

16. But you must be forgiven for your sins!

There is no such thing as sin. "Sin" is a concept that is sold to you by your religion. Would you buy a bandage from a person who comes up to you and cuts you in order to sell you a bandage? Religion tries to sell you a cure for a problem of it's own making." - Dan Barker - "Losing Faith in Faith"

17. What do you do if you feel that you've really wronged another person or done something bad? You can't go to Jesus for forgiveness.

That's right we can't, so we either have to get forgiveness from the person we've wronged or live with it. If you think about it, it makes us think a lot harder about doing something before we do it. The religious person can just go on and do it, knowing that he can easily be forgiven by his church, Jesus, etc. He just asks his invisible friend and voila, he's good to go sin some more. He doesn't even have to ask forgiveness from the person he's wronged!

18. Well then, where do you think the universe came from?

I don't know. Nobody does. Not even your preacher. Besides, saying that "God did it" really explains nothing. You're in essence saying that an unseen, unknowable being created it in a way that we could never understand. You might as well say it was "magic", or fairies! Also, when you say "God created the universe." it begs the question "Who/what created God?" and then "Who/what created that entity?"

19. Don't you believe God created man in the Garden of Eden?

No. Anthropology, Paleontology, Biology and Genetic Research all point to evolution being the correct theory for the arrival of man on earth. They also point to the fact that man originated in Africa, and then traveled to Europe, Asia and the rest of the world. The ONLY proponents of Creationism are religions. And different religions have different creation stories.

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20. Christian morals are founded on the Bible! How can you say you're a moral person and not believe in the Bible?

First of all human morals pre-date the bible by thousands of years, they weren't invented with the Ten Commandments. It has always been against human values to be dishonest, or kill or harm your fellow man or steal his possessions. All societies, ancient and modern, religious or not, have been founded on these principals, they had to be, else they would not have lasted very long.

21. Well SURELY you believe that America was founded on Christianity?

No, the governments of the world at that time were ruled by Kings, and they were deemed to be put in power by God. The first Americans set out to prove that Men are perfectly capable of governing themselves.

When religious leaders portray the American Founding Fathers as universally Christian, they are being downright dishonest. There were some Christians to be sure but many, perhaps most of the Founding Fathers, were Deists. They believed that God may have created the Universe, but he either died or went away after that.

22. What have you got against religion?

Well, to begin with, it's divisive. It splits all of humanity in to warring factions. It suppresses Science, and indeed suppresses Reason itself. Thinking is frowned upon even from the beginning.. Original sin itself comes from Man eating from the "Tree of Knowledge".

* Religion teaches us that the earth is put here for our disposal. We can use it up, or trash it, and it's Ok. Besides, Jesus in coming back shortly to put an end to it anyway, right?

* Religion teaches us that we are all born tainted with sin; impure and dirty. We must spend our entire lives trying to "make up for" the sins of the first humans.

* When religious leaders answer all of our questions for us, we lose our own natural curiosity. It atrophies, and we are left acting as automatons, going through our routine activities like robots.

* It's "supernatural" foundation keeps millions, if not billions, of people in educational and cultural stagnation. If societies believe that they can find the answers to all of life's questions in their holy books, why study anything else?

Atheism

What's it all about?

Frequently asked questions about Atheists and Atheism.

1. What exactly IS an atheist?

An atheist is a person who does not believe in a god or gods.

2. Don't you atheists worship SATAN?

No we don't. SATAN is part of the Christian belief system, and a supernatural being. We don't believe in Satan any more than we believe in God.

3. Why don't you believe in God?

Why don't you believe in Zeus, Thor or Green People on Venus? Same reason. There's no evidence. Plus, every other religion in the world says THEIRS is right, and they don't have any more evidence than Christians do, an old book.

4. Well then, prove that God does not exist.

The burden of proof is on the one making the claims. We simply say we do not believe it. Also, it is hardly necessary to disprove something that has never been proven in the first place.

5. How can you say that there is no GOD? I personally feel his "power" in church!

What you've experienced is a mass-induced psychosis. It is quite a commonly accepted psychological phenomenon. People in large groups can become emotionally charged rather easily. Also, you have to realize that church services are set up specifically to elicit that response from the audience!

6. But EVERYONE believes in God, why don't you?

Actually everybody doesn't believe in God. About 10% of Americans (that's 30 MILLION Americans as of the 2000 census) say they don't believe in a god. There are about twice as many Atheists in America as Jews. Also, most people around the world believe in different gods than yours.

7. You should believe, millions of believers can't be wrong!

Sure they can. How many people believe in Astrology, Numerology, Horoscopes, Psychics, and magic? People are easily duped, and especially so in large numbers. Also, your "believers" don't agree on what they DO believe.

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8. Why don't you just have faith?

Faith is what your preacher says you must have so that you'll believe all the other stuff he wants to tell you. Faith is nothing more than voluntary gullibility.

"A faith that cannot survive collision with the truth is not worth many regrets." - Arthur C Clarke, science fiction writer (1917-2008)

"A casual stroll through the lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything." - Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

9. Why don't you believe in God anyway? If He's not real you haven't lost anything. But if He is real, you get to go to heaven.

You are basically talking about Pascal's wager. There are several reasons this doesn't work. The main ones are:

1. Which God? And how do you know which God to believe in? What if you're wrong? World-wide, people believe in over 1000 Gods. What are the chances that YOU just happened to be born into, or adopted, the RIGHT Sect/Denomination/Religion?

2. Belief is not a choice. It's not as if we know that god is real but somehow we refuse to believe in it. We are truly convinced that He is simply.. not.. there.. Could you choose to believe in Santa Claus?

3. You realise that you're basically saying that God is stupid. That He wouldn't know that we really don't believe, and that we'd just be trying to get a free ride into Heaven by SAYING that we believe.

4. You couldn't just "believe in God", you would also have to believe in the whole religious package. In Christianity that would mean also believing in angels, demons, Satan, heaven, hell, saints, sin, resurrection, prophets, miracles, cherubim, etc. etc.

5. AND If there is no God, you have lost something by worshipping Him. You have wasted a good portion of your life performing various devotional rituals, attending church, praying, reading scripture and discussing your deity with His other followers. Not to mention giving your hard-earned money to the church, wasting your intelligence on theological endeavors and boring the hell out of people who really don't want to hear your "Good News".

Also, saying you believe when you actually don't, would cost you a great deal of self-respect, by being intellectually dishonest with yourself for your whole life.

10. If you don't believe in God, then what is the point of living?

Your reason for living is something that changes many times as you go through life. You need to decide your own purposes as you grow. Can you think of anything more important? We believe that it's much better to determine our own reasons for living, than to have some church do it for you based on their agenda!

11. Doesn't being an Atheist "cheapen" life?

Actually religion cheapens life by telling you you'll live forever! Being an Atheist means that life is much more precious. Since there is no after-life, you must come to terms with the fact that this is the ONLY life you'll ever have.

12. Well, what DO you believe?

We believe in most of the things that everybody else does. We believe in life, liberty, love, home, family and respect for others. We just don't believe in Gods, angels, souls, etc.

13. How can you not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Well, rationally considered, it is a pretty outlandish claim. Nobody in the history of the world has ever done it. And outside of the bible, there is no mention of Jesus' resurrection anywhere in historical documents.

14. Don't you believe in an immortal soul?

No. Your personality is basically an organic and chemical structure and resides mostly in the frontal lobes of your brain. You can't have an "intellect" without a brain.

15. Don't you wish that you could go to Heaven?

Sure.. We'd love to believe that Heaven was real and that we could live forever. But here is no evidence whatsoever, that life continues after death.

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