

Atheism Is A Religion. No, It's Not! Yes, It Is! No, It's Not!

Category: Atheism as a religion

Example A)

"The new Atheists want to raise 'the consciousness' of Atheists and encourage them to stand up and be counted for their faith. Hence they are constantly adding to the ranks of their spokespeople. They are out to get converts."

John Lennox, page 14 – Gunning for God

Example B)

"All my studies in science... have confirmed my faith."

Sir Ghillean Prance (an ardent Atheist)

Example C)

Religion as defined by Dictionary.com

1. Something one believes in and follows devotedly; a point or matter of ethics or conscience.
2. The body of persons adhering to a particular set of beliefs and practices.
3. A set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe... often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.

Religion as defined by Merriam Webster Dictionary

1. A personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices.
2. A cause, principle or system of beliefs held with ardor and faith.

Example D)

Atheist Church, London: The Sunday Assembly

Sanderson Jones and Pippa Evans

(Peek at my video on this service to understand how “religious” Atheists are)

Pippa led the congregation in singing “Lean on Me” and “Here comes the Sun”

Sanderson did some standup comedy

Atheist Church, L.A.

“The Sunday Assembly”

400 in attendance (a united belief in a now-is-all-there-is-belief)

Example E)

“Implicit atheism is the absence of belief in one or more gods, without a conscious rejection of it... Explicit Atheism, on the other hand, is where someone makes a positive assertion, either weak or strong, regarding their lack of belief in gods.”

The Basics of Philosophy

Example F)

“I’m not even an atheist as much as I am an Antitheist, I not only maintain that all religions are versions of the same untruth, but I hold that the influence of Churches, and the effect of religious beliefs is positively harmful.”

Christopher Hitchens.

Example G)

"The world needs to wake up from the long nightmare of religion... Anything we scientists can do to weaken the hold of religion should be done and may in fact be our greatest contribution to civilization."

Steven Weinberg (Nobel Laureate)

Example H)**English Blog**

Ism - suffix added to the end of a word to indicate that the word represents a specific practice, system, or philosophy... using ism at the end of a word also suggests the word is related to a belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by a group or school of thought.

Wikipedia

Ism - "taking the side with" of "imitation of" and is often used to describe philosophies, theories, religions...

Merriam Webster's Dictionary

Ism - A distinctive doctrine, cause or theory.

Example I)

"There are different types of Atheisms and Atheists. In general, they can be classified as the non-religious, the non-believers and agnostics... (non-belief) is the second biggest 'belief' in the U.S.... Getting to know what someone disbelieves and why is a great way to understand them... Indefinable mass: The group of people who belong to some type of Atheism. It is no small fringe, either over a billion people do not follow a religion. They make up roughly a quarter of the U.S. population, making it the second largest 'belief'. Roughly 60% of the U.K. never go to church, and there are now more Atheists than believers in Norway."

Big Think, Jonny Thompson
Philosophy professor, Oxford

Example J)

"Atheists, secularists, empiricists, humanists, evidentialist, materialists, nones, agnostics, spiritualists, science-religionists, scientism adherents, misotheists, anti-theists, nihilists, Marxists, structuralists, rationalists, positivists, and religious Atheists are all truly Atheists. Agnostics, in the real world I live in, are practical atheists who lack either the courage or the knowledge of themselves to call themselves Atheists. Additionally, Buddhists and Jains and some Hindus are Atheists.

W.D.M.

Example K)**Religion Definition (courtesy of the BBC)**

"A set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe... often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs."

(Adopted later by dictionary.com)

Example L)

"Religion is something left over from the infancy of our intelligence. It will fade away as we adopt reason and science as our guidelines."

Bertrand Russell

Example M)

"Atheism by itself is, of course, not a moral position or a political one of any kind, it is simply the refusal to believe in a supernatural dimension."

Christopher Hitchens

Example N)

“Here is a point about myself and my co-thinkers. Our belief is not a belief. Our principles are not a faith. We do not hold our opinions dogmatically.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example O)

“I’m an Atheist. I’m not neutral about religion. I’m hostile to it.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example P)

“Theology is ignorance with wings.”

Sam Harris

Example Q)

“Religion poisons everything.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example R)

“Philosophy is dead.”

Stephen Hawking

He states scientists rather than philosophers “have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge.”

Example S)

“The thing about smart people is that they seem like crazy people to dumb people.”

Stephen Hawking

Example T)

“Organizing Atheists is a bit like herding cats; they are on the whole too intelligent and independent minded to lend themselves to being herded.”

Richard Dawkins

Example U)

“Atheism is not a philosophy; it is not even a view of the world; it is simply an admission of the obvious.”

Sam Harris

Example V)

“I believe the simplest explanation is, there is no God, no one created the universe, and no one directs our fate.”

Sam Harris

Example W)

“There is no Heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.”

Stephen Hawking

Example X)

“Our belief is not a belief. Our principles aren’t a faith. We do not rely solely upon science and reason, because these are necessary rather than sufficient factors, but we distrust anything that contradicts science or outrages reason.”

Christopher Hitchens

Food for Thought

Look at example K and example C (Dictionary.com part 3). This is my definition of choice for conversations/discussions. Why? First, it's simple and simple to memorize. Second, it reminds you to ask a question, in a discussion, about all 3 (cause, nature and purpose) principles mentioned in the definition. When someone declares:

"I'm an Atheist... Blah, Blah, Blah."

I might respond:

"Okay, but do you mind defining Atheism for me, so I can understand what you believe?"

This is key. Hold your definition in reserve. Normally, simply asking someone to define any word they use discombobulates them. It will amaze you. Whatever ultimately leaks out, focus on whether or not it suffices as a definition (no matter how silly or stupid). If it is not a definition, say,

"I can see this is something you care about, but I don't think that you defined 'Atheism', you know what I mean? Do you mind trying, again, to define it?"

You won't be ambushed by terms you haven't heard of. In the end, they are atheists with denominational distinctions like the Baptists have. I mean you have Baptists, Freewill Baptists, General Baptists, Southern Baptists, and so on. In the end, they are Baptists who, historically speaking, have had hobbyhorse doctrines and distinctions that many of them are still riding. Atheists are organized similar to Baptist churches, as independent governing bodies. They chatter on about independence, but it's silly, as they huddle together under mother's wings (mother being Harris, Dawkins, Hawking, and Hitchens) when you and I question their belief system.

I close this topic with this reminder. Atheism is exploding around the globe. You and I are to blame: we have been lazy, selfish, cowardly and ungrateful. It's time we change. If you are reading this, I believe that you, like me, intend to change. Here is the latest information I could garner on Atheism in the U.S.:

- Announced American Atheists: somewhere around one million one hundred thousand
- Percent of Americans who are non-religious = 26%-35%

- Local affiliates = 230+

Atheism is a religion that is growing swiftly