

ATHEISM

H. Havelock Ellis: "And it is in his own image, let us remember, that Man creates God.

Isaac Asimov, "On Religiosity", Free Inquiry magazine: "Although the time of death is approaching me, I am not afraid of dying and going to Hell or (what would be considerably worse) going to the popularized version of Heaven. I expect death to be nothingness and, for removing me from all possible fears of death, I am thankful to atheism.

Dan Barker, Author: "Losing Faith in Faith:" I have something to say to the religionist who feels atheists never say anything positive: You are an intelligent human being. Your life is valuable for its own sake. You are not second-class in the universe, deriving meaning and purpose from some other mind. You are not inherently evil -- you are inherently human, possessing the positive rational potential to help make this a world of morality, peace and joy. Trust yourself."

George H.W. Bush, as Presidential Nominee for the Republican party; 1987-AUG-27: "No, I don't know that Atheists should be considered as citizens, nor should they be considered as patriots. This is one nation under God."

Word origin: Atheist originated in two Greek roots: "A" which means "without" or "not" and "Theos" which means "deity."

Definitions:

A person who believes in a specific God, Goddess or combination of deities is a **Theist**.

A person who actively denies the existence of any and all deities is an **Atheist**.

A person who feels that we have no method by which we can conclude whether a deity exists is an **Agnostic**.

How many people are atheists?

World Estimate:	Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist: 850,000,000	
U.S. Estimates:	Secular: 27,539,000 (2001)	13,116,000 (1990)
	Agnostic: 991,000 (2001)	1,186,000 (1990)
	Atheist: 902,000 (2001)	

What is the history of atheism?

What is the allure of atheism?

Is there any ultimate difference between being an atheist and an agnostic?

Is atheism the same as...

Communism?

Humanism?

Naturalism?

Do atheists have morals and if so, what are they based on?

What does the Bible say about atheism?

Romans 1:20: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

Romans 2:15: "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." (KJV) That is, even people who do have not been exposed to the Bible have God's standards "written in their hearts" as part of their being. (In Biblical times, the heart and kidneys were believed to be where human thoughts arose and were stored).

What are other problems with being an atheist?

- Atheism is a difficult position to defend. It takes faith to be an atheist, because to know for a fact that there is no God, one would have to be omniscient, which is, of course, one of the main attributes of God.