

SHARING JESUS WITH...

ATHEISTS

WHAT IS ATHEISM?

Atheism is the belief that God does not exist. The word atheist comes from the Latin a-theism “no God.” Atheism is usually a sub category of humanism, a system of thought where the importance of only humans rather than divine.

Many like atheist George Smith have tried to make atheism the default position by saying, “I just lack a belief in God.” This self-refuting as it makes a statement about God.

What is an Agnostic?

An agnostic is someone who does not know if God exists or not. It is someone who takes a position less firm than an atheist. They may or may not be open to the existence of God. The word agnostic comes from the Latin a-gnosis meaning “no knowledge.” Agnosticism can either be expressed as two forms. **Soft agnosticism**, says “we do not know if God exists.” **Hard agnosticism**, says “we cannot know that God exists.” Agnosticism is self-defeating. To claim that “one cannot know anything about God” is to say something about God.

WHAT DO ATHEISTS BELIEVE

Beliefs about God’s existence have a dramatic influence on the decisions and the positions that one makes and holds.

	Atheist	Christian
Origin	Evolution	Created by God
Identity	A random accident from chance mutations	Purposeful creation in the image of God.
Meaning	Self-Made	Serve and Follow God
Morality	Whatever works for you	God’s holy law
Destiny	The dust	Eternal life in heaven

Do atheists have any special books/documents?

The Humanist Manifesto is one they proudly crafted in 1933.

According to one study, there are between 450-500 million atheists in the world (about 7 percent).

A 2014 Pew survey found that 3.1 percent of the US identifies as atheist. But in the same year 9 percent agreed with the statement “Do not believe in God” while 2 percent agreed with the statement “Do not know if they believe in a God.” In 1994 it was only 0.034%.

ATHEIST MUST EXPLAIN THREE BIG BANGS.

1. The origin of matter.
2. The origin of life.
3. The origin of consciousness.

“The cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.”

- Carl Sagan, Cosmos

Interesting note:

Christians were labeled atheists in the first century because they denied the great number of gods in the culture.

The American Atheist Creed

"An atheist loves himself and his fellow man instead of a god. An atheist accepts that heaven is something for which we should work for now—here on earth—for all men together to enjoy. An atheist accepts that he can get no help through prayer, but that he must find in himself the inner conviction and strength to meet life, to grapple with it, to subdue it and enjoy it. An atheist accepts that only in a knowledge of himself and a knowledge of his fellow man can find the understanding that will help to a life of fulfillment."

Do you have to believe in God to be a moral person?

No, everyone can know the difference between right and wrong and live accordingly but the atheist do not have a moral basis for being moral.

"Some atheists use aspects of reality to argue against God that would not exist if atheism were true."—Frank Turek *Stealing from God* (2014).

These are there C.R.I.M.E.S.

Causality

Reason

Information & Intentionality

Morality

Evil

Science

What do atheists believe about the universe?

Atheists believe that the universe is **eternal**. It has always been in existence. A beginning implies it has a Beginner. Our current universe is 13.8 Billion years old. Through an unguided random process of evolution all life begin to exist and has evolved from the most simple life to the complex life's of humans today.

The multi-verse theory is a new theory where there are infinite universes that exist and that create other universes that exist.

Where do atheists find their identity and purpose?

As seen from the atheist creed to the left, atheists must find their identity in here and now life on earth. They must make the best for themselves and others while they can. It is a self fulfillment that comes from creating your own identity and purpose that gives them meaning. For example, saving the planet becomes highly important since this life and planet is all one has.

In atheism, everything is **determined** by your DNA. You are just a moist robot programed by DNA and the sum of your nurture.

Where do morals come from in atheism?

Atheism by default says that evil is **subjective** and based on personal opinion or preference. There is no moral right or wrong. When groups people form cultures and laws the morals are based in the majority rule mentality. This **social contract** is what determines right and wrong for societies and cultures.

Many atheists desire to create a "better" life for themselves and others on the planet but this idea of making a better life actually steals from a theistic worldview. To admit there is a "better" way to live points to an ideal moral authority above humanity. Most people admit there is objective evil in the world. All you have to do is give an example, (e.g. torturing babies for fun.).

What do atheists believe about an afterlife?

There is only a physical universe, no supernatural world exists. Once you cease to live on earth you will return to dust.

What do atheists believe about truth?

Atheists believe that all truth is **relative** because how can anyone willingly trust the random thoughts in their brains if their make up is just a random collection of cells and neurons that are firing off. We would have no reason to trust our own consciences to be correct. Everything we think has been determined already by our DNA.

Extra Resources

BOOKS

**I Don't Have Enough Faith
to be an Atheist,**

Norman Geisler, Frank Turek

Stealing from God,

Frank Turek

**Answering the Objections of
Atheists, Agnostics, &
Skeptics,** Ron Rhodes

The Reason for God,

Timothy Keller

God's Crime Scene,

J. Warner Wallace

The Case for Faith,

Lee Strobel

Why Believe,

Neil Shenvi

APPS

Cross Examined

WEBSITES

Seanmcdowell.org

Crossexamined.org

Str.org

Coldcasechristianity.com

Upcoming Topics

5/7—**Islam** (with Guest
Teacher, Randy Rainwater)

5/14—**No Class**
(Mother's Day)

5/21—**The LGBTQ
Community**

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General Tips

As always be kind and gracious. Control your temper and do not let yourself become frustrated in your conversations.

Be willing to befriend and listen to the atheist. Ask questions about what they personally believe. Not everyone is the same.

Engage people out of an act of love and not a desire to win an argument or make yourself look good, or them bad.

Specific Tips

Determine if they are really seeking truth and complement them if they are. Try to determine what is the reason they are atheists. Is it a heart or head issue? Are they struggling with understanding an intellectual concept or are they just in a rebellious state in life not wanting God to have a divine hold in their life. Address the issue that seems to be the source of their "unbelief."

Atheists can unintentional **steamroll** over you with multiple areas where they disagree with Christianity. Don't let them. Ask them what one area they would like to discuss first, what they think is the most important reason. Focus on that issue first.

Use the **Pillars of Christianity** from week 3. Work up through the pillars with them using apologetics. It would not make sense to use the Bible as proof of God if they do not believe in God yet.

Show how **evolution is F.L.A.W.E.D.** and does not explain the world the way it actually is and how people think and live.

Give specific reasons why we believe the **universe had a beginning**. The Big Bang Singularity, Background Radiation, Red shift, Philosophically, try counting backwards to negative infinity.

Point out the inconsistencies of atheists. Many atheists have a **sense of justice or an "ought"** that they internally feel life should be like but their own worldview denies them this actuality.

Example: The oppression of women and the LGBTQ community.

Example: Take their wallet (not really) don't let them complain.

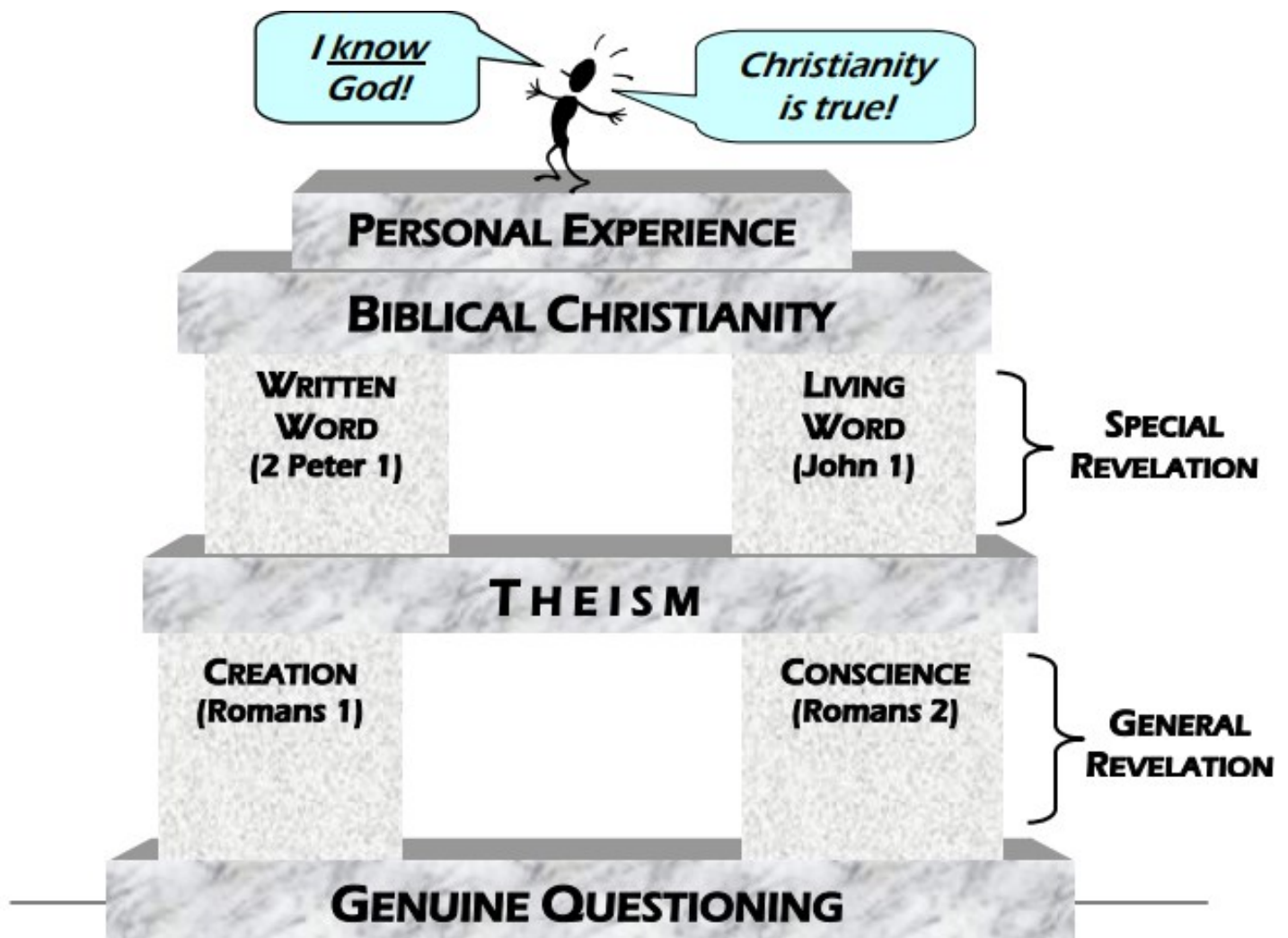
Example: Point out Slavery, Nazi Germany, events in the past...

Be ready to suggest books, YouTube videos, articles that you can share or give them to help them do their own research/study.

Point out that Christianity is both reasonable and logical.

Avoid arguments about God's character, what he did and didn't do, and focus on Jesus life his death and resurrection from the dead.

Don't be afraid to say, "**I don't know.**" You can research and find out.



The Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True.

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:
 - a. Beginning of the universe (Cosmological Argument)
 - b. Design of the universe (Teleological Argument/Anthropic Principle)
 - c. Design of life (Teleological Argument)
 - d. Moral Law (Moral Argument)
4. If God exists, then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God (i.e., as acts of God to confirm a word from God).
6. The New Testament is historically reliable. This is evidenced by:
 - a. Early testimony
 - b. Eyewitness testimony
 - c. Uninvented (authentic) testimony
 - d. Eyewitnesses who were not deceived
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about himself;
 - b. His sinless life and miraculous deeds;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of his resurrection.
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

(From the book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek)