



## **5 Starter Facts About Confucianism**

1. Confucianism was founded in 6th-5th century BCE China by its namesake, Confucius. It is not an organized religion; most followers self-describe as adherents of other faith traditions without renouncing their Confucian identity, because it is often practiced as a philosophy or ethical system. There are no Confucian places of worship or priesthood.
2. The disciples of Confucius compiled his aphorisms, maxims, and anecdotes into a collection called the Analects. Confucianism became the dominant political ideology during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE) and it was then the Analects became known by that name.
3. Confucius solely focused on everyday issues, rather than the mysteries of existence that are usually reflected in religion, like the origin of the universe, deity, or the afterlife. Humanism is the core of Confucianism, like stressing harmony, social order, and mercy.
4. Key components of Confucian doctrine include filial piety (respect for one's parents and elders) and ancestor worship (reverence and love for the deceased).
5. *Li* is the Confucian concept interpreted as “ritual,” “proper conduct,” or “propriety.” It originally denoted court rites performed to sustain social and cosmic order. Transcending mere politeness or convention, *li* is central to Confucian human-centered religiousness.

Learn more at:

<https://www.ancient.eu/Confucianism/>

*These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

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