

# Religion and Utilitarianism

1. **What** is the relationship between religion and utilitarianism?
2. **How** does the relationship between religion and utilitarianism work?
3. **Why** is the relationship between religion and utilitarianism important?

1. **What** is the relationship between religion and utilitarianism?

The relationship between religion and utilitarianism is characterised by tension. Typically, religious beliefs are derived from sources of authority like sacred texts; when their commands do not produce good for those affected by them, most utilitarians strenuously resist religious teachings. Make a note about utilitarianism and religion.

## Utilitarianism

## Religion

2. **How** does the relationship between religion and utilitarianism work?

Historically, the relationship between religion and utilitarianism, or at least between Christianity and utilitarian ideas, was considerably closer than it is today. Senior priests in the Church of England endorsed something approximating the principle of utility. Several theologians agreed that God created human beings with the capacity to experience pain and pleasure as a natural guide towards good. These priests and preachers assumed the good and the pleasurable overlapped. Make a note about how three of these thinkers thought religion is related to utilitarianism.

### How the Relationship between Religion and Utilitarianism Works

Thinker	How
Richard Cumberland (1632-1718)	

## How the Relationship between Religion and Utilitarianism Works

Thinker	How
<b>William Paley (1743-1805)</b>	
<b>Francis Hutcheson (1694-1746)</b>	

3. **Why** is the relationship between religion and utilitarianism important?

One significant reason why the relationship between religion and utilitarianism is important is that the tension it creates has a significant effect on policy and legislation in the United Kingdom. Make a note about how the relationship between religion and utilitarianism significantly affects policy and legislation in the United Kingdom.

## How the Relationship between Religion and Utilitarianism Effects Policy and Legislation

Beyond the effect the relationship between religion and utilitarianism has on policy and legislation, it is important for other reasons. Make a note of three additional reasons why the relationship between religion and utilitarianism is important.

## Why the Relationship between Religion and Utilitarianism Is Important

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