

Blinders of Religion

Reality check # 4: Is there a different God for different religions?

The answer is NO. To understand why, you need to take off your blinders. But what are blinders^{2c}, and why do you think I am wearing one? Blinders (also known as blinkers) are a piece of horse tack that prevents the horse from seeing the side and, in some cases, the rear. Racehorse trainers put blinders on the horse to help him remain focused on what is



in front and encourage him to pay attention to the race rather than other distractions, such as crowds. *When it comes to religion, we are much like horses with blinders. But in our case, religion is the blinder.* Most religions blind their followers into believing their religion is the only true religion and all other religions are false. Here, it is essential to remember that the original purpose of religion was to introduce a higher power called God to us. Unfortunately, religion introduced God with a bias to its exclusivist doctrine. It showed us a parochial view of God. In some cases, it was even an erroneous view. *Thus, religion failed believers.*

It trained us to focus on our religion only, to the exclusion of all other religions. As a result, we remained blind to the eternal truths in other religions. By putting God into “boxes” of different religions, we were trained to see God as the God of Christians, the God of Muslims, or the Gods of Hindus. This pitched us against each other and divided the human family into “us” and “them”. Humanity engaged in the “my God versus your God” battles without making any effort to find the difference between “our God” and “their God”. How religion divided the human family is a long story. Let’s not get distracted by it here. The important point is to find ways to undo that damage and reunite the human family. One effective way of doing it is to take off the blinders of religion. When you remove the blinders, you will see God as an independent entity, an all-encompassing reality, free of religious affiliations. *Removing the blinders will help you realize that the God of humankind is not a partisan God and does not practice religious apartheid. He does not discriminate against Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Jews, or other people. He does not show favoritism to any religion.* **(God Speak 2.1):** Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right”.

Therefore, removing the blinders of religion would be the first step to finding *the God of humankind* in our own religion.