

Unit-5

Page No. : Fortune

Date : _____

Answer the following questions :

1. What is Religious Pluralism? How does it differ from Exclusionist and Inclusionist positions on religious? Discuss.

Ans: Religious Pluralism is an attitude or policy regarding the diversity of religious belief systems co-existing in society. Religious Pluralism is the state of being where every individual in a religiously diverse society has the rights, freedoms and safety to worship or not, according to their conscience.

Religious pluralism generally refers to the belief in two or more religious world views are being equally valid as acceptable. More than mere tolerance, religious pluralism accepts multiple paths to God or Gods as a possibility, and is usually contrasted with 'Exclusivism', the idea that there is only one true religion or way to know God.

Pluralism is more than the sharing of certain values or argument on same social issues. Buddhists and Christians both agree that helping the poor is important, but such limited, is no Pluralism. Pluralism has to be with lending credence to competing truth claims and accepting diverse beliefs regarding God and Salvation in addition, two or more

religions can share same doctrinal beliefs yet remain fundamentally different as belief system. For example; Muslims and Christians agree that there is only one God yet both religions define God differently and hold many other irreconcilable beliefs. Thus, religious liberty guarantees that multiple religions can worship peaceably.

In contrast, Exclusionist approaches say that only one religion is uniquely valuable. Finally, inclusionist theories try to steer a middle course by agreeing with exclusivism that one religion has the most value while also agreeing with Pluralism that others still have significant religion value.

Within religious studies and theology inclusionism is the belief that although only one belief system is true, aspects of its truth can be found in other religions. This is contrasted from religious Pluralism, which asserts that all beliefs are equally valid within a believer's particular content.

The religious Exclusionist holds that the truth claims of only their tradition are the correct claims. The claims associated with other traditions are mistaken for one reason or others. Alternatively, the religious pluralist asserts that the truth claims of all traditions are correct in some sense.

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Religious Pluralism thus, stands in contrast to exclusivism, which asserts that only one way is true and all others are in erroneous within religious studies and theology, inclusivism is the belief that, although only one beliefs system is true, aspects of its truth can be found, in other religions.

2. What is Religious Tolerance? Should all religious views be tolerated? Explain.

Ans: Religious Tolerance refers to the ability to appreciate spiritual values, beliefs and practices which one different from your own. This goal is a complex one due to great diversity of religions and spiritual existing in the world today. It is the belief that all religion is equally valid within their own culture of origin. Religious Tolerance freedom to people human right issue extending religious freedom to people of all faith and traditions without any discrimination.

Religious toleration is people allowing others people to think or practice other religions and beliefs and it is important because religions are meant to promote peace and harmony in our society.

Religious Tolerance is necessary for individual within the society to get along, especially when a variety of culture and people with different religious beliefs live in one community or nation.

But all religious views cannot be tolerated because freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. Although the constitution guarantees religious liberty, this freedom must be limited when religious practices clash with government laws. These restrictions are public order, morality and health and other provisions of the constitution. Laws relating to or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activities associated with religious practices.

Thus, Religious Tolerance warns against making snap concern about the quality of the person who holds those beliefs, which is the right may be respectful. But tolerance doesn't tell us that just because the belief is religious, there is no way to pronounce on its truth. Sometimes contempt, fear, mistrust and political are the principle causes of collective religious hatred.

3. Discuss the possibility of Inter Religious Dialogue.

Ans: The aim of Inter religious Dialogue is understanding. It is not to win over the other or to come to a total agreement or a universal religion. The ideal is to communication in order to bridge the gap of mutual ignorance and misunderstandings between the different cultures of the world, letting them speak and speak out their own insights in their own language. Some may wish even to reach communication, but this does not imply at all that the aim is a uniform unity or reduction of all the pluralistic variety of man into one single religion, system, ideology or tradition.

R.P has given some attitudes and models for the proper understanding of the I.R.D. because the dialogue need and explanation in the classical sense of the word. The 3 attitude are:-

- (i) Exclusivism (Unique)
- (ii) Inclusivism
- (iii) Parallelism.

- (1) Exclusivism believing member of a religion in one way or another considers this religion to be true. Now the claim to truth has a certain built in claim to exclusivity. If, for instance, Islam embodies the true religion, a non-Islamic truth can't be in the field

of religion. It will say, for instance, that there are degrees of truth and that any 'religious truth' if it is really true, 'is' already a muslim one, although the people concerned may not be conscious of it.

This attitude has a certain elements of Heroism in it. We concentrate our life and dedicate our entire existence to something which is really worthy of being called a human cause to something that claims to be not just partial and imperfect truth but universal and Absolute Truth.

- (11) Inclusivism:- In the present world context one can hardly fail to discover the present and true value even of the highest order outside of one's own tradition. Splendid isolation is no longer possible plausible condition for the claim to truth of one's own tradition is to affirm at the same time that it includes at different levels all that there is of truth whatever its exist.

This attitude has a certain quality in it, i.e; the greatness and vastness on mind. We can follow our own path and do not need to condemn the other, we can even enter into communion with all other ways of life and if it happens to have the real experiences of inclusivity.

(iii) Pluralism : If our religion appears far from being perfect and yet it represents for us a symbol of right path and a similar conviction seems to be the case for others, if we cannot dismiss the religious claim of others nor accept it completely into our tradition. Religion would then be parallel paths and our most urgent duty would be not to interfere with others, not to convert them or even to borrow from them, but deepen our respective traditions so that we may meet at the end, and in the depths of our own traditions.

This attitude presents very positive advantages and it is tolerant, it respects the others and does not judge them. In other hand, the attitude of exclusivism present certain difficulties. First it carries with it the obvious danger of intolerance.

As a matter of fact, although there are many defects existing in an exclusive attitude today it is hardly depended. It would be the height of hypocrisy to condemn others and justify one self using the scandal of Gods revelation as a rational fundamental reason for defending one's own attitude.

Hence, it can be said that from the above discussion of inter

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religious dialogue it follows that everyone of us can have a vision - the vision is that by means of variety of religions that exist through out the world. It could be possible to reach a certain peaceful concord and it is through this concord that alerting peace in religion may be attained.