

Art Beyond Belief - The Faith Junction Questions

These are the questions that were used as starting points for the interviews. They were formulated by members of the Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faiths from the Slough Faith Partnership.

- **1. Questions of belief.**
What do you believe about (some of) the following
God?
Human Accountability
Doing good?
Heaven?
Hell?
Rewards?
Punishment?
Forgiveness?
- **2. What is the significance of Sacred Buildings:**
Do they matter?
Are they necessary?
Are they a community focal point?
- **3. Teaching and Practice**
What differences are there between what your faith teaches, and the way it is practised in the community?
How does your faith adapt to changes in society?
Are there areas of faith that should change, (we live in a different time now), or are the faith precepts “once and for always”?
(Are sexual issues a faith ‘problem area’?
Is change always a bad thing?
Is change ever a good thing?)
- **4. Superstition & Tradition**
Are there areas of your religion that you feel are really a superstition?
Are there traditions in your religion that you are uncomfortable with?
- **5. What are the positive elements of your faith that give you *help, encouragement, or inspiration*?**
- **6. Are there any *negative elements of your faith* that cause you to lose heart, or make you depressed? (The story of a young homosexual who felt so guilty that he killed himself prompts this question)**
- **7. Are *Clerics* necessary? Can your faith do without them?**
- **8. Is there a *sense of calling* in your religion? Is this something that applies to leaders, the ‘average man’ or both?**
- **9. Love and Forgiveness:**
How compassionate is your religion? Is there a way for communities to act that shows love and forgiveness in action, (see 3). Is rejection ever the answer to a member of a faith community?
- **10. Do you feel that the general public understands your faith? What aspects of faith are misunderstood? To what extent are any misunderstandings the responsibility of the faith community?**