

Fundamental Beliefs of Atheists, and the Bible

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➤ Intro:

- Fox News, 12-21-09, Laura Ingraham interview Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (Atheist group)

- Gaylor's organization started a new Anti-God / Anti-Christmas campaign with slogans like

- "Heathen's Greetings" and "Reason's Greetings" (vs. "Season's Greetings")

- "Yes, Virginia, there is no God"

- Ingraham asked Gaylor what the ads are meant to do

- She replied:

- "It's meant to say something true, that there isn't a God. There are many Americans — 30 million Americans who do not believe in a God. And we're here in December, too. And "Heathen's Greetings" is one of our other billboards and "Reason's Greetings," and **I think it's fun.**"

- our society and religion is being assaulted by Atheist more than every before, so it's good for us to know a few things about present-day Atheists and their religion

- note: just barely scratch the surface with this lesson

- info taken from Atheist sites, primarily atheists.org

- all atheists beliefs are not the same

➤ Atheism is a lack of belief in gods (http://www.atheists.org/atheism/About_Atheism)

- "atheism" comes from the Greek *atheos*, which means "no god" or "without god"

- 2 Jn. 1:9 it's true they're without God, because they disobey Christ

- Atheists don't disbelieve in gods, they just don't believe

- this is a small detail that's important to Atheists – they don't believe

- but they have matters of faith in other regards

- we half-way agree with Atheists regarding gods

- agree: we don't believe in gods

- disagree: we believe in one God, Jehovah

➤ - Atheists believe that God would make himself clearly known if He existed. They don't think He exists because He's not clearly known.

- Jn. 17:20; Rom. 10:17 faith comes by hearing, God's word – he has made Himself clearly known

- Acts 17:11 search Scriptures, study, to believe

- Rom. 1:16 gospel power of God unto salvation

- Atheists mock and revile the Bible, don't believe word of God, so don't believe

➤ - Heb. 2:3-4 miracles, God confirmed word through miracles – he has made Himself clearly known

- Atheists don't believe in miracles, so don't believe in God

- Christians are different from Atheists

- we reject all gods but the one true God, Jehovah

- we believe the Bible is God's word

- we believe in God and Jesus

- **Atheists believe religion is ridiculous – mythology and religion are synonymous to them – all religion the same** (http://www.atheists.org/atheism/About_Atheism)
 - **in many cases religion is based on myths, but not in the case of Jehovah and His churches**
 - **1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:4** false religions based on myths
- - **2 Pet. 1:16-21** Lord's church based on eye witness accounts about a real man, Jesus, His acts and teachings, inspired by God to record them
 - **Jn. 4:24; 17:17** worship in spirit and truth, as revealed in God's word
- - **God teaches there's only one true church**, a point that escapes Atheists who group all churches and religions together
 - **Eph. 4:4-6** one body (church). . . . (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- - **Eph. 5:23** Jesus, head of church, Savior body – one
- **Atheists group all religions together, that they're all ridiculous myths**
 - **but the Lord has only one church** – it's not ridiculous, it's not based on myths
- **Atheists believe the God of the Bible is evil, so He can't be divine (can't be God) – think He's just a myth**
 - **Atheists use alleged evilness of God as proof that He doesn't exist** – in their minds (<http://www.carm.org/secular-movements/atheism/what-atheism>)
 - **correctly set forth:** God is supposed to be all good and all powerful
 - **correctly set forth:** evil and suffering exist in the world
 - **incorrectly assume:** if God is all good, He wouldn't want evil and suffering to exist
 - **not know the mind of God, nor understand the Scriptures**
 - **incorrectly argue:** if God is all powerful, then He's able to remove all evil and suffering
 - since evil and suffering exist, God is either not all good (which means he is not perfect and not God), or he is not all powerful (and limited in abilities and scope)
 - either case shows God is not all good and powerful, then He does not exist
 - **argument is a false dichotomy:**
 - there are more than two possibilities
 - God might have a reason for allowing evil and suffering
 - man's freedom might require the allowance of evil and suffering, etc.
 - so the argument is false, and does not stand based on logic alone
- - **God wills that Christians suffer** – it's not because He's evil, or not powerful enough to prevent it
 - **1 Pet. 4:19** suffer according to the will of God
- - **1 Pet. 4:12** God wills that we suffer for the testing of our faith – spiritual growth
 - **Rom. 5:3-5; Ja. 1:2-4** grow stronger when tested, spiritual growth
- - **Phil. 1:27-29** faithfully suffering through trials is a **sign of destruction to sinners**, but a **sign of salvation to us**
- - **evil exists because of the will of God** – it's not because He's evil, or not powerful enough to prevent it
 - **2 Th. 2:8-12** evil exists so people who don't love the truth will believe a lie and be judged as those who didn't believe the truth, but took pleasure in sin
 - **illus.: Atheists**

➤ **Atheists believe the Bible is full of contradictions** (http://www.atheists.org/Biblical_Contradictions)

- perceive contradictions because **not understand the different dispensations and laws** under which people lived in the Bible

- **ON THE SABBATH DAY**

- "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." -- Exodus 20:8

- "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." -- Romans 14:5

- **Heb. 7:12** God changed the law

- **Heb. 8:7-13** God established a new covenant, different than the Mosaic covenant

- **Matt. 26:28** Jesus' blood, blood of new covenant, for forgiveness of sins

- **Matt. 5:17** Jesus fulfilled the law

➤ - perceive contradictions because **not understand the context of prophetic statements**

- **ON THE PERMANENCY OF THE EARTH**

- "... the earth abideth for ever." -- Ecclesiastes 1:4

- "... the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." -- 2 Peter 3:10

- **Ec. 1:4** "forever" is literally "stands" and is comparable to man who comes and goes from generation to generation – does not mean that earth will last for eternity without end

- **illus.: JW doctrine**

➤ - perceive contradictions because **not understand the context in general**

- **ON SEEING GOD**

- "... I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." -- Genesis 32:30

- "No man hath seen God at any time..." -- John 1:18

- **Gen. 32:24-25; Hos. 12:4** Jacob actually wrestled with angel

- the expression of seeing God is used in the OT when one saw or interacted with God's representative (angel)

- **Ex. 3:6; Acts 7:30** God spoke to Moses through an angel in the burning bush, so Moses was afraid to look upon God

- **Judg. 13:2-23** God spoke to Manoah and his wife through the angel of the Lord who appeared to them, they knew it was the angel of the Lord, but said that they had seen God

- **we must study the Bible to understand the whole counsel of God**

➤ - perceive contradictions because they **don't understand the words used in the Bible** - words used in a particular translation

- **ON TEMPTATION**

- "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." -- James 1:13

- "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham..." -- Genesis 22:1

- **Gen. 22:1** the word "tempt" is translated "tested" which is the meaning of the word, and Scripture

- **God communicates to us in words**, and translations are written in language that becomes obsolete

- **must study the words** to discern the true meaning of Scripture

- **illus.: baptize**

➤ **Atheists believe Jesus is a myth** – not knowing the Scriptures, contriving contradictions – FOX, bash Christmas

(<http://www.carm.org/secular-movements/atheism/why-believe-christianity-over-all-other-religions>)

- **Atheists the Bible shows that Jesus taught many absurd and foolish things**, and that's it's foolish to believe in Him, **even based on the Bible**

➤ - **Atheists believe that Jesus was a false witness**

- **THE TRUTHFUL WITNESS**

- "If I [Jesus] bear witness of myself, my witness is not true." (John 5:31)

- "I [Jesus] am one that bear witness of myself..." (John 8:18)

- According to these scriptures, Jesus was a false witness.

- **explanation:** both passages are talking about the same thing, only in a different way, Jesus' testimony is true because God testifies, thus Jesus can also testify of himself

➤ - **Atheists believe Jesus was a hypocrite and coward**

- **THE SO-CALLED SON OF GOD'S COURAGE**

- "And I [Jesus] say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do." (Luke 12:4)

- "Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple..." (John 8:59)

- "After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Judea, because Jews sought to kill him." (John 7:1)

- A case of do as I say, not as I do!

- **explanation:** Jesus did not leave the temple and cease walking in Judea because He was afraid, but because His time had not come to die (**Jn. 7:6, 8**)

➤ - **Atheists believe Jesus' teachings on the family are absurd**

- **WHOLESONE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

- "For I [Jesus] am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." (Matthew 10:35-6)

- "If any man come unto me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26)

- "Honour thy father and thy mother..." (Matthew 19:19)

- "And call no man your father upon earth..." (Matthew 23:9)

- **explanation:**

- Jesus' teaching is what causes the division as a result of evil men's rebellion

- "hate" is *love less*, not the hatred that is sinful

- "call no man father" is in a religious senses, not progenitive sense

➤ - **Atheists believe Jesus' instructions to His followers are absurd**

- **GREAT WISDOM OF HIS TEACHINGS**

- "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I [Jesus] will liken him unto a wise man..." (Matthew 7:24)
- "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish..." (Matthew 5:29)
- Who in their right mind would pluck out their eye and think that it was profitable?

- **explanation:**

- Jesus not speaking in literal sense that His disciples are to pluck out their eyes, but in a figurative sense that we are to make whatever sacrifice is necessary to remove stumbling blocks of sin

- **application:**

- **Atheists show themselves to be the absurd ones**, in setting forth an extreme twisting of the Scriptures, to their own destruction
- **reflects their hard hearts, and unbelief in God and His word**

Summary / Inv.

- **Atheists love the end of December**

- time to bash Jesus and the Bible
- time to revel in celebration of the solstice, and bash Christians for believing in Jesus

- **our society and religion are being assaulted by Atheist more than every before, so it's good for us to know a few things about present-day Atheists and their religion**

- **inv.:** God gives us the free will to decide whether to believe in Him or not

- Atheists decide not to believe
- Christians decide to believe
- if you aren't a Christian. . . .