CONTENTS

Chapter 1. Can we study religion in the lab?
  Psychology’s curiosity for religion
    A topic for open-minded individuals
    Religion as shaping (some) individuals’ lives and all cultures
  The meaningful variety of religious aspects and forms
    Believing, bonding, behaving, and belonging
    From spirituality to fundamentalism: The structured diversity of religious forms
  How we study religion in the lab
  Book chapters and questions

Chapter 2. Believers and atheists: What makes the difference?
  Socialization
    Family, peers, and society
    Cultural factors: Secularism and minority religion
  Individual characteristics (or dispositions)
    Personality traits and religiosity
    Cognition, religious beliefs, and religiosity
    Women and men
  Specific forms: Spirituality, fundamentalism, and emotionality-based religion
    Spirituality
    Fundamentalism
    Neurotic versus “healthy-minded” religion
Significant life experiences
  Negative life events and threats to the self
  Positive emotional experiences and self-transcendence

Conclusion

Chapter 3. Theist children, apostate adolescents, bigot late adults?

Are children naturally or culturally (a)theists?
Beliefs and cognitive development
  Children’s faith as not so childish
  Children’s skepticism and adults’ religious testimony
Rituals and emotional, relational, and social development
  Awe and God as loving and judging
  Trust and secure attachment to God and the world
  Relatedness and prayer
  Religious identification and intergroup relations
Religion detrimental for children: Cults, fundamentalism, and abusive clergy
  New religious movements and fundamentalist families
  Clergy’s sexual abuse

Are adolescents apostates and late adults bigots?
Adolescence and emerging adulthood: A critical age for atheism or spirituality?
  Decline or transformation of religiosity
  Religion, identity, and sexuality
Adulthood and late adulthood: A diversity of pathways
  Status change: From recipient to provider of services
  Middle and late adulthood: Reconsidering life and facing the perspective of its end

Conclusion

Chapter 4. Does religion make us more moral?

Religion does not create but orients morality
  Religion and children’s morality
  Religion and morality: Connections, independence, and conflict
Religious prosociality: Limited but real
  Priming religious ideas
  Prosociality of religious believers
Competing principles, moralization, and self-control
  Religion and “extended” — mostly restrictive — morality
    Values and moral foundations
    Moralization and deontology
A self-control-oriented morality

Moral opposition, hostility, and prejudice
  Moral opposition and hostility
  Ethnoreligious prejudice

Conclusion

Chapter 5. Is religion good for you?

Religion, psychopathology, and negative (mental) health
  A vulnerable connection to reality
  A fearful submission to (purity) norms
    Obsessionality
    Sexual repression

Religion, well-being, and positive (mental) health
  Well-being across societies
  Specific aspects of (mental) health
  Explanatory psychological mechanisms
    Universal mechanisms and specificity of religion
    Cognitive, emotional, moral, and social factors
    Self-related positive “illusions” and positive coping

Conclusion