***What is the most liberal form or school of Buddhism?***

[Sep 11, 2010](http://www.religiousforums.com/threads/what-is-the-most-liberal-form-of-buddhism.103753/)  [#1](http://www.religiousforums.com/threads/what-is-the-most-liberal-form-of-buddhism.103753/)

[**ZooGirl02**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/zoogirl02.24031/)

Hey everyone. What is the most liberal form or school of Buddhism?

I am looking for a form or school of Buddhism which does not prohibit premarital sex, gay marriage, abortion, and the like. I do not want a religion that is going to impose rules on me, especially when it comes to sexuality. Are there any forms of Buddhism which would fit these criterion?

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[**LuisDantas**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/luisdantas.16218/)

Buddhist with an emphasis on personal understanding.      Most if not all. Buddhism does not generally impose rules, although it does ask people to behave responsibly. One of the Five Precepts deals with sexuality, but like all other precepts it is not really a rule. …

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[**koan**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/koan.7575/)

Buddhism is firstly, all about you! Are you unhappy? Buddhism will (if you practice) help you to undestand why and allow you to overcome. Next Buddhism is about compassion, for everyone else.

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[**ZooGirl02**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/zoogirl02.24031/)

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[**Arav**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/arav.20606/)**Jain**

Buddhism, as I know it, is very un-dogmatic. You can really do what you wish with it. As long as it is helping you get to you goal, go for it!

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[**Smoke**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/smoke.3887/)

…The thing with Buddhism is, the school or sect doesn't really matter that much. There are some that are a little sketchy, so I'm not saying you shouldn't be careful. But the differences between Vajrayana and Zen and Theravada, the broad schools that interest me the most, are really kind of superficial when you get right down to things. I mean, you can get involved in all kinds of arcane discussions about the difference between Soto Zen and Rinzai, if you want to, but that's mostly just for fun.

The best thing to do is scope out your local Buddhist centers, eliminate the ones that are obviously going to waste your time, and go check out the rest, and see what works for you. …

As a matter of fact, all Buddhist practice boils down to a self-practice. The Buddha told us to be our own lamps in the darkness. No "school" of Buddhism, no teacher, no sacred text or holy book is Buddhism. The series of teachings to which we refer as "Buddhism" are just those "truths" realized by Siddhartha Gautama as he taught them to his followers, and they to theirs, etc, for 2500 years. They are not dogmatic articles of faith which are supposed to accept because they were spoken by Authority. Your dharma is yours. If it happens to walk near or even with the Buddha Dharma, then the scriptures of Buddhism may speak to you, may help you understand your own reality. But they are not, as I said, dogmatic articles of an eastern Catechism. They are poetry and philosophy meant to be understood by each in their own pertinence to themselves.

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[**joea**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/joea.22365/)

Buddhism only gives you a guideline to live your life. Mentioned in the eightfold part, It is your own actions (right actions) that yields the fruits of whatever you choose.

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[**Engyo**](http://www.religiousforums.com/members/engyo.30/)

There are three main traditions in Buddhism - Therevada, Mahayana and Vajrayana. Each major tradition has many different schools that fall under those traditions. Each school may have a number of sub-schools as well.

For example, my particular tradition/school is Japanese Mahayana, Nichiren Buddhism. There are some 40 different Nichiren schools in Japan. Maybe 10 of them have some presence outside of Japan itself. These schools range from exclusiveist ultra-orthodox to almost completely secular. Some are extremely conservative and some are extremely liberal.

Nichiren Shu, to which I belong, has begun ordaining people of non-Japanese descent. They have ordained many women, and have women assigned in charge of temples. They have also ordained gay men. Beyond that, if you have any other questions, I will do my best to answer them.