

# Celestial Grace Temple

## What is Sikhism ?

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**Sikhism or Sikhi pronounced [ 'sɪkːhɪ ], from *Sikh*, meaning a "disciple", or a "learner", is a monotheistic religion that originated in the Punjab region of South Asia during the 15th century.**

The fundamental beliefs of Sikhism, articulated in the sacred scripture [Guru Granth Sahib](#), include faith and meditation on the name of the one creator, unity and equality of all humankind, engaging in selfless service, striving for social justice for the benefit and prosperity of all, and honest conduct and livelihood while living a householder's life.

Sikhism is based on the spiritual teachings of [Guru Nanak](#), the first Guru, and the ten successive [Sikh gurus](#). After the death of the tenth Guru, [Guru Gobind Singh](#), the Sikh scripture, Guru Granth Sahib, became the literal embodiment of the eternal, impersonal Guru, where the scripture's word serves as the spiritual guide for Sikhs.

Sikhism emphasizes [simran](#) (meditation on the words of the Guru Granth Sahib), that can be expressed musically through [kirtan](#) or internally through [Nam Japo](#) as a means to feel God's presence, and to have control over the "[Five Thieves](#)" (lust, rage, greed, attachment and conceit).

Hand in hand, secular life is considered to be intertwined with the spiritual life. [Guru Nanak](#) taught that living an "active, creative, and practical life" of "truthfulness, fidelity, self-control and purity" is above the metaphysical truth, and that the ideal man is one who "establishes union with God, knows His Will, and carries out that Will".

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He also established the system of the [langar](#), or communal kitchen, in order to demonstrate the need to share and have equality between all people.<sup>1</sup> [Guru Hargobind](#), the sixth Sikh Guru, established the political/temporal (Miri) and spiritual (Piri) realms to be mutually coexistent.

[Sikhs](#) also reject claims that any particular religious tradition has a monopoly on Absolute Truth.

The development of Sikhism was influenced by the [Bhakti movement](#), however, Sikhism was not simply an extension of the Bhakti movement.

Sikhism developed while the region was being ruled by the [Mughal Empire](#). Two of the Sikh gurus – [Guru Arjan](#) and [Guru Tegh Bahadur](#), after they refused to convert to Islam, were tortured and executed by the Mughal rulers.

The Islamic era persecution of Sikhs triggered the founding of the [Khalsa](#), as an order for freedom of conscience and religion. A Sikh is expected to embody the qualities of a "Sant-Sipāhī, a [saint-soldier](#).

The majority of Sikh scriptures were originally written in [Gurmukhī alphabet](#), a script standardised by [Guru Angad](#) out of [Landā scripts](#) used in [North India](#). Adherents of Sikhism are known as Sikhs, which means students or disciples of the Guru.

The anglicized word 'Sikhism' is derived from the Punjabi verb *Sikhi*, with roots in *Sikhana* (to learn), and *Sikhi* connotes the "temporal path of learning".

Sikhism is a monistic religion and states that there is one supreme entity holding control of the entire universe. This entity is referred to as [Ik Onkar](#).

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God in Sikhism is known as Ik Onkar, the One Supreme Reality,<sup>1</sup> or the all-pervading [spirit](#) (which is taken to mean god). This spirit has no gender in Sikhism, though translations may present it as masculine. It is also *Akaal Purkh* (beyond time and space) and *Nirankar* (without form).

In addition, Nanak wrote that there are many worlds on which it has created life.

Nanak further states that the understanding of *Akaal* is beyond human beings, but at the same time not wholly unknowable. Akaal is omnipresent ([sarav viāpak](#)) in all creation and visible everywhere to the spiritually awakened.

Nanak stressed that god must be seen from "the inward eye", or the "heart", of a human being: devotees must meditate to progress towards enlightenment of heavenly life. Guru Nanak emphasized the revelation through meditation, as its rigorous application permits the existence of communication between god and human beings.

**May the grace of God be with you always --- Amen.**

*Pastor Andy Anderson*

Celestial Grace Ministry