

The Purpose of Interreligious Dialogue: Coexistence or Cooperation?

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There have been many interreligious dialogues all over the world but the purposes of them have not been the same. In this paper, I will point out seven of them. Then I will evaluate them and their attitudes.

In recent decades, the focus of formal interreligious dialogues directed to peace among religions. I will show that this approach is not sufficient, and the results of these efforts have had few fruitfulness. If the purpose of interreligious dialogues directed to coexistence of religions and among their followers, it will be an intercultural dialogues that can result only mutual understanding. I want to show that interreligious dialogues must go higher level which is level of cooperation. Religions try to propose a better life and guide their followers for happiness in both spiritual and mundane life. Therefore they try to remove all obstacles for this meaning of life and encourage peoples for spirituality as well as good life.

Believing in God as the origin of existence and his omnipresence, and believing in life after death and resurrection as the consequence of our deeds are the most important messages of religions. Although they have different ideas, these two main beliefs are their common duties. I believe interreligious dialogues must oriented to this kind of cooperation for elaborating the life of

peoples who are challenging for a better goal for their life. Coexistence is not total responsibility of religions.

At the end, I will suggest some kinds of activities that religions can cooperate for this purpose.