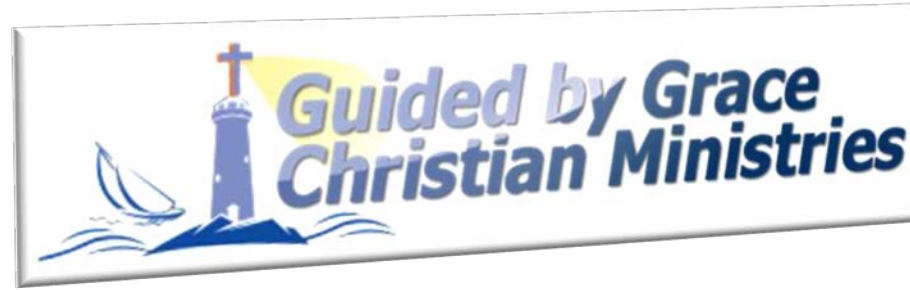


Lesson 4 – An Atheist's Perspective



Facebook Download of one Atheist's Perspective

You are really convinced that you've got all the answers. You've really got yourself tricked into believing that you're 100% right. Well, let me tell you just one thing. Do you consider yourself to be compassionate to other humans? If you're right about God, as you say you are, and you believe that, then how can you sleep at night?

When you speak with me, you are speaking with someone who you believe is walking directly into eternal damnation, into an endless onslaught of horrendous pain, which your "loving" god created, yet you stand by and do nothing. If you believed one bit that thousands every day were falling into an eternal and unchangeable fate, you should be running the streets mad with rage at their blindness. That's equivalent to standing on a street corner and watching every person that passes you walk blindly directly into the path of a bus and die, yet you stand idly by and do nothing.

Think about it. Imagine the horrors hell must have in store if the Bible is true. You're just going to allow that to happen and not care about saving anyone but yourself?

If you're right, then you're an uncaring, unemotional, and purely selfish that has no right to talk about subjects such as love and caring.



What is an "Atheist" and
what is the difference
between an Atheist and
an "Agnostic?"



Scripture Addressing Non-believers



Atheist: A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or Gods, or a higher power.

Agnostic: A person who believes in the existence of a deity, but the deity is unknown, or unknowable by way of fact.

An Atheist's
Perspective

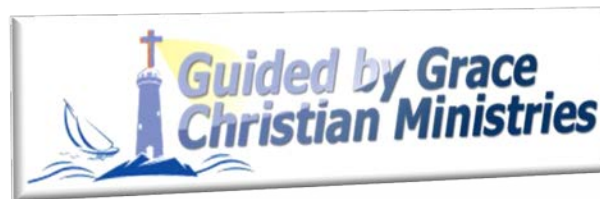


Scripture Addressing Non-believers

According to a Pew Research Center Survey

(<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/12/06/10-facts-about-atheists/>)

- Today, the growing number of atheists is proportionate with the number of religious affiliated people.
- Atheists make up a larger share of European countries than they do in the U.S., with Czechoslovakia (20%), Belgium (19%), Denmark (16%), France (15%), Netherlands (15%), and Sweden (15%). The U.S. is at about 4%. England and Ireland average about 5%.



0-4% 5-9% 10-14% 15-19% 20%+ Non-surveyed country

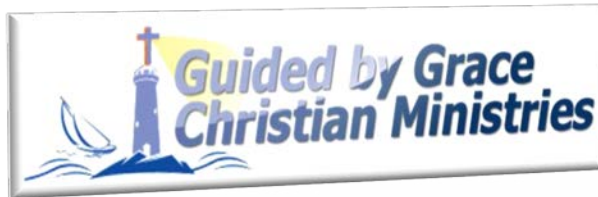


Scripture Addressing Non-believers

According to a Pew Research Center Survey

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- Atheists (and Agnostics) are generally well-informed on religious teachings. They score a little higher on Christians' knowledge of religious doctrine and other religion survey questions (other world faiths) than Christians.



On religious knowledge survey, atheists and agnostics score higher than those who say their religion is 'nothing in particular'

Average number of questions answered correctly

	Total (out of 32)	Bible and Christianity (out of 14)	Other world religions (out of 13)
Total	14.2	7.7	4.3
Christian	14.2	8.2	3.9
Protestant	14.3	8.4	3.8
Evangelical	15.5	9.3	4.0
Mainline	14.6	8.1	4.2
Historically black	9.7	6.0	2.4
Catholic	14.0	7.9	4.0
Mormon	13.9	8.5	3.3
Jewish	18.7	8.0	7.7
Unaffiliated	13.7	6.8	4.5
Atheist	17.9	8.6	6.1
Agnostic	17.0	8.2	5.8
Nothing in particular	11.4	5.8	3.7

Scripture Addressing Non-believers

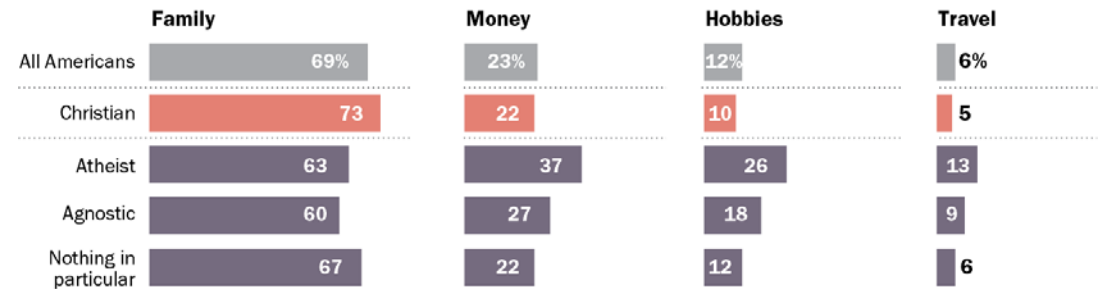
According to a Pew Research Center Survey

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- Atheists (and Agnostics) state family as the most meaningful aspect in life; however, remain 10-12% lower compared to Christians' views.
- Atheists (and Agnostics) find money, hobbies, and travel as more meaningful and satisfying in life than Christians.
- About 56% of Atheists believe it is not necessary to believe in God to be moral, while 42% of Christians state belief in God is necessary to have good values.

Atheists more likely than Americans overall to find meaning in finances, hobbies

In an open-ended question, % of U.S. adults who mention ____ when describing what provides them with a sense of meaning



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 14-28, 2017, among U.S. adults.
"Where Americans Find Meaning in Life"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Scripture Addressing Non-believers

According to a Pew Research Center Survey (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/12/06/10-facts-about-atheists/>)

- Vast majority of Atheists state religion is not too important in their lives (93%) and they seldom pray (97%).
- About 31% of Atheists state they often have a sense of spiritual peace and well-being, compared to 54% of Christians.
- 78% of Atheists are white compared to the general public (46%) and are highly educated: 42% have a college degree compared to 27% of the general public.
- Self-identified atheists are more in line with the Democratic Party politics and with political liberalism.
- The majority of atheists are men and are relatively young (68%). The average age of atheists in America is 34 years old.



According to a Pew Research Center Survey [\(https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/12/06/10-facts-about-atheists/\)](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/12/06/10-facts-about-atheists/)

- Americans feel less warmly toward Atheists than the average compared to other religious groups:
 - 49% warmer feelings toward Atheists.
 - 49% warmer feelings toward Muslims.
 - 56% warmer feelings toward Evangelical Christians.
 - 60% warmer feelings toward Catholics.
 - 63% warmer feelings toward Jews.
- One of the major issues concerning Atheists is the role of religion in society and politics (93%).
- 70% of Atheists believe religion does more harm than good in society.

What Does an Atheist
Sound Like?



Facebook Download of one Atheist's Perspective

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Commentary



- The atheist will often come across very angry, and aggressive, with the intent of angering, demeaning, humiliating, and intimidating believers.
- His views are based on a tangible and visible world, void of the existence of a spiritual world and existence.
- He claims Christians are arrogant, thus indicating Christians operate from a platform of pride, in lieu of a platform of humility.
- The Atheist makes allegations that Christians lack empathy and compassion.
- There are allegations of Christians judging others and following a heartless God, therefore ourselves being heartless.
- He accuses Christians of being hypocritical in their love for others, and Christians are content with idly sitting back as people are damned to an eternal hell.
- He accuses Christians of being “thumb-twiddlers and apathetic, showing no concern or care to what happens to others.
- He excuses Christians of caring only about their own salvation, with little concern about the fate of others.
- We have little to no credibility to talk about what love and compassion means.

What Does Scripture Say
About Non-believers?



Scripture Addressing Non-believers

- In our co-existence with non-believers, we need to focus on:
 - **Self-Protection and Perseverance:**
 - We are not to be deceived by non-believers views (1 Corinthians 15:33)
 - We are not to be partnered with non-believers, for it mixes lightness and darkness together (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - We are not to receive in our home or give greetings to non-believers (2 John 1:9-11)
 - **Tolerance To Achieve Good.** If we are married to an unbeliever, we should not divorce, for the unbeliever is made holy by the believer, and the children are made holy (1 Corinthians 7:13-14)
 - **Reality.**
 - Despite a non-believers view that they do good in the world, they do not, for without God, there is no goodness in them (Psalm 14:1)
 - God blinds the minds of the Non-believers,...(2 Corinthians 4:4-6)

Scripture Addressing Non-believers

- **Destiny.** The believer is not condemned; however, non-believers are condemned already (John 3:18)
- **Approach.**
 - We are not to depend (lean on) on our own understanding...(Proverbs 3:5-6)
 - We are to walk in wisdom, and speak with gracious words so we know how to answer non-believers (Colossians 4:5-6)
 - Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, and do so with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)

How Does Scripture
Address Non-belief?



Scripture Addressing Non-believers

- **First**, we should note that scripture acknowledges existence of non-believers in the past, today and into the future. It will always be part of our human existence.
- **Second**, Pride is main the driver behind a non-believers views – that being, his lack of acceptance (or knowledge) of who he is relation to God and, lack of desire to accept he needs God for all things.
- **Third**, From a mature Christian's perspective, Atheists are spiritually bankrupt, for they do not think or operate in a spiritual realm
- **Fourth**, Non-believers may see believers as being “weak-minded,” lacking the ability to think critically and logically.
- **Fifth**, Non-believers find it difficult to think in abstract ways such as with defining “good and evil” and “bravery and cowardice.”

Scripture Addressing Non-believers

- **Sixth**, We cannot always assume that a non-believers views are based on ignorance, for many know scripture – in many cases, they know scripture better than believers.
- **Seventh**, Although non-believers may know (have awareness of) scripture, they lack understanding (application) of scripture and wisdom (divine insight) – all being the three (3) of God's seven (7) Spirits.
- **Eighth**, Non-believers maintain a strong and, often hostile spirit to fight, judge, intimidate, demean, and ridicule believers.
- **Ninth**, Non-believers believe we are to prove the existence of God, ironically however, it is believers who have proof (biblical historical accounts) of God's and the non-believers with no proof that God doesn't exist.
- **Tenth**, A non-believer depends on his own powers of intellect and logic to prove and disapprove the existence of the super-natural and existence of a spiritual world.

How Do We Confront
Non-believers?



Scripture Addressing Non-believers

- Our call is not to hate or judge non-believers, but one of avoidance, tolerance, compassion, and mourning.
- We must accept the fact we have no power over a non-believers free will to choose, for this is a God-given right.
- We are not to depend (lean on) on our own understanding...(Proverbs 3:5-6)
- We are to walk in wisdom, and speak with gracious words so we know how to answer non-believers (Colossians 4:5-6)
- Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, and do so with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)

Is the Atheist Right About
How Christians Act?



Is the Atheist Correct In His Assessment of Christians?

- **Personal Accountability.** As believers and followers of Christ, we must hold ourselves, by way of the Holy Spirit's power, to a high standard of conduct and service.
- **Overcome Our Pride.** We must call on the Holy Spirit's power to help us overcome our own pride and desire to be our own God.
- **Do Not Judge.** We must be sensitive, regardless of the situation or circumstances we find ourselves in, not to judge. For, we are given no authority to judge others.
- **We Are To Have Compassion.** We must always be concerned with the fate of the non-believers, for we are called as disciples to spread the gospel (the truth), so others may walk in the light and out of the darkness.
- **We Are to Be Meek.** We are called into action, and with it demonstrate our meek nature and desire to serve something greater than ourselves.

Is the Atheist Correct In His Assessment of Christians?

- **We Are Called to Forgive.** We are to be tolerant and forgiving of those who attack, harm and persecute us.
- **We Are To Mourn.** We are to mourn for those who are lost, and earnestly pray for their deliverance.
- **We Are to be Peacemakers and Peacekeepers.** We are not to gossip or initiate discontent or contempt, among others.
- **We Must Thirst and Hunger for Righteousness.** By way of the Holy Spirit, we must desire above all things to be in the Right-standing with God.
- **We Must Strive to Be Pure In Heart.** We must know and question the intentions behind our actions. All that we do must be consistent with the Father's will and bring Him (not ourselves) glory.

Is the Atheist Correct In His Assessment of Christians?

- **We Must Recognize Our Own Spiritual Poverty.** We must be humble and by so doing, recognize our need for God for all things, and in all things.
- **We Must Be Willing to Be Persecuted.** We must be willing and able, by way of the Holy Spirit's power, to stand-up for the sake of righteousness.

Lesson 4 – An Atheist's Perspective

