THEORETICAL AND APPLIED ASPECTS OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

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If the idea of dialogue is to reach consensus, then the question follows, consensus of what? One dominant idea of public reason whereby we negotiate to settle issues of deep conflict is to proceed from comprehensive to plain truth. However, it is often the case that religious groups that participate, possess within themselves metaphysical truths which they hold to be certain or granted. But the idea of dialogue is to transcend the metaphysical and reach some kind of reasonable consensus. Interfaith dialogue is strategic and political. On the onset, it will be my task to show how to take the issue from the metaphysical to the plain truth that is reasonably acceptable by all parties that are concerned. From that, it will then be necessary to show how it is that this plain truth is the meeting point for all groups in-dialogue. Overall, this thesis will examine the philosophical issues of interfaith dialogue and peace negotiations within some of the world's major religious traditions. With that objective, the project is an interdisciplinary one of religious ethics, the philosophies of religion, and religion and human rights, which draw upon the methodological issues in epistemology, applied ethics, and political philosophy.