Who told you that you are a sinner?
Your church?  But wait, don’t fret!  There’s a magic cure, and your church just happens to have it!  (Of course some might suggest that your church has merely cut you in order to sell you a band-aid…)

Did Adam and Eve sin?
They disobeyed God by eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Right and Wrong).  So, yes… Right?

Just one problem.  How could Adam and Eve have been expected to comprehend the implications of their actions if, prior to their indiscretion, they had no concept of wrong, evil, punishment, suffering, pain, and death?  Even if God had been successful in adequately explaining all of these concepts and the distinction between right and wrong to them beforehand, this means that he would have had to have given them knowledge of good and evil anyway, which turns this entire story into one big ridiculous farce.

A sin can NOT be inherited
I find it abhorrent that a newborn baby is considered to be dirty with sin.  This makes a complete mockery of true morality, which requires both an understanding of right and wrong, and that individual’s wilful intention to do wrong, in order to determine immorality.

Even our modest human justice system has the basic common sense not to prosecute minors for their ‘immoral’ actions, let alone for those of their ancestors.

A blood sacrifice can NOT ‘pay’ for a person’s sin
It is an archaic, deeply flawed view of morality that says that, as long as there is blood spilled to appease god (and innocent blood at that), then the crime is forgiven.

How can someone else pay for your sins?  In what sense is morality and justice served if someone, say, offers to take the place of a condemned criminal in the electric chair?  Does this change the fact that the criminal has not been held responsible for his actions?  And how is the innocent death anything more than a sad, pointless waste that doesn’t add a grain to the overall moral equation?

This is corrupt morality, removing responsibility from the sinner and causing a dangerous, volatile mindset towards our God, that inevitably leads to the lifelong dependency and commitment of its guilt-ridden, emotionally-crippled followers.

Blinded by the numbing repetition and familiarity of this salvation plan, Christians fail to see the stark depravity and poison that drips from it.  Indeed, if this is not superstitious witchcraft, then I don’t know what is.  (Well that’s not entirely true.  These definitely are:  Christian ‘spells’ cast through persuasive prayer, the macabre cannibalistic ‘ritual’ of communion, the truly frightening ‘possession’ that causes a person to speak in tongues…)

Morality
Contrary to what your church may have told you, atheists do not automatically turn to hedonism and anarchy.  In fact, those who suggest that a man must be ethically restrained by a religion reveal, quite frankly, just how deep-seated their own morals are.

It is an easy target for the church to blame society’s ills on man’s inevitable shelving of the god myth.  But the fact remains that there is a fraction of the immorality now than there was when the church had complete, unchallenged influence over every aspect of society.

This was a time of Crusades, Inquisitions, and witch- and heretic-burnings.  It was a period known as the Dark Ages, and that they realised that simply not believing in him is NOT a crime worthy of hellfire.

A just, loving, and secure god would realise that simply not believing in him is NOT a crime worthy of hellfire.

A totally inadequate moral guide
The first four are blatant religious propaganda - basically a plug for the Hebrew God.  The remaining six are dangerously held up as exhaustive and inspired by those who apparently haven’t read them.  For example, one wonders how ‘lying’ and ‘envy’ make the big list of don’ts, but not rape, torture, child abuse, racism, slavery…  And surely nobody still seriously believes that black and white moral guidelines are of much use in a grayscale world.  "Thou shalt not kill" - but what about in genuine self-defense?  "Thou shalt not bear false witness" - but what about lying to the Nazi officer who asks if you are hiding Jews?  True morality requires judging each case on its own merits, not just overlaying the same clumsy morality stencil on everything.

Regardless, what never fails to surprise me is the egotism and arrogance of the theist who, by praying for divine favor or intervention, actually calls into doubt the very wisdom of their god!

This life is NOT a ‘vale of tears’
It makes me nauseous to think that children are being taught that the most important part of their life is auditioning for the next one.  This is a truly poisonous concept that inevitably leads to the degradation of our current world as a transit life - a ‘vale of tears’ that we must ‘put up with’ momentarily until our ticket is clipped and we are rescued from this miserable existence of trial and temptation.

In stark contrast, atheists in general believe this to be our one and only life, a view which, I can assure you, makes life precious beyond all value.

By labeling virtually every natural urge and function as a sin (from sexuality, to having negative feelings towards our enemies) that inevitably leads to the degradation of our current world as a transit life - a ‘vale of tears’ that we must ‘put up with’ momentarily until our ticket is clipped and we are rescued from this miserable existence of trial and temptation.

What if the greatest deception the devil ever played on man was to convince him to devote his time to mindless rituals, self-deprecation, and violent prejudices?
Of course, I realise this is a ridiculous premise:  the ‘devil’ is a construct of religion, not vice versa…

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Have you ever asked yourself this question?
I mean seriously asked yourself?

Pierre Charron once noted that we are baptised or circumcised a Christian or a Jew, long before we are even aware we are a human. Is it any wonder then that, through early indoctrination while the critical mind is still developing, we almost without exception go on to inherit the precise religion of our parents or surrounding culture?

No, of course not - it's only natural. But that doesn't say much for the actual truth of that particular religion, does it?

"A casual stroll through the lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything."
Nietzsche (1844-1900)

God-of-the-gaps
We once believed that thunder and lightning was god getting angry. Of course, now we have a scientific explanation for this phenomenon, it would be hard to find anyone who still believes this.

Religion is a crutch left over from man's pre-scientific youth and, like a child with a security blanket, our continued reliance on it for emotional support is unhealthy and detrimental to our growth.

As the ground illuminated by science advances, this god-of-the-gaps of human knowledge will continue to retreat with the shadows. You only have to look to the mistaken assumptions of your religious ancestors for a glimpse of the future of your god.

"Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.
Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.
Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?
Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?"
Epicurus (341-271 BC)

So what does the Bible tell us?

Who should we kill?
- Homosexuals (Lev.20:13, Rom.1:26-32)
- Adulterers (Lev.20:10, Deut.22:22)
- Disobedient children (Deut.21:18-21, Lev.20:9, Exod.21:15)
- Women who are not virgins on their wedding night (Deut.22:13-21)
- All non-Christians (parable told by Christ - Luke.19:27)
- Those accused of wickedness by at least two people (Deut.17:2-7)
- Anyone who works on the Sabbath (Exod.35:2-3, Num.15:32-6)

Don't even take your minister's word for it

Take Matthew 1:22-3. Ask yourself: Was he telling the truth when he said that Christ's virgin birth had fulfilled a prophesy (Isaiah 7:14)?

"If a little girl comes to me and asks me how I can be sure that Jesus was born of a virgin, I will tell her that, as a priest, the Virgin Mary gave birth to the perfect Son of God who became man to save us from our sins."
Cardinal Bellarmine at Gallileo's trial, 1615

December 25th
This date marks the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere - the turning point of winter as the days start to get longer again. Long before Christianity, sun god worshippers set aside this day to celebrate the beauty of nature with the return or 'birth' of the sun.

With the obvious symbolism for the pagans, it is easy to see why many virgin-born saviour gods were said to have been born on December 25th in the hope of winning crepidulous and superstitious converts. It was in 350AD that Pope Julius I 'set' Christ's birthday to keep up this long tradition.