

# Altruism

**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

**Altruism** (pronounced: pronounced /ˈæltruˈɪzəm/) is selfless concern for the [welfare](#) of others. It is a traditional [virtue](#) in many cultures, and a core aspect of various religious traditions such as [Judaism](#), [Christianity](#), [Islam](#), [Hinduism](#), [Jainism](#), [Buddhism](#), [Confucianism](#), [Sikhism](#), and many others. Altruism is the opposite of [selfishness](#).

Altruism can be distinguished from feelings of [loyalty](#) and [duty](#). [Altruism focuses on a motivation to help others or a want to do good without reward](#), while duty focuses on a moral obligation towards a specific individual (for example, [God](#), a [king](#)), a specific organization (for example, a [government](#)), or an abstract concept (for example, [patriotism](#) etc.). Some individuals may feel both altruism and duty, while others may not. Pure altruism is giving without regard to reward or the benefits of recognition and need.

The term "altruism" may also refer to an [ethical doctrine](#) that claims that individuals are morally obliged to benefit others. Used in this sense, it is the opposite of [egoism](#).