

## Religion, Philosophy and Science

Many times Religion, Philosophy and Science are confused with one another. There is great importance in understanding the differential elements between each of them due to the fact that they are often misconstrued and mistaken for one another. While there are similarities between the three ideas, it is vital in **TO** understanding the components **CHARACTERISTICS** that separate **DISTINGUISH** them from themselves **EACH OTHER**.

Religion in its literal sense means to “bind back” to the sacred (felt sense of awe, an experience of the sublime), to what is most important, to the source of the meaning. Two types of religions exist; spiritual religion, which is the deeply felt response to human finitude and vulnerability and attempt to live the deep psychology of the mythology. (Pickard, Relig,Philos,Sci) Theoretical religion, is a system of explanations and rationalizations based on taking the mythology as a logical, yet historical truth. By being “religious” one would take an approach to living that often involves beliefs about one’s origins, or one’s responsibility to live and act in the world in particular ways. Religion is based on faith and belief in a higher power or truth. Religion is commonly considered to be our patterns that express and reinforce our faith, and by living day-to-day in them. (wiki, 2010) It is often stated that no justification is needed with religion because the truth of a sacred text is “based on one’s own faith”. Philosophy is rigorous, sustained thinking about reality, truth, self, society ethics and so much more.

Philosophy involves testing one’s ideas, yet is not limited to narrow methods. Leading to a better understanding, insight, and wisdom, Philosophy is the hermeneutical (interpretation) attempt to understand understanding itself. Philosophy expands the mind to not just understand this or that, but to understand the possibility of understanding. (Pickard, Relig,Philos,Sci) Understanding

hermeneutically suggests stepping out of the **REDUCTIVE** theoretical box altogether **TO SEE SOMETHING ABOUT THE NATURE OF UNDERSTANDING**. By stepping outside of theory, we are able to **COME MORE** aware of our finitude and the **VERY** condition of **IMPOSING LIMITS THAT GIVES RISE TO** our meaning **AND THEORIES** to create the possibility of endless understanding. The pursuit or love of wisdom, explains Philosophy

Knowing our meanings allows us the possibility of understanding anything whatsoever. Being able to expand your mind belief or allows you to understand the core wisdom of Philosophy.

**Comment [dp1]:** What problems does this lead to? How severe are they, what is at stake?

**Comment [dp2]:** Why?

**Comment [dp3]:** this definition is ok but too broad, can include, for example, political ideology that involves faith in a certain kind of future, the higher power of history working toward emancipation, belief about human relationships, and how to live with others

**Comment [dp4]:** so unlike science and philosophy, there is no “objective” testing procedure through reason to see what is a warranted belief and what is not. Religion is a response to our basic sense of vulnerability and insecurity that is basic to our finitude. This felt sense of vulnerability can lead us to reach out to the power of what supports and can also destroy us and the mystery that there is anything at all. Of course, this is a very abstract reflection that does not capture that felt sense. Religion is already a central part of a cultural tradition that can speak to this felt situation, especially when we are in crisis and need orientation and connection. It is not about testing our ideas for consistency or correctness, but about their power to evoke a sense of connection to the sacred which can tell us nothing about what to do or believe, but rather in every religious tradition, this is about love or compassion that orients us.

**Comment [dp5]:** WHAT MAKES IT RIGOROUS?

**Comment [dp6]:** TESTING HOW?

**Comment [dp7]:** PHILOSOPHICAL HERMENEUTICS

**Comment [dp8]:** AVOID VAGUE CLICHÉ’S LIKE THIS

**Comment [dp9]:** we can come to understand something about the hermeneutical process itself and eliminate much confusion and over commitment to any particular belief or “truth.” “the courage to challenge one’s convictions, is the mark of true intellectual integrity.

**Comment [dp10]:** theory is an approach to understanding that is very useful and powerful when carried out properly. it is a reduction of multiplicity to greater unity, simplicity, and consistency.

**Comment [dp11]:** . philosophy is a process of testing and examining carefully what we usually take for granted

**Comment [dp12]:** This is probably not what you meant to say. It’s way too strong. Perhaps: IMPOSING CONCEPTUAL LIMITS OR BOUNDARIES allows us the possibility of understanding anything whatsoever

**Comment [dp13]:** Eliminate this. It adds nothing and obscures what you are trying to say.

Science is a **literal** systematic knowledge based on empirical testing and confirmation of a **hypothesis**. Science is based on inductive logic where we reach conclusions about unobserved things on the ground of what has been observed. (Pickard, Relig,Philos,Sci) Science is restricted to testing and methods and is a continuing effort to increase and discover understanding and human knowledge through finely disciplined research. Utilizing the scientific method, which is a body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, or correcting previous knowledge, (Wiki 2010) scientists are able to test empirical hypotheses to confirm factual evidence.

**Comment [dp14]:** If you are going to use this word, then explain it and contrast it to figurative or symbolic

**Comment [dp15]:** made possible by a well-established theoretical frame

There is a great deal of importance in distinguishing the differences between Religion, Philosophy and Science while acknowledging the similarities as well. Religion relies on faith and belief **["IS A MATTER OF THE HEART"]** while science is contingent upon observable, repeatable experiences and testing **[THOUGH DRIVEN BY DESIRE TO KNOW, IT IS MORE A MATTER OF THE "HEAD."]** Similarly to religion, **PHILOSOPHY AS A** spiritual practice (a kind of philosophy) constantly pursues a way of living a **BETTER** human life. Like the sciences philosophy involves testing our ideas. However, philosophy is **not limited to narrow empirical methods**. (Pickard, Relig,Philos,Sci) Philosophy is influenced by theoretical explanations of the world, but **[IS MORE INTERESTED IN THE IMPLICATIONS BEYOND SCIENCE]** It does not assimilate ~~to~~ the unknown **TO THE KNOWN** as science does.

**Comment [dp16]:** and can address issues of value that science cannot address, for example, justice, moral goodness, beauty, etc

**Understanding insight and wisdom are key components to Philosophy; [are NOT "COMPONENTS"]** unlike scientific explanatory methods **in which they cannot understand. [NEED TO CLARIFY THIS DIFFERENCE]** While trying to distinguish between **PHIL SCI AND REL** the concepts, people confuse facts with faith in terms of religion, science and philosophy. **[SAY MORE TO CLARIFY THIS]**

**Comment [dp17]:** RETHINK AND REWRITE

**Comment [dp18]:** There are facts in religion, the fact of suffering, for example, and faith in science, for example, faith that mathematizing space and time produces something called knowledge

In reality **philosophy is a kind of knowing**, science is **[NOT JUST]** facts and religion is **[NOT JUST]** faith.

**Comment [dp19]:** This is poorly constructed. What is the consequence of not understanding what each of these (religion, philosophy, science) is and can do? What kind of unnecessary human conflict does it lead to?

**DISTINGUISH SCIENCE FROM SCIENTISM**

**DISTINGUISH THE SACRED FROM RELIGIOUS DOGMATISM**

**DISTINGUISH ARGUMENTATION AND REASONING FROM PHILOSOPHY**

**Comment [dp20]:** UNDOING of our habits and assumptions, seeing into the condition of finitude, while bringing greater conceptual clarity to our lives so that we can more readily put wisdom into action: *phronesis* (look this up)

**Comment [dp21]:** is a family of objective methods of mathematical exatitude for testing claims about phenomena

**Comment [dp22]:** but arises from the deep humility of confronting our finitude in the face of the mystery of being.

**GRADE: C (OR REWRITE)**