts for 2% of the population.. Other religions such as Zoroastrianism and Judaism have a century's long history in India.

1.1 Role of Religions, & Understanding Religion?

Role of Religions: Today we all are at the verge of atomic destruction and when everybody is busy in the mad rat race of materialistic pursuit, religious

harmony will be a relief. We should make an effort to peep into the prominent religions of the world and find out a secular message for the mankind .Our aim should be to enlighten and educate the masses about all the religions, so that the message of universal brotherhood is spread throughout the world. Religion as a social force plays an important role to achieve oneness of humanity in modern civilization.

What is Religion? Religion “means having faith in a divine saving power; divine law and regulating one's behavior and conduction a moral basis by being good, doing good and seeing good”.

Religious harmony in India: God has many different names because there are many different religions but essentially, it is the same God. As there is only one God who created the whole universe, then there should be no difference from one person to another. Major world religions involved are Baha'ism, Buddhism Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism they all teach about universal peace & Human unity through Love & compassion.

Religion as a social force plays an important role to achieve oneness of humanity in modern civilization.

Basically, all religions believe in peace, equality and helping the less fortunate. To live in peace one must respect all religions

Major World Religions :

1. Bahaism,
2. Buddhism
3. Christianity,
4. Islam,
5. Hinduism,
6. Sikhism,
7. Jainism,
8. Judaism, &
9. Zoroastrian.

All religions teach about universal peace & Human unity through Peace, Love & Compassion.

Major World Religions & shared Peace Values:

1. Bahaism- World Peace & human Unity
Baha'u'llah said, "The Earth is but one country and mankind its citizens," and that, as foretold in all the sacred scriptures of the past, now is the time for humanity to live in unity.
2. Buddhism- Compassion, & Forgiveness
3. Christianity- Love, Compassion & Service
4. Islam- Peace ,Compassion & brotherhood
5. Hinduism- Truth, Peace & Tolerance
6. Sikhism, - Brotherhood , Love & service to humanity
7. Jainism – Ahimsa (Nonviolence) & Forgiveness
8. Judaism – Peace , happiness & equality

Religious Peace Values for World Peace & Oneness of humanity: 'Shanti' (peace) is the highest craving of all Hindus. This includes peace within and peace on the Earth.

Peace is not just the absence of war. Peace is a way of life. Peace is a Positive Cosmic Energy, which is a state of mind which produces Balance, Peace & Harmony.

We are all children of God, Ishwara or Allah. The Islam is an Arabic word. It is derived from two roots words: One 'Salm' meaning Peace;& Other 'Silm' meaning 'submission' or surrender to the will of God.

Among them the most important is common origin of mankind according to which all human beings have been "created of a single soul" (Qur'an 4:1), and that all descended from the same parents (Quran 49:13), so there should not be any discrimination based on clan, creed or race.

Eight Universal Religious Peace Values for World Peace & Human Unity

Shared Values in Eastern Religions : Within this context, I will share my views on Eastern & the Islamic values for unity of mankind and mutual peaceful co-existence for creating a peaceful & Harmonious society. **There are five universal**

shared values: 1. Love , 2.Peace 3.Compassion 4. Tolerance & 5. Respect:

1. Tolerance is the Crown of all values
2. Courage is the Heart of all values
3. Truth is the Foundation of all values
4. Purity is the Mother of all values
5. Respect is the demonstration of all values.
6. Love is the queen of all values.
7. Peace is the king of all values.
8. Unity is the embodiment of all values

World Religions & Peace Values:

1. **Islam preaches the following behaviour-based values:** (a) Honesty; (b) Meekness; (c) Politeness; (d) Forgiveness; (e) Goodness; (f) Courage; (g) Veracity; (h) Patience; and (i) Sympathy.
2. **Christianity preaches:** (a) Love of God and fellow humans; (b) Good conduct for a happy life; (c) Not losing one's soul for worldly gain; (d) Worship of God and service to humankind; (e) Repentance for pardon; (f) Justice, fortitude and temperance; and (g) Avoidance of vices, and sins.
3. **Sikhism advocates the following moral values:** (a) Truthfulness; (b) Humility; (c) Charity; (d) Dignity of labour; (e) Character of a saint and the strength of a soldier; and (f) Noble deeds.
4. **Buddhism believes:** (a) that right understanding, thought and speech, together with moral peaceful conduct, mental discipline and wisdom, eliminate the causes of suffering in life

According to Buddhism, there are two qualities are essential for a man to be perfect that he should develop equally for achieving inner peace & peace in the society:

1. Compassion (Karuna) on one side, and
2. Spiritual Wisdom (Gyan) & spiritual practice for living together

Compassion represents love, charity, kindness, tolerance and such noble qualities on the emotional side, or qualities of the heart,

Wisdom would stand for the intellectual side or the qualities of the mind.- Dharma (Right Decision) , discovery of Truth , Peace & Cooperation to others.

5. Baha'ism – Human Unity : One Family Under God"

The Bahá'í teachings emphasize that all of us, 'as creations of one God, are part of one human family.'

6. Hinduism : BHAGVAD GITA for World Peace The "BHAGVAD GITA" synchronizes peace in all things leading to ETERNAL PEACE.

- *Peace be the earth; peaceful the heaven,
- peaceful the waters; peaceful the herbs,
- peaceful the trees.

May all gods bring me peace. May there be peace through these invocations of peace..... (Atharva ved:X.191.4

Religious harmony is a philosophy which includes the basic truths of all religions. It preaches a universal message, a message of harmony and peace.

The sum total of all religions does not mean that all people on earth have to come under aspect of God. If Christ is true, Krishna and Buddha and Mohammed are also true. Let there be teachers, many scriptures, let there be churches, temples and mosques. Every religion is a path to reach the same.

Women Are Born Peace makers And Peace Leaders: Women are the born peace makers & Leaders for developing culture of peace & harmony in the families & in the society. Religious harmony can initiate social changes and hence social development, by bringing about a change in attitude of the individual. It can bring about a change in the pattern of social relationships and thereby it can cause holistic human development.

Women are mothers, mentors, leaders, peacemakers, advocates and so much more. Honor a woman in your life. –Mary-Frances Winters

A mother is our first guru, our first teacher. Women teach us our first behaviour, our first step in life. And then women also have a great role to play in society. She can be a strong peacemaker; at home, in the community, in society and in the world. Women can glue differences and bring people of diverse nature together – she does it in her home all the time!

References:

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Women have both gentleness and strength. Indian scriptures place tremendous amount of power in women. The primordial energy known as Shakti which is the life force behind entire creation is feminine. That is why our scriptures honour women as the highest aspect of divinity- the Aadhya Shakti.

Conclusion: We are part of a global whole, everything in the universe are interconnected & interdependent through the principle of integration.

Religious Harmony : Hinduism – “Vasudhaiva Kuttumbhikam”-The world is one family

The oneness of humanity has been a fundamental belief of Indian Civilization. Global Peace is Oneness of Humanity. Oneness of Humanity can only be achieved through

“We can have peace only if we are able to bring about an attitude of respect for religions, faiths and belief systems other than our own. There is an interesting fact to be noted about the great world religions. At the level of philosophy there might be apparent differences among them; but at the level of practice there is no difference.

"No Peace among the nations without peace among the religions;

No Peace among the religions without unity among the religions;

No Unity among the religions without Human unity of peoples; and

No Human Unity among the people without unity of minds."

Ashok Bala

Chartered President , Lioness Club International, New Delhi,
India & Peace Coordinator , International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) , HWPL India.