



OpenLearn: LearningSpace video transcript
A103: An Introduction to Humanities
TV14: What is religion?: Part 1

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Participants: Gwilym Beckerlegge (Commentary)
Canon Nicholas Frayling (Liverpool Parish Church)
Bishop Vincent Malone (RC Metropolitan Cathedral)
Sunder Chopra (Shree Radha Krishna Temple)
Hilary Cohen (Childwall Synagogue)
Noreen Hameed (Al Rahma Mosque)
Mohammed Qadri (Al Rahma Mosque)
John Collins (Maharishi European Sidhaland)
Leonard Grossman (Roseman's Delicatessen)
Somai McTeer (The Olive Tree)
Rashid McTeer (The Olive Tree)
Joseph Gojikian (Vox pop - Stanley Dock Market)
Mrs Sheila Brown (Vox pop - Stanley Dock Market)
Mr Peter Brown (Vox pop - Stanley Dock Market)



A103 Generic Title Sequence:
(Piano Music under): opens with composite wood/hand playing violin, mix thru to composite coin/hand with brush, mix to ammonite shell - mix to composite bowl/fruit/hand with paint brush, mix to hand with feather mix to composite book/hand with feather, mix to 2 faces and title `An Introduction to Humanities, lose faces and end with just caption cut to:

Ext: WS: Welsh Prestatyn Church

L/A tower tilt down to doorway/fence

CU: Window tilt down to group of Hindus.

GVs: Various Hindu people seated around fire.

Graphic: What is Religion? (OED definition of religion as wallpaper behind graphic). Dur: 5"

GVs: Liverpool fade up behind Graphic.

WS: Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool.
Graphic: Christianity
WS: RC Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool.
WS: Liverpool Parish Church

GWILYN BECKERLEGG.

This used to be a church. The Welsh Prestatyn Church in the Wavertree area of Liverpool. But no longer.

It's now a Hindu temple and cultural centre. When the building changed hands from Christians to Hindus. Did it become a different kind of place? But are the Christians who once used this buildings, and the Hindus who now come here engaged in the same kind of activity? Something we can call religion?

For two hundred years Liverpool has been one of Britain's major seaports, with a mosaic of communities marked by different beliefs and practices.

It has two Christian cathedrals, one Anglican, and the other Catholic, and numerous churches and chapels of different denominations.

Generic Title Music
Dur: 22"

Music:
Carlin 153
Track 7
Dur: 17"
┆

Actuality:
Hindu chanting at Hindu Temple
Dur: 27"
┆

Mute
┆



WS: Al Rahma Mosque, Liverpool.
Graphic: Christianity, Islam.

WS: Childwall Synagogue,
Liverpool.
Graphic: Christianity, Islam,
Judaism.

WS: Hindu Cultural Centre (Shree
Radham Krishna Temple)
Graphic: Christianity, Islam,
Judaism, Hinduism

WS: Maharishi European Sidhaland
Centre Building
Graphic: Christianity, Islam,
Judaism, Hinduism, Transcendental
Meditation.

Fade up OED wallpaper behind
Graphic. Dur: 5" mix to:

Still 1:
B/W Text definition of Oxford
English Dictionary definition of
'Religion' Dur: 11"

GWILYM BECKERLEGGE CONT:

A Muslim population attends the
mosque in the Toxteth area,
and the Jews of Liverpool have a large
Jewish centre and several synagogues.

The Hindu temple acts as a locus of
activity for Hindu's across Merseyside,

and recently the new development of
Skelmersdale has become the home of
people practising transcendental
meditation.

In every day language we might refer to
these as examples of religion, but what
does the word actually mean.

This is a dictionary definition.

But how is the word used and
understood by those to whom it's
applied.



MCU: Canon Nicholas Frayling

Graphic: Lower third: Canon Nicholas Frayling, Christian Anglican.

GVs: Sunday Morning service at Liverpool Parish Church.

CANON NICHOLAS FRAYLING:

I think the word religion is often both misused and misunderstood. Er people talk about different religions New Age religions, all sorts of different definitions, but Christianity is a religion and a world religion at that. By which I understand it to be a community which holds certain beliefs in common, in other words it's a faith community and therefore I prefer the term the Christian faith rather than the Christian religion, but I don't think essentially they're saying different things because both words imply belief, and it is a set of beliefs which both draws the Christian community together and informs the way in which we try to live our lives.

Music:
Actuality
Organ and
Choir, Tradit
Hymns,
Liverpool
Parish Church
Dur: 55"

And of course at the heart of the Christian faith is the assertion that although Jesus this God made man was put to death, yet in a way which we can't possibly fully understand but which was attested so powerfully by the earliest followers of Jesus, that he was raised from the dead and that just as he promised through his spirit the Holy Spirit, he is with the community of faith active in the world now in a way which is even more remarkable than when he was alive in his flesh, because it's universal and not just in a small country in the Middle East.



MCU: Bishop Vincent Malone

Graphic: Lower third: Bishop Vincent Malone, Christian - Roman Catholic

BISHOP VINCENT MALONE

I suppose one has to say there is a reaching out by humankind to try to find something which is beyond the ordinary human experience and say you know what is there that holds this whole business together.

And so when one uses the shorthand word God and I think it's important to say it's a shorthand word, to say whatever it is that beholds the whole of this in being, that is God.

But the great thing about Christianity is that God is revealed to us in Christ, so that revelation of God in Christ then brings us into the liturgical cycle of Holy Week, Palm Sunday, those events which are talking about the life of the church and that is all expressing the centrality of Christ who calls us together to be one with him and therefore one with one another.

GVs: Palm Sunday Service at Metropolitan RC Cathedral, Liverpool.

Colour picture of Christ on Wall.
Dur: 15"
'Public Display'

GVs: Palm Sunday Service continued.

Actuality:
Bishop Malone
taking Service
at RC
Cathedral

Music:
Actuality
Bishop
Vincent
Malone and
Organ at RC
Cathedral
Dur: 8"



GVs: Hindus seated in circle praying/chanting

SUNDER CHOPRA

Hinduism is not a religion it's a way of life, because it has it's a fair federation of faiths and beliefs, there are so many of us, diversity is the essence, harmony and diversity.

Actuality:
Praying at Hindu Temple
Dur: 21"

MCU: Sunder Chopra
Graphic: Hindu

GVs: Hindus people praying, Images of Gods.

A person who can experience harmony er in diversity adds er to richness and beauty of life and he can experience a unity with himself and with others.

Music:
Actuality,
drums, horns
and
Tambourine
at Hindu
Temple
prayers.
Dur: 37"

We celebrate life. During the year we have so many festivals? Lord Krishna's birthday Janamashtami, Lord Rama's day Ramanavami and Ganesh's day, I can go on describing it's unending.

MCU: Sunder Chopra

GVs: Exts: Shree Radha Krishna Temple (note telephone number on sign pixalated)

I remember I was one of the happiest people when I saw the notice board here For Sale, I said oh, this is a call for me to take action, that was a great experience of practising Hinduism.



MCU: Sunder Chopra

CU: Stained glass window

I met nicest people, those who were holding the church in those days. I said Gods place must remain Gods place, you can sell it at a higher price to anyone but er we will also worship the same God which you have been worshipping for so long, and it was marvellous and we have retained whatever they left for us.

Music:
Actuality:
drums,
chanting and
tambourine at
Hindu Temple
prayers.
Dur: 26"





GVs: Images of Hindu Gods Shrine and Hindu Congregation

SUNDER CHOPRA CONT:

They have left the wonderful vibration, and we can feel it that they have been worshipping the same God which we worship with different names, in different languages, the same prayers the prayers which have the same meaning and they go to the same God.

Music (cont)



MCU: Hilary Cohen
Graphic: Hilary Cohen, Jewish

GVs: Int, Jewish Service in Childwall Synagogue.

HILARY COHEN:

The terms Jewish and Judaism, and refer to a religion. Judaism I would say was was with the religion. Being Jewish is how you're born.

Actuality.
Chanting
from Torah at
Jewish
Service.
Dur: 43"

Religion is a belief in a God and having faith in him. And the belief in God and the and the Torah that God gave to us is the heart of Judaism. The Torah is given to Moses on Mount Sinai, and in it are the laws guiding the way that we want to live, so that the Torah's the way that one lives this is law for living.



MCU: Hilary Cohen

Judaism affects every single aspect of your life, from the very most basic physical acts and needs to the most spiritual.



HILARY COHEN CONT:

Er it affects your bus can affect your business life, the laws of the bible of the Torah affect all aspects of your life though there are very strict laws about how you deal with people in business, how you deal with your neighbour and your animals and people you work for or who work for you, and how you deal with yourself as well and you family and so on, so it's all pervading in a very positive sense of that word, so it does affect every aspect of your life.

NOREEN HAMEED

Labelling Islam as a religion is not the appropriate word. People view Islam as being something that consists of rituals, but when a person enters into Islam, when he declares that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah except the only one God, then he has to put that into his practice for the entire of his life.

It's like going shopping and er you say oh I'll choose this and I'll I'll leave that I'll choose this and I'll leave that, Islam is not like that. When we embrace Islam we embrace Islam all together, it's not pick and choose.

GVs: Int: Women praying in Al Rahma Mosque, Liverpool

MCU: Noreen Hameed
Graphic: Lower Third: Noreen Hameed, Muslim

GVs: Int: Men praying in Al Rahma Mosque.



MCU: Mohammed Qadri
Graphic: Lower Third: Mohammed Qadri, Muslim

GVs: Int: Men praying in Al Rahma Mosque.

MOHAMMED QADRI:

This way of life in Arabic 'Din', it is not religion it's a 'Din', a way of life which is in accordance to the divine will. Islam means purity and piety, but most of all it's based on belief in one God. Allah we call him in Arabic, and this is very important, and this is where the community who actually believes in one God unite together in that belief.

GVs, Int: People meditating at Skelmersdale transcendental Meditation Centre

MCU: John Collins
Graphic: Lower Third: John Collins, Transcendental Meditation Practitioner.

JOHN COLLINS

Transcendental meditation is a very simple natural and effortless technique, and you practice it for twenty minutes morning and evening sitting in a ordinary chair with your eyes closed, comfortably and quietly, and I found that it didn't require any belief to make it work, that it was er very easy it's actually quite a pleasant thing to do as well.

GVs: Int: People meditating

Transcendental meditation isn't a religion er because it doesn't involve faith. It works even for the most hard bitten sceptic as long as they do it correctly, and it doesn't involved the worship of some higher being, and so I think by any normal definition there's no religious content there.



MCU: John Collins

JOHN COLLINS CONT:

I think that TM does have a relevance for religion, Maharishi actually said that transcendental meditation is like cleaning the floor of a church so you have somewhere nice to pray, it's a technique for releasing stress making a more balanced individual and I think a more balanced individual will tend to become more appreciative of the religion and the the ethics of their religious background.

Graphic: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Transcendental Meditation with OED wallpaper.
Dur: 11"

GWILYM BECKERLEGG

One feature common to all these groups is that they come together to express their beliefs and practices. How important is this sense of community?

MCU: Canon Nicholas Frayling

CANON NICHOLAS FRAYLING

The Church of England like other organised faith communities, has at its heart usually a building or a place where the Christian community gathers for worship. A holy place or if you like a sacred space in which the Christian family can meet for worship is a very important part of its life and it's usual for the Christian community in a local place to attach great importance to its church and to lavish care upon it.

GVs: Sunday Prayer Service at Liverpool Parish Church led by Canon Nicholas Frayling.

Music:
Actuality
tradit hymns,
Organ, Choir
& Congregation
Singing.
Dur: 01'00"
Liverpool
Parish
Church

