Principles of Governance

True Religion

The Secret of Divine Civilization

Bahá'í Administration 13

True Religion

Among the principles of governance explained by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, at a time when religion was too often a source of conflict and discord, we find this beautiful explanation of the purpose of true religion.

True Religion

The greatest of instrumentalities for achieving the advancement and the glory of man, the supreme agency for the enlightenment and the redemption of the world, is love and fellowship and unity among all the members of the human race. Nothing can be effected in the world without unity and agreement, and the perfect means for fellowship and union is true religion.

('Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, p. 73)

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True Religion

It is impossible for a human being to turn aside from his own selfish advantages and sacrifice his own good for the good of the community except through true religious faith. For self-love is kneaded into the very clay of man, and it is not possible that, without any hope of a substantial reward, he should neglect his own present material good.

('Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), *The Secret of Divine Civilization,* pp. 96-97)

True Religion

That individual, however, who puts his faith in God and believes in the words of God—because he is promised and certain of a plentiful reward in the next life, and because worldly benefits as compared to the abiding joy and glory of future planes of existence are nothing to him —will for the sake of God abandon his own peace and profit and will freely consecrate his heart and soul to the common good.

('Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), *The Secret of Divine Civilization,* pp. 96-97)

True Religion

The Faith of God must be propagated through human perfections and spiritual behavior, free of personal considerations, of greed and selfish interests. Become known as trustworthy and truthful, temperate and scrupulous, high-minded and loyal, incorruptible and God-fearing. In this way the primary purpose in revealing the Divine Law—which is to bring about happiness in the after life and civilization and the refinement of character in this—will be realized.

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