**Religion, Worshipping The Devil And More Misconceptions Christians Have About Atheists**

By Salman Khan On 05/28/17

*This* [*question*](https://www.quora.com/What-are-some-things-Christians-dont-understand-about-atheists) *originally appeared on* [*Quora*](https://www.quora.com/)*.* [*Answer*](https://www.quora.com/What-are-some-things-Christians-dont-understand-about-atheists/answer/Salman-Khan-1842) *by*[*Salman Khan*](https://www.quora.com/profile/Salman-Khan-1842)*.*

**There are many I could point out!**

However, before I start listing them down, it’d help to preface that with the following. The bulk of such misunderstanding actually happens due to the feeding of false information by pastors/fathers/other Christian peers. If a Christian just takes the time to talk to us, they’d not have these misunderstandings to begin with. Anyway, here we go:

* **Atheists REFUSE to believe in God**

Some very misguided Christian influential figures promote the idea that we KNOW that there is a God, we just REFUSE to accept it. As a result, the Christians who grew up being influenced by such a misguided propaganda tend to confuse us for irrational arrogant people. If you are a Christian reading this and want to truly understand what our position is on that matter, let me relate it to you.

Think about the Qur’an/Vedas. As a Christian, you don’t accept the validity of those books. You don’t accept the Gods they propose because you are not convinced of the truth of those books. As such, you are an atheist with respect to those Gods. In fact, you are an atheist with respect to the Gods of thousands of other religions. Now imagine a Muslim walking up to you and saying “You*actually believe in my God. You are just refusing to admit it out of arrogance!*”. That is what we atheists feel like when some Christians say that we KNOW their God exists but pretend to not believe. If there are 1000 models of Gods humanity has come up with, you are an atheist for 999 of them and we just go one God further.

We simply don’t believe in your God the same way both we and you don’t believe in all the other Gods.

* **Atheists worship the devil**

This is another bizarre claim made by some Christians. Some Christians have been confused by their pastors/fathers/peers into thinking that because we don’t believe in God, we must be Satan worshipers. God and Satan come in the form of a duality. Every story/gospel/scripture/narrative about Satan already presumes the existence of a God. As such, it doesn’t make any sense to say that we don’t buy the God thing but we totally bought into the Satan thing. Please don’t let people brainwash you with such foolish accusations about us.

* **Atheists are immoral**

Although I’ve met plenty of Christians who fully understand that someone being an atheist doesn’t make them immoral, I’ve also been disappointed by plenty of Christians on this topic. Their reasoning goes something like this:

“*As long as someone believes in a God/Higher Power, we know that they must feel accountable to them. How can then we trust an atheist?*”

That kind of thinking can easily be refuted using your very own life experiences. Since I’m assuming that I’m writing this for a Christian reader, I’ll keep on writing as though my reader is a Christian. So, let us proceed. Did you ever get bullied? Did anyone ever break your heart? Did you witness someone lie? Did someone cheat on you? Did you ever witness dishonesty? How about you bullying/lying/cheating/not being honest/etc?

The point I’m trying to make here is that if a belief in God truly ensures moral behavior and a disbelief encourages immoral behavior, this is what you should have noticed in life:

* No believer ever lying
* No believer ever cheating
* No believer ever bullying
* No believer ever being dishonest
* Atheists topping the chart in all those immoral actions everywhere including your experience

Is that the reality you live in? I suspect not. If you still don’t trust us, please do the following. Gather data on the prison population of your country. Better yet, do it for as many nations as you can. If being an atheist truly makes people that immoral, the prisons should be flooded with a significantly disproportionate and high number of atheists. That simply isn’t the case.

Considering the world we currently live in, I’d like to give you a very practical thing to consider. Imagine that your government just issued a nationwide terror-alert because a bomb went off at a mall and some people got stabbed somewhere else. Who would you think are these offenders? People screaming out “Atheism is Great” / “Atheism hu Akbar”? If you have been living under a rock thus far, please google “recent terrorist attacks” and just go through and see how many were atheists. In any case, if you wish to know more about how we deal with morality and moral issues, please consider the following:

Anyway, I’ll end my answer here. Just know that I was talking about the Christians who misunderstand us, as such, it might not be an accurate representation of what every Christian believes about us atheists.

**Do some atheists feel guilty about indoctrinating their children with atheism and not giving them hope and a moral compass?**

Salman Khan

Salman Khan, Anti-theist Atheist Answered Apr 17

Would I feel guilty about indoctrinating my children with atheism?

Yes! How about theism? Well, the same.

I have no interest in indoctrinating my kids with either theism or atheism. I want to try the following with them:

Try to make them good human beings.

Try to make them critical thinkers.

Try to make them well educated.

Try to make them highly skilled.

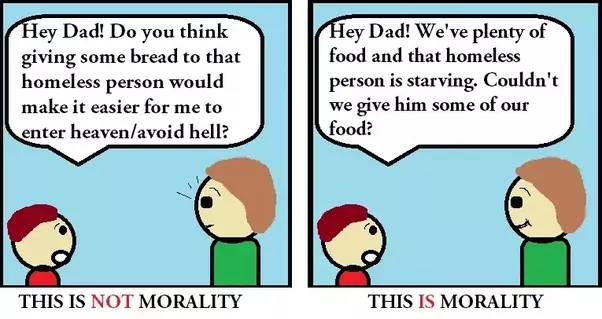
They can then go believe or disbelieve in any number of Gods as they see fit. I wouldn’t feel like my parenting had failed either way. You may interpret that list up there as hierarchical in the sense that being a good human being is the first priority.

As for the “hope” bit, I really don’t know what you mean. Is it your understanding that we atheists aimlessly roam around feeling all desolate not knowing what to do with life? If so, then let me inform you that nothing motivates you to go do stuff and make something of your life more than the realization that this is probably it.

It’s like you can’t understand why that prisoner pictured to the right might want to savor every bite of his last meal. You can’t fathom why he just won’t throw it all in the bin!

**But what about a moral compass? Where would my kids get one?**

I hope they won’t get a religious moral compass. I am fine with them being both religious and moral. However, the thought of them being religious and labeling that as morality is VERY disturbing to me. Please allow me to explain myself:



What’s happening with the kid in the first picture is not morality. This kid is either terrified of hell or wants to use someone to get into heaven. In the best case scenario, where the kid gives food to the homeless to follow God’s way, the kid is merely obeying orders. In contrast, the kid on the right is ACTUALLY moral. That kid’s concern about the homeless person comes from a genuine concern about their well being and the recognition that we are responsible to take care of each other. THAT is what I want for my kids.

I don’t care if my kids take Jesus/Allah/etc seriously or turns into more strident atheists than I myself am. All I want for them is to turn into wonderful and compassionate human beings. I don’t think that they can genuinely become that by simply following orders. On top of that, is the person who charges you money for you friendship really your friend? What about the person who promises to protect you if you pay them? Is that love? I submit that that’s neither friendship nor love.

For all these reasons, I will stick to not using orders from gods/promises of heaven/threats of hell to make my kids moral.

**Note: Somewhat related to Athiests are Agnostics. Agnostics say there might be a God; however, they’ve seen no convincing evidence that there is one. Some describe themselves as Secular Humanists. Those I’ve known have been intelligent, morally upstanding, active citizens who contribute positively to their communities. They don’t criticize me for being a “believer” and I don’t criticize them for being different from me. That way we can enjoy each other’s company.**