

The Bible as a Public Book: An Asian Perspective

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This article explores the multifaceted impact of the Bible in Asia, transcending religious boundaries and shaping cultural, interfaith, ethical, political, and socio-economic dimensions. Drawing inspiration from biblical verses, the article delves into the ways the Bible serves as a living testament to the dynamic role it plays as a public book in the diverse tapestry of Asian cultures. The cultural influences of the Bible are examined, showcasing how biblical narratives, symbols, and teachings have inspired literature, art, and shared cultural heritage across Asia. The article further explores the role of the Bible in fostering interfaith dialogue, emphasizing shared values and narratives that promote understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among diverse religious communities. Ethical foundations derived from biblical teachings are discussed, illustrating how concepts of compassion, justice, integrity, and humility have become integral to the moral compass of Asian societies. The article highlights the Bible's influence on societal values, family dynamics, business practices, and interpersonal relationships, contributing to a shared moral fabric that transcends religious boundaries. In the political realm, the Bible's impact is analysed, revealing its influence on governance structures, political ideologies, and public policies across Asia. Challenges and opportunities arising from the Bible's influence in Asia are addressed, acknowledging the need for careful navigation in the face of diverse cultural and religious interpretations. Interfaith tensions, socioeconomic disparities, gender dynamics, and political instrumentalisation are identified as challenges, while opportunities for social harmony and empowerment through education are presented. In conclusion, the article advocates for an understanding and collaborative approach to harness the positive impact of the Bible in the rich tapestry of Asian cultures and societies.

Keywords:

Bible as Public Book, Social Values, Family Dynamics, Religious Dialogue.

