

Religious Pluralism

“Religious plurality” = the fact of religious diversity.

“Religious pluralism” = a theoretical explanation of religious plurality.

Arguably, the most well-known form of religious pluralism is Hickean Pluralism (after the philosopher John Hick).

The nine key claims of Hickean Pluralism are:

1. Each religion asks generically the same question: how do we get from our present lack to a better future?
2. Each world religion is a response to the same thing.
3. Each world religion has its own phenomenal reality.
4. Since each world religion has its own phenomenal reality, the claims of one world religion do not conflict with those of another world religion.
5. Responding to this phenomenal reality is, so far as we can tell, equally effective in each world religion.
6. Each world religion is equally valid.
7. The sentences that apparently express the doctrines of the great world religions actually are mythological in the sense of telling a story which elicits behavior.
8. The mythology is true if the behavior is good.
9. The reason for accepting religious pluralism is that it is the best explanation of the central facts about religious plurality.