

Religions of 2025 America

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Religions in 2025 America

- We live in a pluralistic society.
 - Pluralism is the idea that multiple religions can be valid paths to truth or salvation. It emphasizes coexistence and respect for diverse beliefs.

Religions in 2025 America

- The First Amendment
 - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Religions in 2025 America

- This means we live in a free and open society where everyone has the right to hold and promote his/her own religious beliefs, provided they do so peacefully.
- So, we live in a society where we come into contact with people of all faiths.

Religions in 2025 America

- Why would we want to study other religions?
 - It's intriguing.
 - We need to learn about the beliefs of others to pray for and encourage them to trust in Christ.
 - We need to understand the world in which we live.

Religions in 2025 America

- We are modern people.
 - The dominant idea behind much of the world we inhabit is that even if God exists (and that's a big if for some), he is largely irrelevant to the real business of life.
 - We so emphasize human potential in the present moment that we are tempted to live daily as if God doesn't exist.

Religions in 2025 America

- We are a pragmatic people.
 - We make decisions regarding the practical outcomes of a situation/thought/experience we imagine.

Religions in 2025 America

- We live in a diverse world.
 - We live around people who practice other religions, and we like them.
 - A shift in American society took place after the Vietnam War when the GIs returned from the Far East with their experiences and interaction with a foreign world.
 - Tack on the social revolution and the rise of America as the leader of the free world.

Religions in 2025 America

- We are radically individualistic.
 - Think about how our modern dependence upon the machine of modernity and our practical atheism encourage us to express ourselves freely.
 - There are a few consequences for doing whatever we want because everything is taken care of.

Religions in 2025 America

- We are skeptical of claims of absolute truth.
 - Because we have more experience and are interconnected with the world like never before, in our fiercely individualistic society, we are skeptical of claims of absolute truth.

Religions in 2025 America

- Many of our fellow Americans feel let down by the world, are skeptical of those who shaped it, are reliant upon their own experiences and understandings, and are surrounded by options of religion that promise fulfillment.
- Therefore, we need to study what others are saying in light of the truth of God's Word.