

The Social Impacts of Religion: Implications for Social Work Practice

Presented By: Alasia Johnson
Sponsor: Dr. Morris

Middle Ground (CONCLUSIONS)

- Bad and Good have been done in the name of religion.
- There is room for religion in professional practice
- people who are pushing for religion and faith-based services have some work to do. Given that some religions have negative history and have contributed to people's trauma, it is going to take a lot of empathy, patience, and understanding before people will trust it as a primary source for assistance.
- Middle ground does not apply to policy related practice.

Positive Religious Attributes



Religion has its roots in building institutions such as poorhouses, hospitals, elderly homes, orphanages, and other institutions we still use today.

• Institutions

• Healing

• Positive Social Systems

• Comfort

• Hope



Common Negative Religious Assumptions

• Greed



If people think the assistance is too expensive, they will not seek it. Additionally, religious institutions or organizations that place too much focus on money and power often have a hard time recruiting and maintaining followers, as the focus shifts away from the initial purpose.

• Judgement/Toxicity



The feeling of judgement associated with religion could be why people do not wish to seek assistance from faith-based services. Assistance is already difficult to ask for (pride), so if a person feels that they will be shamed for their situation, the probability of them seeking help is slim.

Religious Factionalism and Parochialism

- **Factionalism-** when groups, organizations, and governments are split into two or more smaller subgroups with differing and often opposing opinions.
- **Parochialism-** A limited or narrow outlook, especially focused on a local area.