

If It's Real We Believe in It!

Welcome to the Church of Reality. Welcome to the Real World. The Church of Reality is a positive force for change and you can be part of it. You can help make it happen. There is a lot of material here. We hope you will invest the time to read it. The short version of what the Church of Reality is about is:

Reality is our God

Science is our Bible

Evidence is our Scripture

Big History is our Creation Story

Ecology is our Theology

Integrity is our Salvation

Positive Evolution is our Mission

The Church of Reality is a religion based on the practice of Realism, which is a dedication to the pursuit of the understanding of objective Reality. Our motto is, "If it's real, we believe in it." Since no one knows all of Reality, the Church of Reality is a religious commitment to the pursuit of Reality the way it really is. We think about thinking. We wonder about wondering. We try to understand the understanding of understanding. We are {In:Explorers}, not followers. The phrase "What is Real?" is our {In:Sacred Question} and the word "Reality" is our {In:Sacred Message}. We talk about Reality, think about Reality, and aim to make Reality more important in society.

The Church of Reality is based upon the Authority of Evidence

rather than the Authority of Scripture

Reverend Reality Speaks!

The Church of Reality is {In:Religion 3.0}. Religion 1.0 was about the authority of elders. Religion 2.0 was about the authority of scripture. Religion 3.0 is about the authority of evidence. This is a process we call the {In:Evidential Reformation}. We attempt answer the great questions that other religions address, like what is right and wrong, what is the meaning of life, how do people live together in a community, and what are our responsibilities to ourselves and to each other. We address these concerns in the context of {In:Big History}, our present Reality, and our future evolution. We are particularly focused on the future, which we call the {In:Sacred Direction}.

What we consider real is based on knowing rather than choosing to believe something. The difference between knowing and believing is knowing is based on the scientific method, which we call the {In:Sacred Method}. We use evidence, proof, logic, and reasoning to determine what is real. That doesn't make us infallible, sometimes we get it wrong. But when we realize we are wrong we change our minds because we have a value system that puts Reality first.

The Church of Reality is about making a religious commitment to the pursuit of the understanding of Reality as it really is.

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We are {In:Monorealists}, which means we believe in {In:The One True Reality}. This Reality is the sum of everything that actually exists. Our definition of Reality includes what some people call "other realities" that actually are real with the exclusion of imaginary realities and religious fiction. We care about what is real, not what we think is real or what we want to believe is real. The Church of Reality puts "real" Reality first.

The Church of Reality is not just a religion of science, it is a religion of people understanding Reality through science. We explore Reality from the human perspective. In order to explore Reality, we need a strong, healthy society where people can live freely and peacefully, have more {In:Telescope Time}, and the human race can evolve toward a better future. The pursuit of Reality is something that is a shared process. It's something we do together as a church, as a community, and as the human race.

We are about Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Reality!

The Church of Reality provides a {In:religious identity} for people who have made a personal commitment to pursue Reality the way it really is. When we are asked, "What religion are you?," we answer that we are Realists; we practice Reality because we believe in Reality. We also provide a sense of community, a social structure, and a moral compass to define right and wrong. We provide a sense of purpose about who we are, why we exist, and how we live our lives, in the context of science and logic.

We are of One Planet - we are all here together - and we are committed to making the future better than it is today. We are committed to making sure humanity evolves in a positive direction.

The Church of Reality recognizes the fact that the human race has a vast amount of shared knowledge. We call this shared knowledge the {In:Tree of Knowledge}, and it is through the growth of this tree that we can explore the universe around us. As the Tree of Knowledge grows, we evolve toward a better tomorrow, one where we will know more about Reality than we know today. Realism is not just a casual acceptance of Reality as real. Realism is a deeply felt choice, a commitment to a disciplined approach to determine what's real and to allow us to {In:positive evolution 'evolve in a positive direction}.

Realists are not without values or morality. Our values are based on {In:Humanism} rather than a fictional holy book. As Realists, our values include {In:Positive Evolution}, {In:Exploration}, {In:Honesty and Integrity}, {In:Freedom}, {In:Individualism}, {In:Peace}, {In:Courage}, {In:Environmentalism}, {In:Compassion}, {In:Justice}, {In:Inclusiveness}, {In:Scrutiny and Doubt}, {In:Humility}, {In:Reason}, {In:Wisdom}, and {In:Personal Responsibility}. We believe in {In:Original Virtue} rather than Original Sin. We are a {In:Doubt-Based} rather than Faith-Based religion. These {In:Sacred Principles} form the basis for our {In:Church Doctrine} and are logically consistent with our missions.

The Church of Reality is an evolving religion. We are not tied to a fixed doctrine that was written in the past and is slowly becoming obsolete. If we get it wrong, we fix our mistakes. We are an {In:Open Source Religion} and everyone is welcome to participate in the development and improvement of our religion. We live on a vast wondrous universe that we are just beginning to explore. Why would someone want to waste their entire existence on a fictional world view when there's all this wonderful Reality to investigate and understand?

The Church of Reality is an {In:Emergent Religion}. Just as apples grow on apple trees when humanity evolves to a certain level something like the Church of Reality must occur. Humanity has two paths. We can either evolve forward or we will become extinct. We will either {In:Stay in the Game} or we will be {In:Left Behind}. Since we were created through the process of evolution and our ancestors all the way back to {In:Pond Scum} did what it took to survive, we are programmed by evolution to try to continue to exist. We therefore accept, through evolutionary bias, that to exist is better than to not exist. In order to continue to exist we have to evolve forward and we need to be in {In:Right Relationship with Reality} to do that. And that defines the mission and the purpose of the Church of Reality, that humanity should continue to exist and evolve forward so that we stay in the game. Our descendants should look back at this time and be thankful we did what we do here today. Otherwise, if we do the wrong thing, they might regret what we do today, or there may be no one around to look back. We will be forgotten.

What is Reality?

Reality is that which when you stop believing in it - it doesn't go away. ~ Philip K. Dick

Are you already a Realist? - Do you find yourself thinking about Reality? Do you think that it's important that what you believe in is actually real? Do you think for yourself rather than just believe what you are told to believe? When you counsel friends on important matters, do you advise them to take Reality into consideration? Do you believe the world would be better off if Reality were a more important part of society? if you answered YES to these questions, you may already be a Realist.

"A religion, old or new, that stressed the magnificence of the Universe as revealed by modern science might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by the conventional faiths. Sooner or later, such a religion will emerge." ~ Carl Sagan

If you like what you see, then join our {In:nw:http://mailman.ctyme.com/listinfo/membership 'Mailing List'} to get the latest announcements. We also appreciate those who link to us and review the Church of Reality in their blogs. We have a good religion started here. All we need is people to {In:promoting Reality 'spread the word'} about it.

Church of Reality Introduction Podcast {enclose introduction.mp3}

The Sacred Missions of the Church of Reality are:

- {In:We Believe in Reality - the Way It Really Is}
- {In:We Spread the Sacred Message - Reality}
- {In:We Choose the Sacred Direction - Forward}
- {In:We Honor the Tree of Knowledge}
- {In:We Ask the Sacred Moral Question - What Is Good}
- {In:We Issue the Sacred Challenge}
- {In:We Are Activists - We Make It Happen}
- {In:We Unite Religion and Reality}

