

That religion should be taught in schools



Johannes (PRO)

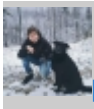
That religion should be taught in schools because it helps children to understand their own beliefs and those of others. It also teaches them about the history and culture of different religions. This is important for building a more tolerant and peaceful society.

Religion is a fundamental part of human life and has shaped the world we live in. Teaching religion in schools allows children to learn about the values and teachings of different faiths from an early age. This helps them to develop a sense of respect and understanding for people of all religions. It also provides them with the knowledge and skills they need to engage in interfaith dialogue and promote harmony in their communities.

In addition, teaching religion in schools can help to reduce religious intolerance and discrimination. By learning about the beliefs and practices of other religions, children can develop a more inclusive and accepting attitude towards people of different faiths. This is especially important in a world where religious conflict is still a significant issue. Teaching religion in schools can also help to foster a sense of global citizenship and encourage children to work together to solve the world's problems.

Now, I would like to thank you for your time in reading what I have to say, and to you, CON, I would leave this question: What is it about religion that makes it not worth teaching in schools?

I look forward to a response.



piotr skrzyp (CON)

Welcome all. First of all i would like to thank my opponent. It is my pleasure to debate with You.

Im Christian, but im also human and i have to be also realistic.

My house proudly stands for statment that religion should not be taught in schools at least in **current forms.**

Im also very simple man thats why Im going to try explain my point of view as best as i can in couple key arguments.

" Without morality we are going to be animals "

This is what, is almost always being said by priests and conservatives.

Is it true ? Of cours it is **not** ! In fact most of wars and acts of terrorism is caused by **religions.**

Extremists can not understand that there are some peopel who does not belive in Great Allah or in great teachings of Budda (Myanmar currently)

or in Jesus (inquisition), even peacefull India have dark parts after gaining independence.

So do all of those peopel from all of the world born as evil demons ?

Once again no ! They had been taught to be like that and belive in just one (only one) religion.

Without even asking for proofs. (Typical for regimes and communist teachings isnt it ?)

First things first, lets look what my opponent said :

"Well, to be clear, I am arguing that schools should be teaching religion, not faith."

Looks like You agree with me. I think schools should teach about all religions. That's really making whole debate more convenient. **Schools should not teach faith !**

Your point of view claim to show that religion lessons in school taught kids about history maybe even other religions instead of forcing kids to faith. That is for sure huge lie. Reality is very different from Your words. You confuse religion and ethic lessons/ moral science.

Ethic teaches about all religions, traditional values and morality without additional muslim/church/so far so on, censorship.

In countries like Pakistan, where you can find lessons about love to all people ? In Israel where you can find lessons about love to Muslims ? **Nowhere.** In both of those examples religion lessons are huge part of daily school life indoctrination. Indoctrination of course could be good. Spreading good values among kids is great, but still it spreads divisions.

1) **"One reason religion should be taught in schools is that it plays a very important aspect in world history as well as current events today."**

Is really religion more important than history lessons ? Without religion there would be more time for math, science, art, chemistry or English lessons.

What is more, I think "current events" and "very important aspects of history" are not really objectively discussed during religion. Once again I would like to remind current state of Muslim countries. Do they care about teaching kids how to love other people or even how to prevent Islam terrorism ? They do not even recognize problems with radicalism.

2) **"Another reason religion ought to be taught in schools is that, simply, it is better to be aware than ignorant."**

This argument is just disgusting and it is huge insult and abuse. I feel really sorry for all resentful people who instead of propaganda attended or attend to moral science. Is it really such a big sin to learn more instead of learning less from unbelievable source?

3) "Religion is truly like any other subject, but infinitely more important if you actually are religious, because, it's not just your education being affected -- it's your immortal soul"

I would like to point out "if you actually are religious" What if kids dont want to ? Should those kids Should Should curiosity be punished ? What is actually being religious ? Is it killing for God ?

"What is it about religion that makes it not worth teaching in schools?"

In fact i think religions are important to humans and we should not reduce ourself to one religion but learn about every aspect.

That is exactly what ethic lessons do.

My statement is 3x More !

+ More learning about all other religions !

+ More objectively !

+ Tolerance and understanding of each other instead of hate !

And guess what ? That is exactly what ethic lessons do.

Arguments :

To sum up my first argument is : **Religion lessons in current form leads kids only to blindly believing** (without asking why i cant talk with muslims or any other religion minority (Quran)) **which is**

with muslims or any other religion minority (Quran)) **which is connected with growing number religion radicals (Africa, Asia).**

Secondly (for example Quran, Church teachings) : **Religions teach kids to dont talk with other religions minorities and spread social divisions instead of connecting peopel.**

Thirdly: **Without Religion lessons there would be more time for more complex subjects** (if you decide to remove them).

And the most important : **Moral science and Ethic lessons taugh kids t**

For now thats all, thanks for attention. Have a great day or night everybody. Huge thanks for my rival who is im sure good person and want to defend traditional values.



Johannes (PRO)

Hello again everyone, many thanks to CON for their punctual response. But, let's proceed with the debating,

To address the quote, "Without morality, we are going to be animals"

To address the quote, "**Without morality we are going to be animals**". I never really stated this in my argument and the problem with extrapolating this to 'priests' and 'conservatives' is that *you're not talking to those priests and conservatives, you're talking to me*. However, I think I would agree with this to a small extent because there is something intrinsically religious about the human person, and to throw that away is certainly destructive, but I don't think it makes you a feral animal or anything like that. On this same point, you arque that religious radicalism is responsible for most wars and

terrorism. Certainly, I would agree with you here in regards to terrorism in light of its sole perpetrator to seemingly be radical jihadism. The war part is debatable because a lot of wars are started over political issues as opposed to religious issues but this entire point is sort of arbitrary in my opinion anyway.

I think your real point here is that religion does more harm than good because it is often interpreted radically and that teaching religion in schools would only further this phenomenon. Here, is where I would disagree with you. First of all, *pretty much any ideology is going to have some radical interpretation*-- that's just a given, there will always be people who take something to the extreme. Secondly, I think *you could actually limit this radicalism by further, proper, education of religion*. I think we can both agree that, for the most part, radical interpretations do not reflect what a religion actually says -- so how do you stop wrong interpretations? Education! If you're concerned with religious radicalism maybe you should also be concerned with educating people on religion to avoid this sort of radicalism. Also, in this paragraph, you compared the Spanish Inquisition to terrorism. I'm not going to defend the Spanish Inquisition or anything but I am going to defend Christianity because it seems (to me) that this point is comparing Christian 'terrorism' to that of Islam's. The Spanish Inquisition lasted over 350 years and killed, in total, somewhere between 3000-5000 people -- which is about 1 person per month, also the only way you were killed under the Spanish Inquisition is if you didn't apologize for your blasphemy -- which you were given multiple opportunities for. Certainly, this is not comparable to things like Islamic terrorism. I realize this has nothing to do with the argument but I just wanted to assert this in defense of Christianity.

*In response to your rebuttal on my first point, that I am drawing a
distinguishment between religion and faith*

On your rebuttal to my point, "**Well, to be clear, I am arguing that schools should be teaching religion, not faith.**", I think like you established, that we both agree schools should not force faith upon their students. However, you seem to think that religious education does come with this sort of forced-faith. Again, I would have to

disagree with you. We have a standard for how certain subjects are taught, in America, it is called common core, this means that when you're learning Geometry, you have to learn x, y, and z. I don't see why it should be any different for religion. You seem to think that if religion were taught in schools, *it would be entirely up to the teacher to say and teach whatever religion they personally believe in* and to refute all other religions. To this I would say, is a math teacher who only likes Algebra and hates Geometry and Calculus allowed to only teach Algebra? No! You have to learn everything, this is exactly how it would be for religion. There would be a set course outline just like for any other scholastic subject that, if it were up to me, would outline the history, central tenants, and beliefs of major religions throughout the world. I realize that what you are trying to say is that religion is slightly more complicated, in terms of educating, than other subjects because there is an aspect of faith and belief that goes into it that doesn't go into Math, English, Science, etc. However, I'm saying there should, and would, be a separation from teaching faith and religion.

Let's use me as an example, I attend a Catholic high school that runs from 7th grade through high school (12th grade). Religion is a mandatory subject all the way through. Despite my school being Catholic, (although, obviously, I have learned more about Christianity than any other subject) I have learned about many of the major, and even some minor/historic religions throughout my years at the school. Furthermore, many of the people who attend this school aren't Catholic, does the teacher try to indoctrinate them with the Catholic faith? Of course not! *No one is forcing faith,* its simply, like I have said, just like any other subject and is treated that way. Also, to further my own argument, my faith in my own religion, and ability to defend it, is much stronger than it would be without any sort of religious education. So, again, we see the universal benefits of religious education.

On your comments towards my assertion that "One reason religion should be taught in schools is that it plays a very important aspect in world history as well as in current events today."

In regards to your next point refuting my statement, "**One reason religion should be taught in schools is that it plays a very important aspect in world history as well**

taught in schools is that it plays a very important aspect in world history as well as current events today.", I never said religious history is more important than regular history, I simply noted *that it is also important*. So, I'm really just trying to say that, like all the other subjects that are already taught, religion is worth being taught too. I think you're trying to make a distinction between religion and other subjects, and this history example was to try to show you that religion coincides with a lot of other scholastic subjects, and thus, isn't so different, so why not teach it too? Here, you bring up the perpetuating example of Islamic, Middle Eastern, countries and how their education of religion would just be propaganda and true indoctrination of Faith. To that I would say, I never said it wouldn't be. I'm arguing that it should be taught in America, or countries like it, that can properly and sensibly regulate the education in their country, which, clearly, most Middle Eastern countries would be unable to do.

In defense of my statement that "Another reason religion ought to be taught in schools is that, simply, it is better to be aware than ignorant"

On your next rebuttal to my point that, "**Another reason religion ought to be taught in schools is that, simply, it is better to be aware than ignorant.**", to be honest I'm struggling to even understand what your point is here. You keep bringing up moral science and ethics lessons as alternatives to religion when, in reality, religion literally includes these. Where do you base your morals if not religion? Where do you base your ethics if not religion? I don't see a situation in how you can teach morality and ethics *without touching on religion*. So, please clarify your point here further. Also, I'm not sure whether you're trying to argue whether religion is propaganda or whether education of it would most likely be propaganda, either way, you seem to be arguing from a lot of hyperbole and just kind of assuming that religious education would be really radical, i.e. you keep sighting Islamic countries, and extreme, i.e. you keep assuming that religious education would just be forced-faith when I have tried to show you why it wouldn't have to be like that. So to conclude this point, I think if you need to resort to immediate hyperbole to show why something would be bad, *maybe the basis for your argument is already weak*. Also, I still don't see how it would be better to not be informed about religion than to know what the major religions say and believe and what their history is.

To address my argument that "Religion is truly like any other subject, but infinitely more important if you actually are religious, because it's not just your education being affected, it's your immortal soul" as well as the insinuation that I want non-religious students to be killed

On your final rebuttal to my point that, "**Religion is truly like any other subject, but infinitely more important if you actually are religious, because, it's not just your education being affected -- it's your immortal soul**", all I am trying to say here that religion is like any other subject taught in school, but, if you are religious there should be an added incentive for you to want to learn it. Obviously, some kids will not want to learn religion, guess what? Most kids don't want to learn math and science either. If we let kids define the world than everything would be based upon *immediate gratification*-- that's why people don't realize the benefits of their education until they mature, everyone hates school growing up for this reason. Also, I'm not really sure why you're asking if these kids should be killed or if curiosity about philosophy and all that stuff should be punished. I never said anything close to this and I'm not even sure what your point should be. So to clarify, I think everyone, religious or not, should learn religion because if you are religious, obviously it's good to learn about your religion, and if you're not, you should at least know what the religions you claim to not believe in say so that you have actual reasoning for it, because, as you have mentioned, blindly following a religion is detrimental. Also, I don't think curiosity about philosophy and things like that should be punished, I think they should be celebrated. Furthermore, *philosophy is a huge part of religion*, so, again, I'm not sure what your point is here. You also ask me, what is being religious. Being religious is simply just having a belief or faith in a certain religion -- thus to say you have to be religious to be educated on religion is idiocy. That's like saying you have to believe the Earth isn't flat to learn why the Earth isn't flat.

On your response to my question, "What is it about religion that makes it not worth teaching in schools?"

In regards to your final response to my closing question, "**What is it about religion that makes it not worth teaching in schools?**", you seem to want to substitute

religion for Ethical lessons because you think religion class would only teach one certain religion. I kind of addressed this earlier when I said, ideally, there would be requirements of a religion course, just like any other course, that would educate on all sorts of religions -- perhaps some more than others but enough to where you get the gist of the main ones. Also, again I kind of mentioned this earlier, I think religion *does include* a lot of ethics and thus, ethics lessons. I think by making this substitution that ethics and morality are important, you're really supporting my argument because religion includes these things. It's interesting to me that you think we should learn ethics and morality, but not religion. This seems illogical.

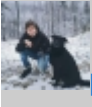
Some closing remarks

To address another minor point you kind of hinted at, that teaching religion would *take away* from the other subjects. Again, I think this kind of coincides with my point that there is a standard for each subject that is taught. For math you have to learn certain things, for history, you have to learn certain things, for religion you would have to learn certain things. Adding an extra course would not, in any noticeable way, take away from other subjects, perhaps you would have to move a little bit faster each class to make up for the five or so minutes you're giving up to add another class to the day but I think this 'take away' is negligible, especially when you consider the benefits.

To conclude, at least for me, you have not shown why religion isn't *worth* learning, why it wouldn't be better to be *educated* on religion as opposed to *uneducated*, and what distinguishes religion between the tolerance you claim comes with ethical lessons and moral sciences. Does religion not include ethics in morality? If it doesn't, why is this?

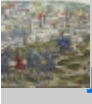
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**Thank you for reading and for the response, although I disagree with the basis for a lot of your points and logic, I think this sort of discussion is important. I look forward to your next rebuttal.**



piotr skrzyp (CON)

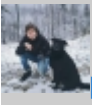
**Round Forfeited**



Johannes (PRO)

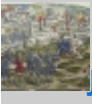
It is unfortunate that CON has forfeited the second round, especially considering that I am left with nothing to respond to for my own final round. Nevertheless, I think the discussion that was had was productive and that this topic is certainly a very interesting one overall. Thank you for your reading and consideration.

Vote PRO!



piotr skrzyp (CON)

**Round Forfeited**



Johannes (PRO)

Guess this was set to 4 rounds, not 3. Either way, I'll restate that CON's choice in forfeiting was disheartening. I think the discussion on this topic would've been productive.

Vote PRO!



piotr skrzyp (CON)

**Round Forfeited**





piotr skrzyp (CON)

**Round Forfeited**

