



Sikhism:

Does joining the Khalsa make a person a better Sikh?

Topic Overview

- Some Sikhs choose to take part in a joining ceremony as part of their religion - the Amrit Ceremony.
- Sikhs who have completed the sacred Amrit Ceremony are called *Khalsas*.
- The Amrit Ceremony is part of a Sikh's own personal spiritual development.
- They take part in the ceremony when they believe they are ready to live up to the high expectations of Guru Gobind Singh.
- All Sikhs are expected to become members of the Khalsa at some stage in their life.
- The Amrit Ceremony is a choice to make a commitment and can help some Sikhs keep their promises to God. This is because they spoke their promises in public so other people will expect them to keep them.
- Through making these promises, it shows Sikhs have made a commitment to God.
 - The promises include:
 - You shall never remove any hair from any part of the body.
 - You shall not use tobacco, alcohol or any other intoxicants.
 - You shall not eat Halal meat.
 - You shall not commit adultery.
- The 5Ks serve as a physical reminder of the promises they have made and helps Sikhs keep them.
- They are physical signs to themselves, others and the world that they are a member of the Khalsa.
- They are an outward symbol of an inner commitment.

Links with other religions

- **Baptism** (Christianity). Baptism marks the start of Christian life. Some Christians believe that baptism makes someone a member of God's family.
- **Confirmation** (Christianity). A baptised person confirms the promises made at baptism. It is a sign of full membership to the Christian community.
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** (Judaism). After these ceremonies, Jewish boys or girls become responsible for living according to Jewish Law.
- **Sacred Thread ceremony/Upanayana** (Hinduism). A ceremony for boys in some Hindu communities to confirm they are of an age to take on religious responsibility.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Belong	To be a member of a particular group.
Ceremony	A formal religious or public occasion, especially one celebrating a particular event, achievement, or anniversary.
Promise	A statement or assurance that one will do something or that a particular thing will happen.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
Guru	'Teacher' or 'leader.'
Commitment	Willingness to give your time and energy to a job, activity, or something that you believe in:
Symbol	A sign, shape, or object that is used to represent something else:
Khalsa	Pure.
Guru Gobind Singh	The last of the 10 Gurus.
Guru Granth Sahib	The holy scriptures of Sikhism, containing the actual words spoken by the founders of Sikhism.

