



Atheism

vs

Theism

Written by Rev.

John Marinelli

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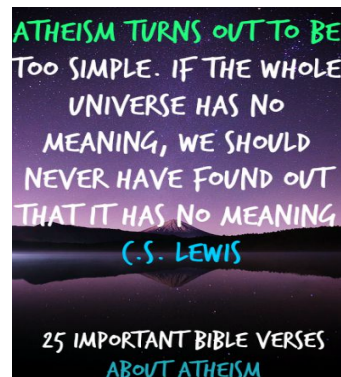
Introduction

Atheism is defined as the disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God. Whereas, Theism is the belief in the existence of a God, especially belief in one God as creator of the universe, intervening in it and sustaining a personal relation to his creatures.

I will contrasting the two beliefs and showing why Atheism exists and its ultimate end.

Fritz Chery of Biblereasons.com tells us about Atheism in his website article. Excerpts follow:

Atheists are some of the most religious and faithful people ever. It takes an incredible amount of faith to be an atheist. Sun, moon, stars, oceans, the Earth, animals, babies, male, female, the human heart, emotions, our conscience, love, intelligence, the human mind, bone structure, the human reproductive system, biblical prophecies coming true all before our eyes, eyewitness accounts of Jesus, and more and still there are some people who deny God's existence.



Just stop and think about it. It's impossible for something to come from nothing. To say nothingness caused nothing and created everything is absurd! Nothing will always remain nothing.

J. S. Mill who was a non-Christian philosopher said, "It is self-evident that only mind can create mind. For nature to make itself is a scientific impossibility.

Atheism can't explain existence. Atheists live by science, but science (always) changes. God and the Bible (always) remain the same. They know there is a God.

He is revealed in creation, through His Word, and through Jesus Christ. Everybody knows that God is real; people just hate Him so much they suppress the truth. Behind every creation there is always a creator. You might not know the person who built your house, but you know it didn't just get there on its own.

Atheists are going to say, "*Well who created God?*" God is not in the same category as created things. God is not created. God is the uncaused cause. He is eternal. He simply exists. It is God who brought matter, time, and space into existence.

If Atheists believe there is no God, why are they always so obsessed with Him? Why are they worried about Christians? Why do they view things about Christianity just to mock? Why are there atheist conventions? Why have atheist churches?

If God is not real, why does it matter? It's because they hate God! Why does life matter? Without God, nothing makes sense. There is no reality at all. Atheists can't account for morality. Why is right, right and why is wrong, wrong? Atheists can't account for rationality, logic, and intelligence because their worldview will not allow them to. The only way they can is to take upon the Christian theistic worldview.

Quotes From Two Important People

- “To sustain the belief that there is no God, atheism has to demonstrate infinite knowledge, which is tantamount to saying, “I have infinite knowledge that there is no being in existence with infinite knowledge.”” – Ravi Zacharias
- “Atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning.”
C.S. Lewis

What Does The Bible Say?

1. **Colossians 2:8...** Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
2. **1 Corinthians 3:19-20...** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written: He catches the wise in their craftiness; and again, The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are meaningless.
3. **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12...** and every type of evil to deceive those who are dying, those who refused to love the truth that would save them. For this reason, God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie. Then all who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.

Atheists Say There Is No God

4. **Psalm 14:1...** . The fool says in his heart, “God does not exist.” They are corrupt; they do vile deeds. There is no one who does good.
5. **Psalm 53:1...** Fools say to themselves, “There is no God.” They sin and commit evil deeds; none of them does what is right.
6. **Psalm 10:4-7...** With haughty arrogance, the wicked “God will not seek justice. He always presumes “There is no God. Their ways always seem

prosperous. Your judgments are on high, far away from them. They scoff at all their enemies. They say to themselves, we will not be moved throughout all time, and we will not experience adversity.” Their mouth is full of curses, lies, and oppression; their tongues spread trouble and iniquity.

They Know God Is Real, But They Hate God So They Suppress The Truth By Their Own Unrighteousness

7. **Romans 1:18-19**... For God’s wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and wickedness of those who in their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God himself has made it plain to them.

8. **Romans 1:28-30**... And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done. They are filled with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, and malice. They are rife with envy, murder, strife, deceit, and hostility. They are gossips, slanderers, and haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, contrivers of all sorts of evil, disobedient to parents, senseless, covenant-breakers, heartless, ruthless. Although they fully know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them.

They Can’t Understand The Things of God.

9. **1 Corinthians 2:14**... The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

10. **Ephesians 4:18**... They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart.

They Are Scoffers

11. **2 Peter 3:3-5**... First of all you must understand this: In the last days mockers will come and, following their own desires, will ridicule us by saying, “What happened to the Messiah’s promise to return? Ever since our ancestors died, everything continues as it did from the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately ignore the fact that long ago the heavens existed and the earth was formed by God’s word out of water and with water.

12. **Psalm 74:18**... Remember this: The enemy scorns the Lord and a foolish people despises your name.

13. **Psalm 74:22**... Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!

14. **Jeremiah 17:15**... Behold, they say to me, “Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!”

Are Atheists Going To Heaven?

15. **Revelation 21:8**... But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

How Do I Know There’s A God?

16. **Psalm 92:5-6**... How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep! The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:

17. **Romans 1:20**... For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

18. **Psalm 19:1-4**... The heavens are declaring the glory of God, and their expanse shows the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech nor are

there words, their voice is not heard yet their message goes out into all the world, and their words to the ends of the earth. He has set up a tent for the sun in the heavens.

19. **Ecclesiastes 3:11**... Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

God Is Revealed In Jesus

20. **John 14:9**... Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

21. **John 17:25-26**... "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Finding God

22. **Jeremiah 29:13**... You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

23. **Hebrews 13:8**... Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

24. **John 4:24**... God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

25. **Psalms 14:2**... The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God.

27. **Psalms 90:2**... Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Atheism And Evolution

Evolution is the platform upon which atheism rests. It was all alone fighting God and Creationists in a losing battle until the theory of evolution came along. The idea that man evolved independently from God or act of creation gave the atheists a voice. It side stepped divine judgment, obedience to a creator, and any notion of religion.

*Calvin Smith of Creation.com explains further in his article...
Does evolution 'fall out' of the facts?*

The question of origins (where did everything come from) has only two possible answers. Either the universe arose by itself or it didn't. If it did then some sort of cosmic evolution must have taken place to account for reality. If it didn't, then there must be a Creator. There is no third option.

Many people seem convinced that the theory of evolution is based on an analysis of brute facts that clearly prove evolution has been a real process throughout history. As arch-evolutionist Richard Dawkins said:

"You have got millions and millions of pieces of evidence which no reasonable person can possibly dispute."

However, every person has an ultimate starting point of belief about the question of origins, a pre-supposition that is simply accepted as true without proof, or an *axiom*. Even if one says that their ultimate starting belief is the result of the analysis of a collection of facts that lead them to that ultimate starting position, it remains that at the root of their belief system they will always have a starting point that cannot be supported further.

Evolutionist Michael Ruse admitted as much when he stated:

"Evolution, akin to religion, involves making certain a priori or metaphysical assumptions, which at some level cannot be proven empirically."

As an abstract example, if one says "I believe 'A'", and someone else asks "Why?" and the responder says "Because of 'B'", they cannot keep doing so forever (infinite regress). One can run the full length of the alphabet so to speak (because of 'C', because of 'D' etc) but sooner or later one will have

to stop and say “I believe it because I believe it”. You will ultimately arrive at a place where you cannot justify that belief with any other belief—otherwise that other belief becomes the ‘ultimate’ belief.

Once someone has adopted a specific starting point, all other data will usually be processed through that ‘filter’, providing them with their worldview.

Evolution ‘falls out’ of Atheism

For the atheist, the starting point is an active belief in the proposition ‘There is no God’ (a-theos), despite some revisionism claiming that it’s merely an absence of belief in God. If one starts with that premise, what would the logical interpretation and explanation of the general facts we observe (the universe, the earth, the diversity of life, human experience, etc.) be?

5 Points of Atheistic Belief

1. **(Naturalism)** Obviously one would have to believe that everything has arisen through naturalistic processes, because the ultimate assumption is that there is no mind, no intelligent designer or ‘guiding hand’ to account for existence.
2. **(Simple To Complex)** Believing that our universe with such vast complexity could come into being fully formed is simply not viable. Therefore there would have had to have been, and presumably are, innumerable changes taking place in matter over time. The processes involved must have caused matter to go from simple to more complex.
3. **(Deep Time)** In order to account for the vast diversity of things in our universe, all of these processes must have happened over an immense amount of ‘deep’ time.
4. **(Humans Are Autonomous Accidents)** Human beings must have come about via natural unguided processes so we are therefore not special in any sense other than we are at the ‘top of the food chain’ as it were. Any sense of morality or ethics is just part of our naturalistic development and is therefore not absolute in any way.
5. **(Evolution)** The ultimate conclusion is that everything we experience is the result of a process of what might be termed ‘self creation’. (Notice that even though ‘self creation’ in its truest sense is an incoherent idea because something can’t do anything before it

exists, new atheists like Lawrence Krauss actually propose such unscientific nonsense.)

So all of the core elements of the grand theory of evolution (cosmological, geological, chemical, biological and human evolution) are simply a logical, philosophical outworking of the basic concept of classical atheism applied to the world we live in.

All of these conclusions could be derived from a simple general belief that God does not exist (atheism), prior to influence from specific physical evidence whatsoever. From that point forward every fact one sees could be interpreted according to that view. These would then be correlated to create a history about the universe that supports those beliefs.

These ultimate starting axioms have been the same throughout history. The idea of evolution is not a modern concept. The ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Hindus, Greeks and Romans all had ideas of millions of years and/or biological evolution in their beliefs, all without access to facts commonly held up today as proof of evolution (geologic column, DNA, natural selection, radioisotope dating, hominid fossils etc).

As a more modern example, Charles Darwin's atheistic grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, conceived and published a naturalistic explanation of the world (in his book *Zoonomia*, 1794) some 65 years before Charles did. This included the ideas that the earth was formed from a cosmic explosion, life began in the sea, became progressively more complex and eventually became people, and that all of this happened over millions of years. Again, notice that all of these assumptions were concluded without the common 'evidences' that evolutionists point to today.

Why Would Anyone Start With The Concept of Atheism?

The Bible says unregenerate people are in rebellion against God. The ultimate rejection of any person would be to deny their existence (hence the idiom "You are dead to me"). Ultimately, some people reject God to the point that they deny His existence. The denial of God is often epitomized by the (in)famous atheist Nietzsche's statement "God is dead."

Although some people throughout history have declared themselves atheists, the concept has always been deemed questionable by astute thinkers (presumably because of the scientific and philosophical illogicality, and the obvious moral indications of that system). For example, Sir Isaac Newton (undoubtedly the greatest scientist who ever lived) once said;

“Opposition to godliness is atheism in profession and idolatry in practice. Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind that it never had many professors.”

Some have the wrong impression that evolution itself is ‘scientific’. But it was not simply scientists that immediately embraced Charles Darwin’s theories of evolution. Rather it was those (whether scientific minded or not) that were naturalists and Bible skeptics that supported Darwin initially.

Opposition to Darwinism came immediately from many brilliant scientists. These include physicist James Clerk Maxwell (founder of electromagnetism), Louis Pasteur (pioneer of immunization and developer of the fundamental law of biology [Biogenesis]), Lord Kelvin (pioneer of thermodynamics and the trans-Atlantic telegraph), and Louis Agassiz (founder of modern glacial geology) rejected Darwin.

Famous mathematician, astronomer and Fellow of the Royal Society Sir John Herschel dismissed it as ‘the law of higgledy-pigglety’. Richard Owen, the Superintendent of the Natural History Department of the British Museum so irked Darwin with his objections to his theory that Darwin eventually admitted he hated him! William Whewell, renowned philosopher of science (author of ‘The History of Inductive Sciences’), banned *Origin* from the Cambridge library. And there were a slew of scriptural geologists that also rejected Darwinism and its accompanying ‘millions of years’ of earth history.

Many thought Darwinism was very unscientific indeed. Professor Johann H. Blasius, director of the Ducal Natural History Museum of Braunschweig (Brunswick), Germany, in an interview, said, “I have also seldom read a scientific book which makes such wide-ranging conclusions with so few facts supporting them. ... Darwin wants to show that kinds come from other kinds.”

On the other hand it was self described ‘free thinking’ individuals such as Charles Lyell who wanted to “free science from Moses”, *soi-disant* agnostic Thomas Huxley, the notorious faker Ernst Haeckel, (who already had deep seated anti-biblical ideas regarding origins, and hated the Bible’s opposition to racism) who eagerly supported Darwin’s book. Even the initial adopters coming from a theological perspective (like theistic evolutionist Asa Gray and racist theologian Charles Kingsley) seemed predisposed to naturalistic explanations for the creation prior to accepting Darwinism.

From the beginning of the scientifically fruitful Middle Ages to about only 200 years ago, the Western World’s primary worldview was overtly based on Christianity and the biblical narrative and concepts of law and morality that sprung from it. Today it is very different, with Christianity and the Bible nearly thrown out of public life altogether. Teaching from the Bible, and even promoting biblical morality, is literally outlawed in many places and only one view of origins (evolution) is taught in the majority of state schools.

So it is easy to see why so many people believe in the theory of evolution today, because state run school systems and media throughout the Western world teach it as ‘fact’ and ‘science’ to impressionable children everywhere. So much so now that evolutionary teaching is a self-perpetuating concept. Because evolutionary ideas support a naturalistic worldview rather than a theistic worldview, this means that many (even ones that grew up in a home that professed belief in God) conclude atheism is true and adopt that as their starting point.

However, evolution does not fall out of ‘the facts’. People would do well to re-examine the starting point of atheism. The alleged ‘pieces of evidence’ used to support it via evolution simply do not stack up (as our brand new award winning *book* and documentary, *Evolution’s Achilles’ Heels*, demonstrates). Starting with a biblical view, what we see in God’s world matches what we see in His word with little need for the ‘fudge factors’ so common in the evolutionary explanation of origins.

Christian Arguments Against Atheism

Resources for Defending The Christian Faith

ShareFaith presents these arguments in defense of the Christian faith.

-The Argument from Causality: Look around for something that does not have a cause (and therefore a beginning). This sequence can work backwards indefinitely. But does it go infinitely, or does it ultimately stop? To say that it goes on infinitely leads to a logical dilemma. Without some initial cause, there can be no caused things, and no explanation for causality itself. The only rational answer is that there is at the beginning of all things an uncaused Cause, capable of causing all things.

-The Argument from Design: Nature manifests a certain irreducible complexity. The design in nature requires a Designer. God is the creator and designer of all things.

-The Ontological Argument: The idea of God exists in the mind, even in the mind of an atheist. The event of one's mind understanding this idea must have a sufficient cause. The idea is one that contains infinite perfection, but one's mind is limited by finite perfection, as is everything else in the natural world. A mentally imperfect being cannot produce a mentally perfect effect. Therefore, there is a perfect Mind transcendent to the universe, from which the idea of perfection can originate.

-The Moral Argument: Morality exists. Whether we are considering a stone-age Amazonian cannibal or an intellectual savant at a prestigious Ivy League school, every human being has some sense of morality. Everyone has some level of mental obligation to do good and avoid evil. Why else do we have laws, government, military, prisons, and self-improvement books? The atheistic view is incompatible with real moral obligation. Therefore, the theistic view, which is compatible with real moral obligation, must be correct. Moral obligation cannot originate in the mind of man, and therefore must originate in the mind of a greater being, which is God.

Although these arguments bear some intellectual curiosity, they are by themselves insufficient to persuade someone *not* to be an atheist. Nor are they necessary to do so. In fact, some of the arguments for God (and there are many more) may actually be paralogisms. While arguments for the existence of God may help to demonstrate that belief in God is not irrational, there is more that is necessary to bring real confidence for the Christian. Furthermore, more than philosophical rationality is necessary to truly dissuade an atheist from his or her no-god beliefs.

Here is where the atheist may begin to object. The atheist prefers to argue on the basis of logic, empiricism, or even philosophy as the only fair grounds for discussion. But logic, empiricism, and philosophy are only a tiny slice of reality. When the arguments against atheism get into spiritual issues, he or she may dismiss them as irrelevant. Although the atheist may be dissatisfied with the arguments, these are the only arguments which truly matter. The reality is, these spiritual issues are of utmost importance and relevance.

In the end, the Christian is not convinced of his or her theism based on sophisticated arguments or capable apologetic defenses. The Christian is convinced of his or her position based on faith. Consider the story of Billy Graham, a well-known evangelical preacher. He was pestered by philosophical and psychological questions that his friend Charles Templeton and others were raising. Eventually Graham said, “At last the Holy Spirit freed me to say it. ‘Father, I am going to accept this as Thy Word – by faith! I’m going to allow faith to go beyond my intellectual questions and doubts, and I will believe this to be Your inspired Word.’ ...Not all my questions were answered, but...I knew a major spiritual battle in my soul had been fought and won.” (*from Lee Strobel, The Case for Faith, p. 12*).

Graham’s experience is the same as many Christians. An atheist cannot share this experience, but when a believer turns to God, God gives them His Spirit, which gives them confidence that God exists, that Jesus is God, and that they are regenerated (**Matthew 16:13-17**). The Bible says, “by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us” (**1 John 3:24**). And again, “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit” (**1 John 4:13**). (See also **Romans 8:16; Col. 2:2-3; John 20:31**.)

Faith is not simply the recourse of an weak-minded religious nut. It is the sum and substance of any religious belief system. Faith is even the basis for

the atheist's non-belief in God. The Bible describes faith as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (**Heb. 11:1**). Faith is not a pathetic baseless optimism for something that science disproves. Faith is actuality. Faith is substance. Faith is conviction.

The Christian does not need to understand religious epistemology in order to have trustworthy assurance of these things. They are objectively true without his full understanding. They are subjectively true based on the internal confirmation of the Holy Spirit. Thus, when the Christian believes in the existence of God and the truth of Scripture, he believes in something just as reliable and even more certain as those things verified by the scientific method.

When an atheist rejects belief in God, he rejects any source of confidence beyond his own level of reasoning or understanding. The thinking atheist will forever be questioning the origin of the universe, will be perplexed regarding morality, and will be unsure of his own destiny and purpose in life.

I know a Christian who had a friend who was an atheist. As the two discussed the issue of atheism vs. Christianity, the Christian man showed the atheist a passage in Romans 1. Romans 1 explains that so-called atheists, among others, actually "by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them" (**Rom. 1:18-19**).

How has God shown Himself to them? "His invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools." The Christian told the atheist, "The reason you don't believe in God is that you don't want to." The man replied, "You know, I never thought about it, but you're right!"

The atheist uses faith, too. He puts his faith in science or self. He presupposes that science or self are trustworthy places for his confidence, and finds corroboration for this presupposition in the evidences that he can comprehend. He believes in his own testimony. The Bible, however,

confronts this tenuous belief system; “If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater” **(1 John 5:9)**. God’s testimony is found in Jesus--an indisputable historical figure. As C. S. Lewis summarized, Jesus was one of three things. Either he was a

- 1) subversive liar,
- 2) or a raving lunatic,
- 3) or He was actually who He claimed to be--the Son of God.

Which one was he? The passage cited above goes on to say, “Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son” **(1 John 5:10)**.

The atheist finds himself in the difficult position of denying all of those things that speak to God’s existence and the validity of the Christian faith. He rejects God. He rejects the creation of the world by God. He rejects the deity of Christ. He rejects God’s Word. He suppresses the inner testimony that he has concerning the reality of God. All that he is left with is a feeble self-confidence. This is the atheist’s confidence.

Conclusion

The Christian’s source of confidence--his faith--is an unshakable faith in God, revealed in His Word, manifested in Jesus Christ, and confirmed by His Spirit. This is not only a more defensible belief system than the atheist’s; it is a far better way to live. In fact, it is the only way to really live. “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” **(1 John 5:6)**.

Atheism declares that there is no god. Christianity teaches that there is a God. Both cannot be true. So which one is correct, the atheist or the Christian? How you respond depends upon faith. It depends on the source of your faith. Will you have faith in self? Or in God?

Atheism is an obvious snare of the devil to capture the souls of mankind. Its ultimate end is life without hope, no reason to exist, no future expectations, no initiative, and no respect for life. It will result in death and hell fire for all who go down its evil road.