

Kamala Harris' Faith: What We Should Know

Until she debated Donald Trump this week in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Vice President Kamala Harris had only done one interview since President Joe Biden endorsed her on July 21 as his choice for the Democratic ticket. It's been hard to determine her positions on issues because she hasn't done press conferences—and leading up to the debate she flip-flopped on several topics.

Maybe some people don't care what a candidate's positions are as long as they are affiliated with their chosen party. But I want to know where a politician stands on issues such as crime, taxation, national security, inflation, education, and the health and welfare of our kids. I also want to know about a candidate's faith—not because I'm expecting my president to be a pastor, but because I believe a candidate's religion says a lot about their moral values.

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So when I searched for information about Harris' faith, I discovered that other people have said much more about it than she has. The vice president has tiptoed carefully through the minefield of public scrutiny of her religion. Her faith is, in fact, a mixture of many—Hinduism, Christianity and Judaism. Here's what we know:

— Harris' mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was born in India, and she introduced her daughter to her Hindu faith. In fact, Kamala's name (which means "lotus") is a reference to Sri-Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of good fortune. Shyamala also met Martin Luther King Jr. once when she was a graduate student at Berkeley.

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– The vice president's Jamaican father, Donald Harris, worked as a professor at Stanford University, and he considered himself a Baptist. When Kamala was a child, a neighbor took her to a Baptist church in Oakland, California. In her 2019 memoir, "These Truths We Hold," Harris said her earliest memories of the Bible's teachings "were of a loving God, a God who asked us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to defend the rights of the poor and needy."

– While living in San Francisco, California, Harris began to attend Third Street Baptist Church, a liberal American Baptist congregation pastored by civil rights leader Amos C. Brown. He is on the extreme side of liberal Protestantism. He testified against the ratification of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in 1991, and he has been an outspoken advocate for gay marriage, marijuana legalization and reparations for Black Americans. Over the years, Brown's far-Left views have triggered opposition from other Black clergy, especially because of his pro-LGBTQ+ stance.

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