

**PREFACE**

The researcher right from his boyhood days had great fascination to know about religion, its ontology and functions in society. The attraction towards religion snowballed into a deep craze to fathom the phenomenon. This is in fact the reason for selecting this subject for his research.

The empirical part of this study was carried out in Kerala community by taking a cross-section of the population and collecting data from them. This study attempted to enquire into the positive and negative contributions of religion in contemporary society of the study area, which has been struggling to shore up against the odds of value drain. Apart from this, this study analysed the perceptions of different social segments on the above dimensions of religion and compared them.

For developing the above core themes of the study, the attitude of the people towards religion and their religious beliefs & practices were analysed.

The researcher has immense satisfaction that he could suggest certain methods based on the study for arresting religious disharmony prevailing in the contemporary society as a stumbling block to all the developments of this important social institution.

(Rev.Fr. John Zachariah.E)