



Atheism by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Question: How should a Christian witness to an atheist?

Answer: We should not. If by "witnessing" you mean give your own personal testimony of what you did to become a Christian, then it would be meaningless to an atheist, and even to all people!

We must share Paul's understanding that:

We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake (**2 Corinthians 4:5**).

The reason is that:

Not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends (**2 Corinthians 10:18**).

It is only by obeying the Holy Spirit-inspired word that one becomes a child of God (**Romans 6:1-7; 8:12-17**). A "witness" is someone who personally has seen an event or been miraculously given its facts (such as past prophets had), but no one living today has seen Jesus Christ's life and death in the flesh, or His resurrection, nor have they been given inspired knowledge of the Gospel apart from the written Word of God (**1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:6-9**). Peter preached the miracles in Jesus' life and could claim:

We are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins. (**Acts 10:39-43**)

Only by preaching and teaching what is written in the Bible can anyone be converted to its faith.

The Bible Is a "Christian Evidence" Textbook!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (**Hebrews 11:1**).

Faith is based upon "evidence" and is a solid conviction of "things not seen." Since:

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God
(**Romans 10:17**)

Then the best "evidence" for faith is "the word of God!" The Bible makes statements that point to external data, and thus becomes a "Christian evidence" textbook. For example:

1. Every effect must have an adequate cause.

For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God
(**Hebrews 3:4**).

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1:1**).

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (**Hebrews 11:3**).

All scientific evidence proves that matter is not eternal and must have had a beginning.

2. There is magnificent design and order to life. Jesus pointed to the inherent order in agriculture when He said:

For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come. (**Mark 4:28-29**)

Such order is impossible without the imposition of law from a Higher Power. Speaking of the intricacies of human development and birth, David said:

You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. (**Psalms 139:13-16**)

The millions of details involved in each human's normal birth are mind-boggling, and faith building, indeed. The birth of one human demands an imposing attention to details virtually impossible without God, the Maker.

3. Life cannot/ has not/ will not come from nonliving matter. It is the

God, who made the world and everything in it ... [Who] gives to all life, breath, and all things (**Acts 17:24-25**).

There is no construction of material substance that has been brought to life without adding the living components to the experiment. Science shows life had to be added to the material earth from an outside source.

It is only prejudiced ignorance that would attack Christian faith without dealing with what the Bible, itself, says!

Atheism Equals Ignorance

Speaking of "prejudiced ignorance," one readily thinks of an "atheist," a word meaning, "without faith in deity," hence a person who is without faith in God. No one can be an atheist without denying all the evidence for God's existence and the scientific conclusion that it is fact. In other words, atheists are known for what they confess they do not or cannot know. "Ignorance" is defined as "the absence of knowledge." It is practically impossible, then, for any atheist to ridicule a believer's "faith" because a Bible believer has evidence for that faith, but an atheist has reduced his or her intelligence to denial. The evidence for God is so abundant that an atheist can believe there is no God only by closing his/ her mind to the factual evidence that would prove otherwise! Atheists have a big void throughout their core intellect, and are as Gentiles,

In the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart (**Ephesians 4:17-18**).

Atheists Are Not Consistently Moral

Those who do "not like to retain God in their knowledge" are also known for their lack of redeeming qualities. They are:

Disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful [and] deserving of death (**Romans 1:28-32**).

The "death" here is spiritual, not physical, because "God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting." It describes their spiritual separation from Him. The "un-" in the original text is an "a-" in front of a word, thus negating the term used, just like "a-theist." Listing sins of those who love themselves rather than God, Paul included:

Disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving (**2 Timothy 3:2-5**).

Atheists are known for what they lack because they have a big void throughout their moral core.

Christopher Hitchens Is *Not* Great

Christopher Hitchens, an atheist writer of some note, is listed in Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia on the Internet, as "known for his iconoclasm, anti-clericalism, atheism, antitheism, anti-fascism and anti-monarchism"— all negative attitudes! His objective case and kickative mood is manifestly "anti-." A petulant child must learn to accept authority imposed by someone greater than the child, but it's sad to see "adults" fighting against all authority but their own! It is, therefore, surprising to note that Hitchens gained his American citizenship on his 58th birthday (April 13, 2007), obviously not "for God and country," but only "for country." His British anti-religious

upbringing wasn't distinctive over there, and he must have realized only in a "religious" country could his negativism make a splash and cash!

His new book titled, **God Isn't Great: How Religion Poisons Everything**, supposedly attacks the concept of religion altogether. It is interesting that he wants to ridicule every religion's "god," but singles out "God" for his title. He wrote:

There still remain four irreducible objections to religious faith: [1] that it wholly misrepresents the origins of man and the cosmos, [2] that because of this original error it manages to combine the maximum of servility with the maximum of solipsism, [3] that it is both the result and the cause of dangerous sexual repression, and [4] that it is ultimately grounded on wish-thinking. (*ibid*, p. 4, [numbers added, jtpII])

[1] He further says,

Religion should simply add an apology for foisting man-made parchments and folk myths upon the unsuspecting (*ibid*, p. 205).

He thus "waves his hand at" (ignores) the physical evidence for the creation and the flood in Noah's day (**Genesis 1-3; 6-9**), exactly what Peter said "scoffers" would do (**2 Peter 3:1-9**). The "origins of man and the cosmos" in the Bible is the only account that is scientific and factual! What has Hitchens to offer better than the Bible?

[2] It is precisely because of the Creation and Flood accounts, that the worth of humans may be ascertained. God breathed into man "a living soul" (**Genesis 2:7**) and after the Flood, murder is forbidden because God made man "in His own image" (**Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6**). Humans are not animals and should "have dominion" over the rest of the creation. No "solipsism" here; it must exist in atheist Hitchens' solipsistic mind! What reason can atheists give for the dignity of humans?

[3] Sex is repressed only to those who refuse God's plan for sexual happiness. Sexual intimacy is kept pure by:

- One man's and one woman's devotion to each other for life (**Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:1-4**);
- Condemning sexual abuses before and during marriage (**Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:9**); and
- Children being taught this purity (**Ephesians 6:1-4**).

People who try multiple marriages often abandon God or blame His marriage pattern as unworkable rather than accept their own personal failure to work God's way thoroughly. Many seem to muddle through life without God's guidance, and when finally they find God, they think He failed to find them first and hold Him accountable for their sins! Do atheists respect marriage as constituted by God?

[4] Rather than accepting the factual evidence for one God, one wife, one religion, one worship, and one Lord, Hitchens is the "wish-thinker" who fantasizes it to be otherwise. Jesus warned against following "many" into common destruction (**Matthew 7:13-14**), and Peter warned against those:

[Who] promise them liberty, [while] they themselves are slaves of corruption (**2 Peter 2:19**).

Hitchens wishes there was no God, no Creation, no end of the world, no Judgment, no sins, no need for salvation, no Jesus Christ, no heaven and no hell; but these cannot be "wished" away! What have atheists "wished" in their place?

Take Off Those "Godless-colored" Glasses!

This writer has never personally known, or known of, an atheist whose criticism of God didn't center outside the Bible and almost entirely dwelt upon the paganism, ritualism, weaknesses, sins, hypocrisies and, yes, idolatry, of the **false practitioners** of God's Way. Scripture itself acknowledges these, from the Garden of Eden in **Genesis** all the way through to the churches of Asia in the Book of **Revelation**. Jesus Christ also condemned the Pharisees, hypocrites, and sinners (**Matthew 23; 6; 15**) who either ignore or abandon God's principles. How narrow minded must one be to take some Scriptures as true accounts of the failures of faith and not consider other Scriptures as true accounts of the faithful?

The religions that are based upon perverted Bible teachings, or teachings from outside of the Bible altogether, mean nothing as arguments against what the Bible actually teaches. Hitchens begins every argument from his knowledge of worldly corruption and then he brings in an often-misrepresented Scripture to be interpreted! He may have memorized some Scriptures as a child, but has never learned to rightly divide the word of truth (**2 Timothy 2:15**)!

Who Is "Greater?"

What makes the God of the Bible "great" is not the people who practice in His Name, but the great things He has done to distinguish His Name! Since:

Our great God and Savior [is] Jesus Christ (**Titus 2:13**)

Is Hitchens claiming that Jesus Christ is NOT "great?" Jesus' wisdom made Him "greater than Solomon," and His resurrection from the dead made Him "greater than Jonah" (**Matthew 12:39- 42**). Hitchens is not as wise as Solomon, nor has he been delivered from "the belly of the great fish," so if Jesus is "not great," then Hitchens is not as great as those of whom Jesus is "greater!"

We can only pray that the eyes of Hitchens, and those like him, will be opened before it's too late.

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