

A SUMMARY OF THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

1. Belief in the One True God of Creation and Revelation. There is only one true God, the Creator, Sustainer, and Nurturer of all things and the Source of inspiration for the founding Prophets and Messengers of the world's great religions.

2. The Oneness, Continuity, Relativity, and Progression of Religion. All the world's major religions are inspired by the one true God, are equal phases of one continuous source of spiritual guidance, each revealed in a manner relative to the times and people they addressed, and each more advancing, expanding, reforming, and evolving than its predecessors.

3. The Oneness of All People. All people are of the human family and should be treated lovingly with equal concern, irrespective of race, nationality, gender, social status, class, religion, country of origin, or other differences, culminating in a unified world in all aspects including spirituality, trade, finance, language, scientific pursuits, governance, and fellowship.

4. Unity – Paramount in All Things. Unity is the ultimate moral value and our highest priority. Unity is a heartfelt condition of peace, love, and harmony in human relations, free of conflict, contention, dissention, and the struggle for dominance.

5. The Elimination of Prejudice, Blind Imitation, and Superstition. To eliminate from our lives' harmful irrational prejudices, mindless imitation of pointless beliefs and behaviors of the past, and any beliefs and behaviors not based on what is true or real.

6. The Harmony of Science and Religion. For the teachings and concepts of religion to be true and free from superstition, they must remain harmonious with science and reality, while science is best protected from materialistic and unethical practices by embracing the spiritual wisdom of true religion.

7. Adoption of One Universal Auxiliary Language and Script. Essential to the unity of humankind is the creation or adoption by the world community of a single language and script to be taught to all children as a supplement to their native language.

8. Equality of Women and Men. Women are to have equal opportunity, rights, freedoms, privileges, and status as enjoyed by men in all aspects of the human experience.

9. Independent and Impartial Investigation of Truth. The search for truth and reality, especially pertaining to spirituality and religion, is best approached independent of the influence of others and impartial to possible outcomes.

10. Spiritual Solutions to Economic Disparity. The extremes between wealth and poverty should be eliminated through equitable sharing of profits between capital and labor and by fairness in the distribution and allocation of wealth, goods, services, and work.

11. Universal Peace Upheld by a World Commonwealth of Nations. The time has come to formulate and support a World Federation of Nations that will create and uphold an international agreement to end war and regulate all issues of international concern.

12. Religion Should Remain Separate from Politics. Religion should abstain from political affiliation and partisan disputes as its true purpose is unity, harmony, and agreement, making it spiritually incompatible with the inherent divisiveness of partisan politics.

13. A Facilitative Approach to Leadership. A facilitator style of leadership is most desirable, consisting of consultative groups characterized by mutual cooperation, moral integrity, and devotion to the welfare and interest of the common good.

14. The Necessity of Religion for Progress and Development. True religion has always been the source of spiritual, ethical, and moral goodness in the world and when universally fostered nurtures humanity to its divine purpose and protects it from degradation.

15. Compulsory Childhood Education. Meaningful education in elementary subjects paralleled with kind and loving training in spiritual qualities and character is to be provided to all children for their own sakes and for the advancement of society as a whole.

16. The Development of Spiritual Characteristics and Virtues. A requirement of our true purpose as human beings is to acquire and develop spiritual qualities, traits, and virtues that reflect the spiritual light of our Creator, provide for our own good, and advance the quality of society.

17. The Importance and Value of Justice. The realization of justice requires conscious effort in all matters to conform our behavior to what is right, good, true, and fair so that order, fellowship, and unity may reside in the world.

18. The Distinction of Wisdom. The acquisition and application of wisdom, as it pertains to our true purpose and reality, should be highly treasured, collectively supported, and consciously applied that all may benefit from its illuminating influence.

19. The Wise Application of Moderation in All Things. Moderation should be sensibly practiced that its desirable benefits may be forthcoming upon society and the harmful effect of extremes avoided.

20. Truthfulness, Honesty, and Loyalty to Government. Obedience to legitimate government invites social order and peaceful relations that avoid the damaging and harmful outcomes of mischief and conflict.

21. Work in Service to Others is Worship of God. Exerting effort to excel in one's trade, profession, art, science, or work is a demonstration of love, appreciation, and honor to others, and is considered an expression of worship to the one true God.