What to Believe

Every religion must have the following three things to explain its beliefs:

1. Dogma (Creed)
2. Theology
3. Law

Dogma

* The basic beliefs of a certain religion
* Without them there would be no religion
* Can be added to but not deleted
* The things a person must believe in and adhere to in order to consider himself an active member of the religion

Theology

* The study of a religion’s beliefs and ideas
* Interprets the meaning of basic religious beliefs in the context of ordinary life
* Because theology is a human interpretation, they may not be completely accurate

Law

* Helps a participating group to live out its basic beliefs
* Guidelines which members of a group are expected to follow
* If a law forces one to act contrary to the basic beliefs of the group (dogma) it should be changed