



No Need for a “Double Standard”

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According to a UN organization, about 80 percent of the world’s population believes in a religion. Though it’s difficult to get an accurate number of Buddhists and Taoists, we estimate that there are about 150 million religious people in China.

Whether or not you are religious, or what religion you practice, has a lot to do with your upbringing and view of the world. It is every person’s free choice and a private matter. People who choose not to believe in a religion, or choose to adopt a particular faith, all think they are correct for thinking the way they do. Therefore we should not allow a lack of mutual understanding to become an excuse for applying a “double standard” to other’s beliefs.

We share a common human nature no matter what kind of persons we are, whether we believe in religion or not, whether we believe in this or that religion. Buddhism teaches, “Avoid doing evil, strive to benefit the many.” Ecclesiastes teaches “there is nothing better for a man than to be glad, and to do good while he lives,” while the Chinese have always believed, “Refrain from doing to others what you don’t wish to do to yourself.” Is this not common ground for mutual communication between peoples who seem to have different principles?

When mingling with new acquaintances there is generally no need to be overly sensitive about their religious convictions, but at times you must pay some attention to it, for it helps build mutual respect in any exchange. Harmonious co-existence and seeking common ground while allowing for differences – these pave the way for building friendly relations.

[\[Link\] Dialogue between an Atheist and a Theist](#)

We are each the beloved child of two different but pure cultures. We broke through the ideological gap between us and exchanged a variety of views in