

## Utopia: Paradise On Earth?

**Category: Atheist Absurdity - Man is Basically Good**

**Example A)**

Utopia: An imaginary society whose members possess nearly perfect qualities.

**Example B)**

Nirvana: Buddhist: And part and parcel of the thinking of Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

It is Liberation – a state of perfect quietude, freedom, and happiness. It is liberation from samsara and detachment from goods and self. It is freedom from the rounds of existence.

**Example C)**

It's the summer of 1967 again, and we all live on the corner of Haight - Ashbury!!

**Example D)**

Kumbaya: A belief in harmony between people and in their essential goodness.

**Example E)**

Imagine

- Paradise on Earth –  
Courtesy of theologian, John Lennon

"Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us, only sky

Imagine all the people  
Livin' for today  
Ah

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion, too

Imagine all the people  
Livin' life in peace  
You

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world  
You

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one"

**Example F)**

"What would our world be like if we ceased to worry about 'right' and 'wrong', or 'good' and 'evil', and simply acted so as to maximize well-being, our own and that of others? Would we lose anything important?"

Sam Harris (Mr. Miyagi)

**Example G)**

"If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desire the unhappiness of others, we could have a paradise in a few years."

Bertrand Russell

**Example H)**

Later: "The secret to happiness is to face the fact that life is horrible."

Bertrand Russell

**Example I)**

"Life is nothing but a competition to be the criminal rather than the victim."

Bertrand Russell

**Example J)**

"Paradise on Earth is where I am."

Voltaire (Mr. Miyagi Sr.)

**Example K)**

"Genes will be selfish."

Richard Dawkins

"We are born selfish."

Richard Dawkins

**Example L)**

"The search for Nirvana, like the search for utopia... or the classless society, is ultimately a futile and dangerous one... There is no escape from anxiety and struggle."

Christopher Hitchens

**Food for Thought**

As a conversation starter, or in the middle of a discussion, this topic, much like the preceding topic, Atheism and its extreme views, comes in very handy. How so?

In the forefront of your mind should be the understanding that the average person you are speaking with has no idea that incest is a tenet of logical Atheism. Similarly, utopia opens up a discussion that every ordinary person can be a part of without feeling the need to be defensive.

For example, if the couple you are at dinner with is 70 years old or older, you might ask,

***"Where were you two in 1967?"***

No matter the reply, even if they were both in prison, you might follow up with,

***"What did you think about 'The summer of love', you know San Francisco and hippies and all that?"***

Just follow the comments, but wait for an opportunity to inject something like this into the conversation,

***"Doesn't the hippie idea that we could all just live in harmony ring hollow after all these years?"***

What I will be looking for is a negative comment about human beings. It's my opportunity, conversationally, to speak to the nature of fallen man and how *learning that from the Bible has kept me from the imaginary paradise on Earth idea*. Primarily, I'm attempting to learn what their dreams are. Are they entirely earthly? Then I say that the gravity of my own mortality is ever on my mind and has made me rethink the race I'm running and the final 10 yards I have to run. I

promise, if you are honest and not preachy, a good discussion can ensue.  
People are starving for conversations that are meaningful rather than mundane.

Now, allow me to discuss a few of my examples with you. I'm hoping to arm you with some basic information that will open up conversations and discussions for you. My view of the world is through the spectacles that have sovereignty as one lens and providence as the other lens (if these concepts are foreign to you, please look at our website and find a video that explains both). These spectacles ensure that my Christ-centered view of all will be present. Since I mentioned the summer of 1967, the summer of love, let's begin there. I was 17. I was aimless. I was very interested in girls. I, like everyone I knew, wanted to go to San Francisco – it sounded like paradise. It wasn't.

Haight and Ashbury are street names that are central to the neighborhood called Haight-Ashbury. By the mid-60's it was the heart of the counterculture, hippie movement. Its zenith was the summer of 1967, "The summer of love". Tens of thousands of young dreamers streamed into Haight-Ashbury, ostensibly for a paradise on Earth society, drugs, an escape, and a protest to the Vietnam War.

It is time for one of my favorite George Orwell quotes:

"Every generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it."

Such was the summer of love generation.

Marijuana, music, L.S.D., more music, and a basic belief in the good in human nature were the hippies' building blocks. Scott McKenzie's song, "San Francisco, Be Sure To Wear Flowers In Your Hair" was a Pied Piper's tune.

Like all dreams of paradise built on a belief in man's inherent goodness, the reality of the fallen nature of man will ensure a quick end to the dream. By 1968, the area went into hard decline due to drug use and self-policing.

Each generation of Heaven on Earth dreamers would do well to remember two things:

1. Orwell's quote above is true.
2. Men aren't inherently good.

Both of these points are great discussion starters.

## Utopia

Thomas More was a rascal (1477-1535)

He coined the word Utopia. His book by that name imagined a society whose members possess nearly perfect qualities.

Utopia was a pun. Ou-Topos = no place/ Eu-Topos = a good place; some rascals know Greek. Today, largely because people are ignorant of the Bible's clear teaching that men's hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9), Utopia is still spoken of and sought. Take a peek at Example K, even Richard Dawkins is aware of man's sinful nature.

For us, the concept is useful. In a dinner conversation, simply ask, "Doesn't it seem like every attempt to produce a utopian society has failed?" It is sure to engender a discussion. That opens the door for questions that permit you to exhibit your Christian worldview, and it permits you to understand the person you are speaking to. You then tailor the discussion accordingly. Relax, that the discussion is different each time is exciting, not frightening. One never knows what a sovereign God will make use of.

Example G is Bertrand Russell before age 40. Example H is Bertrand Russell from age 40 to age 60. Example I is a wiser Bertrand Russell. Wisdom can be discouraging for an Atheist; no Heaven on Earth.

All three of Russell's quotes foster good discussions about human nature and the Bible's position on it. These are door openers for you.