

Is atheism just another religion?

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◆ Comparing religion and atheism

◇ Philosophical

Both seek to explain the ultimate origin and nature of human life.

◇ Psychological

Religion personalizes the cosmos, establishing purpose in life and hope of afterlife.

Atheism depersonalizes the cosmos.

◇ Sociological

Religions promote supportive, productive communities.

Atheists generally don't.

Atheist community movement:

The Sunday Assembly, www.SundayAssembly.com

Live better. Help often. Wonder more.

◇ Cultural and ethical

Religions promote ethical values. Western religion has a long legacy of propagating culture, especially the values of marriage and family, which establish a structural foundation for society.

Atheism has no such legacy and, as far as I know, no identity with such a concern.

◇ Persecution

Western monotheism — Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Zoroastrianism

Western monotheism traces its origin back through Christianity and Judaism to Zoroastrianism of ancient Persia. This tradition established the concept that belief in the one true God is essential for ultimate well-being and that non-believers are the enemies of God. This theme has been realized in various ways through the centuries, including Christian persecutions of Jews, atheists, and other non-believers, as in pogroms and the Inquisitions. The legacy of anti-Semitism reached its culmination in irreligious Nazism. Today, Muslim terrorism is a realization of the monotheist theme of the destruction of non-believers.

Atheism

Marxist communism stands as a notorious example of an atheist dogma. Marx will go down in history as the concocter of a theory on which psychopathic men based their rise to power in the 1900s. Thanks to Lenin and Stalin and their ilk, the legacy of Karl Marx is a specter of the tsars, only many times worse, spreading an atheist religion well beyond Russia's borders, and setting the example of crushing people anywhere who dare to stand in the way of Communist tanks and Communist machine guns.

◆ **Examples of atheist activity**

- ◇ **Organizations: Freedom from Religion Foundation, ACLU, etc.**
- ◇ **Against *Seven in Heaven Way* in NYC in honor of seven 9/11 firefighters**
- ◇ **Against Ten Commandment displays on public property**
- ◇ **Against crosses as grave markers on public property**
- ◇ **Against "under God" in pledge of allegiance (1892, 1942, 1955)**
- ◇ **Against "In God we trust" in coinage (1864, 1956)**
- ◇ **Against public prayer**

◆ **Other relevant items**

- ◇ **Patriotic songs: Star Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful, America**

◆ **My view**

- ◇ **Atheists seek unattainable ideal of purity from religious vestiges**
- ◇ **Even if such purity could be defined, realizing it would degrade culture by eliminating longstanding religious heritage.**

◆ **Cross as cultural icon of grave**

- ◇ **Graves of family pets**
- ◇ **Crosses next to sites of fatal traffic accidents**

◆ **Weekday names**

- ◇ **Weekday names honor polytheist gods.**
- ◇ **Publicity strategy: use atheist arguments in court case against government use of traditional weekday names**

◆ **Integrative approach that appreciates religious heritage**

- ◇ **Calendar proposal in Philip Bitar, *Why? In Pursuit of the Ultimate Answer: Abridged* (2008), p. 674-680**
- ◇ **10-day week, 3-day weekend, 30-day month, 5-6 extra days at end of year**
- ◇ **Celebration theme for each month:**
New Year, National heritage, Right heritage, *Religious heritage*, Military heritage, State heritage, Independence heritage, Ethnic heritage, Business heritage, Science heritage, Thanksgiving, Christmas
- ◇ **An official holiday weekend per month. 3-day weekend allows a day for end-of-week worship, a day for beginning-of-week worship, and a middle day that interferes with neither worship day.**