

Being Pagan in the Bible Belt

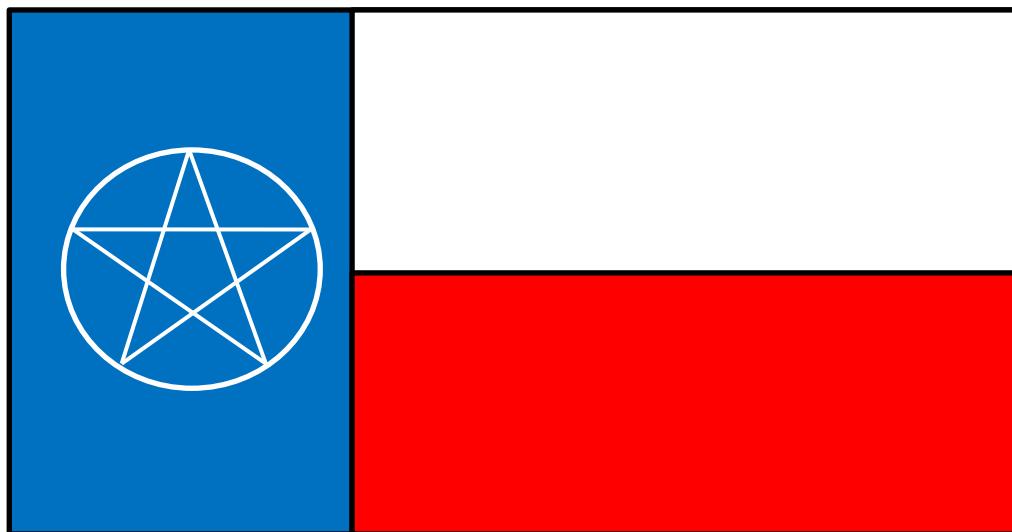
Being Pagan in America is a unique cultural experience, but here in the Bible Belt, it can be uniquely difficult. Today I want to discuss the ways, both personally and systemically, large and small, that the culture in Texas affects our everyday lives and practices as Pagans. I've provided some possible discussion questions, but feel free to stray a little if you have something you want to talk about that I didn't mention.

Culture:

- Do you find Texan culture to be exclusionary/unwelcoming to you as a Pagan? Why/why not?
- What are some parts of the culture here that you avoid/dislike/resent as a Pagan?
- Are there times when you find others assuming that you are a Christian? Does this bother you? Do you correct them?
 - Greetings, music, politics, etc.
- Do you think you have ever been actively discriminated against because of your beliefs?
- Do you have trouble getting time off from work for religious holidays/festivals? Does this affect how you practice?
- Do you ever feel the need to censor/hide your religious expression in public? Do you avoid certain pieces of jewelry/clothing to avoid issues?

Family:

- Do your parents know about your beliefs? Do you feel like they accept your beliefs?
- Have you ever felt pressured by members of your family to denounce/downplay/keep quiet about your beliefs?
- Do you find that family events/gatherings tend to revolve around Christian holidays? Does that make such events difficult/awkward?



Additional Resources:

- ⊗ For some solid, practical advice:
<https://www.learnreligions.com/surviving-campus-life-as-a-pagan-2561525>
- ⊗ Texas Workforce Commission- Religious Discrimination
<https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/religious-discrimination>
- ⊗ Texas Freedom Network- Religious Freedom
<https://tfn.org/category/church-state/>
- ⊗ US Justice Department - Religious Freedom (pg. 5)
<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usaone/legacy/2012/04/27/Civil%20Rights%20Book-NE-2.pdf>
- ⊗ US Department of Education- Religious Discrimination
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/religion.html>
- ⊗ This book is actually super helpful, if a bit dense and over 10 years old:
Pagans and the Law: Understand your Rights by Dana D Eilers