



“This movement eludes organization – it is the realization of a new spirit. The foundation of that spirit is the love of God; and its method, the love and service of mankind. Many who have never heard of this revelation teach its laws and spiritual truths. These people are performing what Baha’u’llah hath commanded though they never heard of him. The power of Baha’u’llah’s words is compelling – therefore, you must know and love them. For instance, in the spring season trees burst forth into verdure, though they are not conscious of the sunshine, of the falling rain or the gentle breeze – nevertheless, the power of nature urges them on to yield forth their fruits.”

– Abdu’l-Baha

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Reform Bahai Faith

What’s That?

“To be a Bahai simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood.”

–Abdu’l-Baha

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“The Reform Bahai Faith? I’ve never heard of it. Is it some exotic religion or cult?”

When you heard of the Bahai Faith, or the Bahais, it may have appeared to be a mystery. I mean, how do you pronounce or spell it?

The word “Bahai” means a “follower of the light.” Thus, a Bahai is concerned about spiritual truth and the meaning of God in life. The Faith began in the Middle East, as did Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but when it comes to the meaning of religion, the Bahai Faith has a broader perspective. While Judaism believes in the religion given to Moses, through the Law and Ten Commandments, and Christians believe in faith in Christ, Bahais believe that the message of God embraces not just Moses and Jesus, but also Mohammed, Krishna, Buddha, and Zoroaster. Bahais believe that Baha’u’llah is the current Messenger of God, as Jesus, Moses, and Mohammed were in their days.

However, the Bahai Faith is not just about religion. In addition, it espouses social principles. Bahais believe:

**in the equality of men and women.
in the harmony of religion and science.
in universal education.
in a universal peace tribunal.**

In other words, Bahais don’t just talk about religion, or offer lofty platitudes, they put their faith into practice. They don’t hesitate to get their hands dirty in tackling world affairs. The message of Baha’u’llah is incredibly contemporary.

He wrote,

*O people of the world, ye are all the fruit of one tree, and the leaves of one branch.**

O people of the earth! Make not the religion of God a cause for variance among you. Verily, of a truth, it was revealed for the purpose of unifying the whole world.

In a prayer, Baha’u’llah wrote,

O God, create in the hearts of Thy beloved the fire of Thy love, that it may burn the thought of everything save thee.... Verily in Thee will they find comfort and strength.

What is the Reform Bahai Faith? It is a new vision for humankind. It is a concrete plan for world peace.

Abdu’l-Baha, son of Baha’u’llah and interpreter of the Faith, wrote,

This, thy servant, hath advanced toward Thee, is passionately wandering in the desert of Thy love, walking in the path of Thy service, anticipating Thy favors, hoping for Thy bounty, relying upon Thy Kingdom, and being exhilarated with the wine of Thy Gift. O my God! Increase his fervor in Thy passion, his constancy in Thy praise and his ardor in Thy love.

Investigate the Faith with an open heart and mind.

–Joel Bjorling

***All quotes are from *The Universal Principles of the Reform Bahai Faith*. Reform Bahai Press, 2008.**

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