

Climate Change Through the Lenses of Different Religions

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Research Questions:

1. How does personal religious beliefs impact the actions individuals take towards climate change?
2. What are the certain beliefs and opinions on climate change of certain religions?

Implications

- Religion has an impact on an individual's understanding and feeling of responsibility towards climate action
- Religion is not the only factor that compels people to act on climate change

Findings

- Studies show that younger evangelicals have a greater concern over environmental issues
- Belief in biblical literalism leads to significantly less concern over consequences of climate change
- motivations can be a religious duty to participate in climate action or motivation because they may be held accountable by God
- Faith of any kind leads to a more positive outlook on climate change and the impact a community can make after climate related disasters
- Bahá'í teachings emphasize the importance of science
- Bahá'u'lláh repeatedly emphasized that "religion must be in conformity with science and reason"
- Muslims in the village of Ouélessébougou had differing viewpoints, some viewed the drying climate as an opportunity from God to strengthen their faith, after all Islam was founded in the desert. Others viewed the climate as a punishment from God and took part in services and ritual sacrifices in order to appease God.

Conclusion

Research shows that religious beliefs impact beliefs and actions towards climate change. Certain religions have different opinions on climate change which affects how their members view climate change. This research is not enough to make a firm conclusion between the correlation of the two.

References

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