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Environmentalism as Religion

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:53 AM

This forum thread is for Environmentalism as Religion posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post.

Sum of ratings: -

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Environmentalism

by Francisco Gomez - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 12:48 AM

I am fully aware of what Environmentalism can do for the good of world. As I watch the ad, I dont want to live in world that be charged for things like not changing the lightbulbs. I do want to live in a world where everyone is eduatcated about how to be green. Enforcing a law or a city ordinance can be tricky. Can ordinance mean well(bag ban) or hurt(tax increase)? I dont see Evironmentalism as religion,but as mean to try help people be eduacted on how to be green. I do really think it just depends on the person on how they believe in Evironmentalism.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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When is it Ok

by Sara Dombrosky - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 9:35 AM

I find that this article has many valid points to make in the case of forcing people to behave and act a certain way. Yes, we should do what we can to keep our planet clean, but at what time does banning certain things become ridiculous. Humans are

like teenagers, you tell us not to do something or we buy something that shouldn't be buying, we're going to get angry and argue even if we are going against things that might be good for us in the long run.

It is best to educate people about things if you really want them to listen and take part in certain things, especially environmentalism. I've worked with kids in the past, you get them excited about something like this and in many cases they take it to heart to the point where things like recycling and urging parents to use cloth as opposed to plastic bags becomes second nature.

Sadly, that doesn't seem to be enough for many of the die-hard environmentalists. Personally, I loathe the fact that stores are given the ok to charge 5 cents to every plastic bag used by a customer. Again, humans are like children and sometimes in cases like this, positive reinforcement trumps the negative. Instead of taking money away from a person, why not provide a discount so that people get a small reward for using cloth bags. And there you have stores taking advantage of the situation, giving a discount to customers who actually give two shits about the environment, most unorthodox!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Environmentalism as Religion?

by Sarah Lafferty - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 12:40 PM

Personally I don't think it's accurate to call environmentalism a religion. For one, who is their god? Doesn't every religion have a god they worship? The article by Prof. Rubin sights all these ways environmentalism is like a religion, assuming all environmentalists are alike; this again is not true. There is a spectrum like everything else; some are vegetarians others eat meat, so I wouldn't say there's universal food taboos. I would say the Go Green is a movement not a religion. Though if some environmentalists want to be associated as a religion, given the First Amendment, so be it...I just personally think it's the wrong association.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion?

by Robert Sappington - Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 11:49 PM

"For one, who is their god? Doesn't every religion have a god they worship?"

This was the first thing I thought of when I heard it called a religion. But then again, would they be considering mother earth god?

"Go Green is a movement not a religion"

I have to agree with you, but do you think their borderline cult like?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion?

by Sarah Lafferty - Thursday, May 30, 2013, 11:57 AM

In regards to environmentalists believing the earth is god; I think that's probably true for many environmentalists, but perhaps not for others. Considering you can be Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, etc. And be an environmentalist I would say it's probably a spectrum thing. Also in regards to environmentalism being a borderline cult; I would say yes and no, based on the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of a cult. Particularly to definition point 2: "a system of religious beliefs and ritual; *also*: its body of adherents" (Merriam-Webster). I would say this definition borders still too closely to a religion, and prefer the term 'movement' better.

Merriam-Webster dictionary:

Definition of Cult:

1: formal religious veneration : worship

2: a system of religious beliefs and ritual; *also*: its body of adherents

3: a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious; *also*: its body of adherents

4: a system for the cure of disease based on dogma set forth by its promulgator <health *cults*>

5 a: great devotion to a person, idea, object, movement, or work (as a film or book); *especially*: such devotion regarded as a literary or intellectual fad

b: the object of such devotion

c: a usually small group of people characterized by such devotion"

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Environmentalism as Religion? No a Cult

by Robert Sappington - Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 11:26 PM

First I want to say how funny this commercial is, and yet it's so real. Has anyone shopped in Eugene lately? And asked for plastic bags? To me I felt like I was asking for illegal drugs. Then I was told I have to pay a fine..er a fee, to use one of their paper bags.

Knowing what you now know about "rights", can these types of issues EVER be resolved, either through education, legislation, or prosecution?

No. Someone will always claim their rights are more important than other people's rights. EX: I think my right to keep my food dry in plastic when it's raining, or clothes dry when it's raining is somewhat important. But apparently other people's rights of not having plastic anywhere are more important?

Everything starts with education (go green, eat organic, your three R's, and more) and then legislation (bag ban Eugene) and someday probably will follow the path of prosecution. If someone uses plastic bags, do they not get a fine now? Isn't that a form of prosecution?

Can it be done peacefully/voluntarily, or will it end up being done coercively/punitively, as was done to the plastic, incandescent bulb, and styrofoam users as depicted in the commercial?

Nothing is ever done peacefully/voluntarily. There is always a decent amount of people that don't want to change for the good or bad. Until it somehow benefits each person directly, I don't see people making a change. An example would be these light bulbs. I buy regular ones 2 for 1\$. These fancy incandescent bulbs cost 4\$ ish. They're not as bright, don't seem to last much longer, and cost so much more. Why would I want to use them? To go green? I won't use these "green" bulbs unless that's my only option.

How is this article accurate or inaccurate in describing environmentalism as a religion?

I think this article makes a good claim. Environmentalism is taking on a form, but not really a religion. The group is having more and more followers and so on. They are going the same thing as a religion, how they spread, force conversations, spread their ways, and more. But are they worshiping a god or higher being? No. So calling it religion isn't exactly right. I would call it a cult.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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A New Religion



by Kinzi Silburn - Friday, May 31, 2013, 3:14 PM

Even if Environmentalism is becoming a religion, it doesn't mean the rest of the world is wrong if they don't recycle every single thing they own. I see this as a group of people that want to take care of the Earth rather than just doing this for themselves. The Earth is our home and if we treat it badly, it will come back to treat us badly. It is like Karma, the more you give, the more you get. Global Warming is a real thing and if there are people out there that want to help make it a little less bad, then they have the right to do so. It won't get rid of the problem completely, but at least they can feel better about doing right by the planet. Some people just care more than others.

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Green Police

by Keeler McJunkin - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 5:24 PM

Knowing what we know today, with everyone being so concerned about rights in every way possible I don't think this will ever be solve able. The fact is everyone does have rights and therefore we just have to let it be. I also understand that people should want to do things to protect the planet as well. But if they don't want to, we can't force them to do so.

Everyone has the right to live their life however they want inside the ramifications of the law. If they are doing this than people have no "right" to interfere with what they are doing, or how they are living.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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An environmental religion

by Keeler McJunkin - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 5:36 PM

I understand why people want to do whatever they can possibly do to protect the planet. I believe it would be impossible to ever make it a situation where you can be arrested for not being "green". The commercial is good for a laugh, but I don't ever see it being something of reality. There are too many people on both sides of this subject for something like that to happen.

We should be doing what we can to protect the planet legally. It has to be done by spreading knowledge and getting people to be informed. That is all we can do. It can't be something required by law. If we start to make this something required by law then that can open a can of worms to other things people would bring up and want to be required by law. Then what happens?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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As a Religion

by Sara Dombrosky - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 5:59 PM

On the subject of environmentalism being a religion, I don't see that as a correct analogy. I myself was raised in a religious household, and though environmentalism can produce it's share of fanatics (as does a series of things found in pop culture), that does not make it a religion. A lifestyle yes, an obsession, perhaps. But not a religion. A desire to preserve the planet does not equate to a worshiping of said planet. I think this website here sums up what defines religion.

www.allaboutreligion.org/definiton-of-religion-faq.htm

In the case of environmentalism, there is no God character. In my expirience and personal look in a the many religions even mythologies such a Greek, Roman, Epytian, etc. The beings that a the subject of worship are humanoid (mixed with a

few animal characteristics). Yes, there are fanatics in environmentalism, but that does not make it a religion. That would be like saying that my being a fanatic fan of The Walking Dead makes the show and its characters an object of worship, as if they were gods or something along those lines.

Basically, the only way that you could argue that environmentalists were religious fanatics is by claiming that they are all pagan or wiccan, and even then. Though pagans and wiccans look upon nature very highly, they still humanize it with the use of humanoid gods.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Not a religion in my eyes.

by Mercedes Shutt - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 6:02 PM

These types of issues can be resolved by a vote 😊 I feel like that is the way to resolve anything in this country. But honestly I'm not sure what needs to be resolved? I do not agree with the article and I think that this professor has way too much time on his hands to worry about who wants to recycle what. I also think that recycling does help this earth. For example the giant plastic bag ball in the ocean.. For us not to use the plastic bags is helping to not add more plastic to the ocean. I would like to read where this man is getting his facts.. I think that if they do ban things that are not good for the earth like they have in Eugene with plastic bags, that people will do it peacefully and that the government will also let states vote on if they would like to recycle or not.

I do not see environmentalism as a religion, I think that you can make anything look like something it is not. I've never seen anyone praying to the garbage gods. and I do not think of garbage as temples... That is just ridiculous. I sort of feel that he is making fun of people who want to treat their bodies better and the earth better than GMO's and throwing light bulbs in the garbage... hmmmm...

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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