

## **Can Organized Religion Accept All Identities?**

Christianity is no stranger to change. Church doctrine has expanded and contracted over the centuries to create the modern views widely accepted by the church. Biblical interpretations have always been debated, from the earliest days of Christianity. It's a never-ending feature of Christianity and has led to many schisms of the church. Many scholars and theologians would argue that religious texts present a path to follow, rather than a strict set of rules. Religious communities of any organized religion that uses an authoritative text, whether it be the Bible, Torah, or Quran, must decide how strictly they read these documents. The progress of contemporary society, at times, contrasts with the teachings and stories of the Old Testament. These confrontations of ancient and modern worldviews have pushed pious people in contemporary times to question how to preserve personal traditional beliefs.

The civil rights movement in the United States was largely influenced by Christianity. Southern civil rights organizations often received support from individual churches, and this renewed participation around religion became a rallying point for white and Black Americans alike.

For other religious practitioners, these documents might condemn or demonize parts of their life. Homosexuality has been widely condemned by Christian communities until very recently. Queer theology, the study of religion in the context of queer theory, often points to the many commandments in the church that argue against judgement and argue that every person should be treated with love.

Christianity has emphasized love and acceptance since its conception, but it has a long history of selectivity in who it accepts. Religious advocates for intersectionality are pointing out the places where Christianity must advance, using examples such as the civil rights movement as proof that positive change should be a focus of Christianity, not just a by-product.

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