Debate: Religion and Culture

In a world of globalization and rapid social change, does religion provide the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century?  Or, do deeply held religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike?   
  
To encourage a far-ranging discussion on one of humankind’s most vexing questions, this debate will tackle the resolution: *Be it resolved, religion is a force for good in the world*.