

DO ATHEISTS LACK A BELIEF IN GOD?

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LACK OF BELIEF DEFINED

- We only lack a belief in concepts of which we are unaware.
- We can only lack a belief in concepts of which we are ignorant.
- The moment we are aware (no longer ignorant) of a particular concept we make an initial judgment to believe or not to believe



ACTION REQUIRES BELIEF

- Beliefs are either positive or negative. We either believe or do not believe, both are beliefs.
- We only act upon those concepts for which we have a belief. We are unable to act upon those concepts of which we are ignorant or have a lack of belief.

Premise 1: We cannot act upon concepts of which we have a lack of belief

Premise 2: Atheists act upon their claimed lack of belief

Conclusion: Therefore atheists do not have a lack of belief



TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE

- After acquiring knowledge of a particular concept we make an initial judgment. We choose to.....
 - Believe
 - To believe with absolute certainty
 - Not believe
 - To reserve final judgment till further information is received
 - To make a positive assertion that the concept is not true
 - To believe the concept is probably true but has a probability of being false



EXAMPLE

- Do you believe in "phh phum flim flam"?
- By "phh phum flim flam" I mean there is a gaggle of green goons in the middle of Jupiter's moon Europa.
 - A. "I believe there are a gaggle of green goons in the middle of Jupiter's moon Europa" or
 - B. "I believe it is probably true but could be false that there is a gaggle of green goons in the middle of Jupiter's moon Europa" or
 - C. "I do not believe there are a gaggle of green goons in the middle of Jupiter's moon Europa" or
 - D. "I will reserve final judgment on whether there are a gaggle of green goons in the middle of Jupiter's moon Europa"
- These are all beliefs



EXAMPLE

A. I am certain this is true (goonist)

B. I believe it is probably true but it could be false (non-believer)

C. I will reserve judgment till I see more evidence (goon agnostic)

D. I am certain this is not true (agoonist)

- I lack a belief in green goons in Europa (category error and self-refuting, you are saying you are ignorant of the concept, you are not ignorant you just stated the concept)
- To claim lack of a belief in God is to conflate the terms belief and believe.



ARGUMENTS

- **Premise 1:** To lack a belief about God is to be ignorant of the concept of God
 - **Premise 2:** Atheists are not ignorant of the concept of God
 - **Conclusion:** Therefore Atheists do not lack a belief about God
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- **Premise 1:** To believe or not to believe are both beliefs
 - **Premise 2:** Atheists do not believe in the concept of God
 - **Conclusion:** Therefore atheists have a belief about God



ATHEIST OR AGNOSTIC

- An atheist is a person who does not believe there is a God. (from a- "without" + theos "a god")
 - One who makes a positive assertion there is no God.
- An agnostic is a person who does not know if there is a God or not. (from a- "not" + gnostos "(to be) known")
 - One who claims ignorance of whether there is a God or not
- Most "atheists" today engage in linguistic revision and try to hold onto that moniker even though they are more accurately defined as an agnostic.



A-ATHEIST AND A-AGNOSTIC

- As Christians we should not believe in the existence of atheists or agnostics because God does not believe in atheists or agnostics.
- Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**. 19 For what can be known about God **is plain to them**, because God has shown it to them. 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. 21 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. 22 **Claiming to be wise**, they became **fools**
- Psalm 19:1 The heavens **declare** the glory of God, and the sky above **proclaims** his handiwork.
- Psalm 14:1 The **fool** says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.



CHRISTIAN

- A Christian is one who with certainty believes in the existence of God.
- Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.
- Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- One cannot ground certainty in a probability. To make the reference point (justification) for absolutes and certainty to that which is not certain or absolute is absurd.



The End

