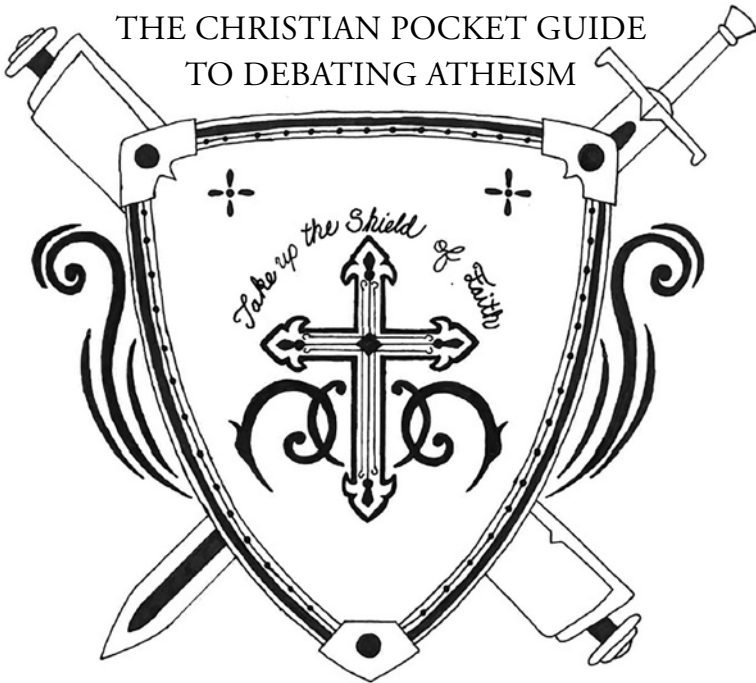


HOW TO
DEBATE
— AN —
ATHEIST

THE CHRISTIAN POCKET GUIDE
TO DEBATING ATHEISM



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to offer Christians necessary information to refute and disprove the most common claims of atheists with not only biblical but also logical thought process. To accomplish this, the following book will cite the most common points made by atheists and offer logical discredits and reference biblical or scientific discredits when necessary. Now while this book will touch on scientific proofs, it will not go into greater detail of the archeological and scientific evidence. There are many other novels that detail this evidence, and as such, the primary point of this book is the logical arguments against atheism as atheists will disregard the evidence anyway. Finally, it is meant to expose the primary fault in the doctrine of atheism and how its primary promotion is not knowledge and freedom but arrogance and ignorance.

In order to accurately understand the failings of atheism, what must first be understood is the mindset of atheists themselves.

Atheist—a person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.

Understand this because it is important, atheists have a great deal of faith in their beliefs. Know that in spite of their claim to the contrary, atheists are very similar to radical Christians—steadfast in their belief that they are right and have absolute trust in a higher authority. The main difference being the higher authority atheists believe in is themselves. While this may seem a harsh judgment, make no mistake, it is accurate. For atheism in itself is arrogance, it is not the belief that there is no God. It is the belief that they represent the highest form of human intellect.

They denote our ancestors as ignorant, superstitious savages, which is not only unfair but inaccurate. It is a mindset many of us take, to look at the technological world around us and think of ourselves as so much greater than the peoples of the past. Yet without those savages, our world would not exist. More importantly, they forget our ancestors were not stupid. Several of these so-called savages were capable of mathematics that would give modern mathematicians trouble, without the use of present-day technology, such as Eratosthenes, a man from ancient Greece who was able to calculate the earth's circumference within a less than five-percent inaccuracy with only pen and paper.

Ask an atheist to replicate this feat without the use of modern technology, just as the superstitious savage did, and see how far they get. In fact, offer the atheist a calculator and see if they can get anywhere as accurate as Eratosthenes. Even with a calculator, this is a difficult task for experienced mathematicians. Yet atheists refer to our ancestors as uneducated, superstitious savages. If so, why is it so difficult to replicate this ancient equation?

This characterization of our ancestors by atheists highlights the arrogance of this belief system. It is also the reason you will most likely not be able to change their mind. Since they see themselves as the zenith of human intellect, they will ignore anything that does not fit within their own narrow worldview. Whatever historical evidence is brought before them will be dismissed as the ravings of superstitious, ignorant men.

Another important factor to remember, not only for atheists but Christians as well, is that the Bible was translated from its original language. It is an important fact which atheists never properly acknowledge the Bible, in particular the Old Testament, was written in ancient Hebrew and translated to other languages before eventually being translated to English. It is important to remember this because ancient Hebrew was a more simplistic language than modern-day English. Ancient Hebrew only had ten thousand words in their language, so several words have multiple meanings in our language today. This is a well-known and established fact that atheists blatantly ignore and instead judge the text by their language and

their mindset. They never acknowledge that the Bible needs to be read with the meanings of symbols and words from the time in which it was written.

If you were to produce twenty ordinary, unrelated eyewitnesses or even one hundred eyewitnesses of an impossible event, the atheist would still dismiss it as delusion or misinterpretation. The very notion that they could be wrong is unthinkable. And this is why atheists are arrogant, not for their belief that God does not exist but for the fact they will not even consider the possibility they could be wrong.

There is no greater fool than the one who believes they are always right.



ATHEISTS' CLAIM: HUMANS DO NOT NEED GOD TO BE MORAL

This is an argument that is used to reinforce the idea that God is an outdated concept. That humans have the ability to make moral decisions without the influence of a supernatural being. This statement is true. An individual does not need God to be moral or to understand morality. That is not something any Christian should claim, for it is a statement of arrogance. Atheists are perfectly capable of being moral. That is not the argument.

While atheists can understand morality without God, they cannot justify it or explain moralities' origin. Claiming there is no God is a claim that there are no greater consequences, that the only true repercussions for their actions are those imposed by society and their own internal sense of morality. Now if this statement was true, the question that should be asked is, why do laws exist at all? The reason is that an individual's sense of morality differs from person to person, at times inconsequentially and other times drastically.

Big or small, the differences in our sense of morality inevitably favor the individual to whom the moral code belongs. It is a fact which is completely understandable as humans will normally do what is best for themselves. In this lies the problem with personal morality. Given the option of two choices, one to benefit themselves and the other to benefit someone else, the average person will almost always choose to benefit themselves. In fact, if the choice for themselves slightly inconveniences the other individual but does not cause

lasting physical harm, they will still choose the option which benefits themselves. Again understandable, if no real harm is being done, who would not make that same choice?

But it must be remembered that in more cases than anyone would like to admit, many individuals would still choose the option which best benefitted themselves even if it caused lasting physical harm to someone else. Making the claim that humans left to their own devices would be completely moral is hubris and ignores all of human history. The claim an atheist makes, directly or indirectly, is that this is to do with religion and will cite prison statistics to show that very few atheists are in jail and commit very few illegal crimes. This is true, though it ignores two very important aspects:

- Atheists do not represent a large portion of the populous. Logically since there are limited numbers of atheists, it is less likely for them to commit crimes in general.
- Atheists blame religion for man's actions. While it is true that some religions do promote violence, it is not an absolute rule. Many religions preach against violence, a fact ignored by atheists. The individuals who do commit crimes do not do so with the blessing of the religion and instead must find ways to justify their abominable actions.

And it is this that highlights the biggest problem with personal morality, human's ability to justify their actions. People make excuses for what they have done or make promises to make amends or by far the most popular justification, "The ends justify the means." This line of thinking presents the single greatest flaw with the capacity of personal morality. It is constantly utilized to allow for immortality because it effectively places any act of wrongdoing on a set of scales. Ultimately allowing for any misconduct as long as you do something you deem morally good in order to expunge the bad.

The fault of this line of thinking is that once you justify one wrongful action, it becomes easier and easier to justify more and more wrong. This is the very essence of human nature and those who claim otherwise have clearly had little to no interaction with human

beings. Examples of this can be seen every day by everyone in various degrees—when you cut someone off in traffic, when you take the last dessert knowing there is someone else who wants it, or when you take delight in the misfortune of someone you do not like. None of these actions are illegal, but they are not right either.

Deep down, we know we should not treat others this way because of how we would feel if the roles were reversed. In the moment, we do not consider other people; we think only of ourselves and what will best benefit us. In the rare instances we consider that we may have been rude or inconsiderate, we find a way to justify it, claim they were rude first, declare they deserved it, or the well and true favorite, "Oh well, I'm a good person. It doesn't matter." We all do it, and anyone who says they do not is either a liar or completely delusional.

So while humans are capable of morality, the fact is we so often choose not to be. And why? Because it is easier for us. This, in essence, is human nature, all of us doing what is best for ourselves. Since atheists believe our moral code is an evolution of our basic survival instincts, it makes perfect sense for our morality to be nothing more than the optimal method for survival. So how can an atheist claim morality? Ironically, they judge their morality by the laws and expectations of society, which, if properly considered, is quite literally atheists judging their morality according to the sense of morality set down by a higher authority than themselves.

Of course, an atheist will claim this fact in their favor, sighting how society is capable of creating a morally just civilization, which, if they honestly think is true, means they have never taken the time to properly study several well-known periods of history. Many societies have prompted and promoted violence and evil more times than any of us would care to admit. And the populous, again more times than we would like to admit, went along with it. Once again, atheists would spin this in their favor, claiming this demonstrates that morality is relative and did indeed evolve with our own biological evolution. And once again, they demonstrate a convenient lack of historical knowledge.

Societies that promoted violence and evil have existed throughout history, and yet there have been those who stood against it, and why? Because they knew it was wrong. What they had been taught could not explain it, and their society could not justify the notion. Yet still, they knew it was wrong. One of the most well known is Oskar Schindler, a Nazi party member who believed the “final solution” was wrong, a belief which led him to risk not only his life but his fortune in order to save twelve hundred Jews.

He impoverished himself for what he knew was right. Atheists would claim this proves humans can be moral without God, conveniently ignoring the hundreds more who justified these atrocities and the thousands more who stood by and did nothing. Atheists may claim this as an isolated incident. If so, again they forget history and need to be reminded of all those who opposed slavery.

There are more examples scattered throughout history in various causes. So how can atheists claim the superiority of human morality when there are so many historical instances of what a collective human sense of morality leads to? At this point, atheists would not attempt to answer this question but instead subvert it. They would bring up every example of individuals who stood against immortality claimed moral by society and point out various flaws with the individual, their argument essentially becoming these people were not perfect so the good they did does not count. This is an impossible standard that atheists would not hold other atheists to, so why would they hold religious people to such high moral standards? Because they are religious? Does religion stop people from being human? If that was true, why would the religion in question have rules for its members to follow in the first place?

Another refute atheists would provide for a society being able to create morality without religion would be by citing civilizations that do have a strong sense of morality. Once again, they conveniently overlook that great moral societies such as the United States of America or the United Kingdom are heavily based on Christian morality, not man's. Make no mistake, atheists can be moral. In each of us there is a sense of morality that goes beyond simple survival, seen in those who protect others who are in danger at the risk of their

own survival. What atheists cannot do is justify any action that does not benefit their own survival. Any choice which aids someone other than themselves is irrational. For in their definition of morality, such a choice is justifiably impossible. Thankfully for all of us, not everyone agrees with atheists.



**ATHEISTS' CLAIM:
ATHEISTS INTERNALIZE
MORALITY WHERE
THEOLOGISTS CLAIM
MORALITY COMES FROM GOD**

The purpose of this statement is avoidance, basically restating that humans do not need religion to be moral. Atheists claim their ability to internalize morality or more appropriately their capability of acting moral without the need of an authoritative figure dictating morality. In this claim, they not only ignore history but human nature itself.

Laws are put into place in order to prevent undesirable actions, such as murder, robbery, and damage to public property, to name a few. Yet people still commit all of these actions and do so by internally justifying the act with their own sense of morality. Atheists claim these examples are only a small portion of the collected populous and not representative of the morality of the society as a whole, an odd declaration considering the numerous times atheists will blame all the individuals of a faith for the actions of a few yet will not make the same claim when an atheist does something wrong.

As well, their internalization of morality is being compared with societies' laws since it cannot be compared with biblical laws. However, atheists seem to fail or willfully neglect to observe that by comparing their morals with society, they are quite literally basing their internal morality on an external authoritative sense of morality.

Yet atheists will claim otherwise, with a statement about societies' morality being subjective or that they do not need any kind of source to justify their internalization of morality, which is nonsense since every justification of morality that atheists offer does so by comparing their morality with that which is universally accepted by society. They are literally just substituting the law of God for the law of society, sounds a bit hypocritical, doesn't it?

Well, it is, and that's the problem. Atheists need some form of comparison because without it, they have no argument to say they are moral. Without societal justification, atheists' only argument for morality is that they simply are moral, and humans are moral despite history proving the contrary. Without previously established rules or morality, their only source of origin for morality is a biological encoded personal survival instinct, which unchecked can be very damaging. This has been seen time and time again in emergency situations when people panic and make things worse than they already are.

A good example of unchecked survival instinct causing problems can be seen in training to save drowning victims. Any expert will tell you when you approach someone who is drowning, you are supposed to approach them from behind. This is because someone drowning is often panicking and will actually try to climb up onto the person trying to save them and potentially drown their rescuer. This is survival instinct, selfish and irrational, and yet morality and logic stemmed from this instinct.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott Strozier lives in Houston, Texas, where he studied electrical power at the University of Houston. He is a professed history buff with a particular interest in various mythologies, military warfare, and ancient Roman society. His hobbies are as varied as his interests and include martial arts, drawing, DIY projects, and creative writing, to name a few. A logical person by nature and enjoying arguing more than he will admit, he understands how difficult it can be to defend your faith in this day and age. Debating with people from a very early age, he has become fairly proficient at arguing, and it is his desire to give other Christians the points and topics he has found most useful in his various casual debates with others. His main goal, with this book, is to assist the faithful in subverting the negative stereotype of Christians being fanatical fools who ignore logic and science.