



How Religions Decide What Is Right and Wrong

KS4 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Ages 12-16 ⌚ 4 min read

What Are Religious Rules?

Every religion has its own way of deciding what is **right and wrong**. These decisions help people live in ways that match their beliefs and values. But different religions don't always agree on the same answers, and that's perfectly normal.

Think of it like different families having different house rules. Your family might have one set of rules, while your friend's family has different ones — but both sets help create a peaceful home.

Think of it like different sports having different rulebooks. Football has one set of rules, rugby has another, and tennis has yet another. Each rulebook helps players understand what's fair and safe in their sport.

Sacred Texts and Holy Books

Most religions rely on **sacred texts** — special holy books written long ago that teach moral lessons. **Christianity** uses the **Bible**, **Islam** follows the **Quran**, **Judaism** studies the **Torah**, and **Buddhism** learns from Buddhist scriptures. These texts contain stories and teachings that explain what is good behaviour and what is bad.

Religious leaders like **priests, imams, rabbis, and monks** spend years studying these texts to understand their meaning. They help their communities interpret ancient words in ways that make sense today.

Tradition and Community

Religion isn't just about individual choices — it's about **community** and **tradition**. Families pass down beliefs and practices across generations. What your grandparents believed often influences what your parents believe, and what you might believe.

Communities gather to worship together, discuss right and wrong, and support each other in following their faith's rules. Religious leaders provide guidance, but ultimately, each person must decide how to act.

Conscience and Personal Choice

Even within the same religion, people sometimes disagree about what's right. That's because religions also value **conscience** — your inner voice telling you what feels fair and kind. Many religions teach that people should use their own **moral judgment** alongside their faith's teachings.

For example, two **Christians** might interpret the same Bible passage differently based on their own experiences and understanding. This is why **religion is deeply personal** — it mixes ancient wisdom with modern life and individual thought.

Different Paths, Same Goal

Whether someone follows **Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism** or another faith, most religions share similar values: kindness, honesty, respect, and care for others. The ways they reach these values might look different, but the goal is the same — to live ethically and meaningfully.