

## One Man's Perspective on Aggressive Atheists; John Hendee

In this writing I want to share my thoughts about those I will choose to call the 'aggressive, evangelizing, advocating atheism atheists'. (I'll refer to them as **AEAAA**).

They are a small fraction of the small atheist population in the world. They seem to be fighting for a cause, as those who are up in arms and feel challenged to attack, discredit and humiliate those who believe in God.

They are actively trying to 'convert' other unbelievers in atheism to their way of thinking, or damage or destroy the faith of those who do believe in God (at least God of the Bible). I don't see them going after Hindu's, Muslims or Buddhists very much.

Oh I know some of them tie it to political issues and believers or churches having certain special rights or benefits from the government that others might not have, or Christians imposing their beliefs on them in the public sector. I'm not writing about those kinds of issues. That is a different issue.

But suffice to say, I don't need the ten commandments in public places, nativity scenes out and about, crosses on public lands etc. for me to maintain my faith in God. It isn't built on those things; never has been, never will be. But for me the issue I'm addressing goes in a different direction.

I've known many atheists over the years. Many have been fine people; responsible, upright citizens, good neighbors and work associates.

I've seen many of them become Christians, much to their own initial surprise, but to their joy in life. C.S. Lewis, the author of the Chronicles of Narnia books and once an atheist, wrote of his conversion process in a book he wrote and titled, "Surprised by Joy."

I've found that there are a number of basic things that impact a person to become or declare themselves an atheist. I haven't found anyone yet who has said they were 'born' an atheist.

Many become atheists through a secular, evolutionary education. Any one of many science classes in high school or college seems to make it clear that one must choose evolution or God. Many former atheists, even scientists, will testify of that.

There are those who become atheists as a result of some crisis, loss or suffering in their life. In their thinking, they couldn't reconcile the tragic event with a God of love.

I have seen that for some atheists that loss was the loss of a relationship with their dad through abandonment, abuse, disagreement, conflicts, feeling of rejection or death. For some it was a father who was very harsh with them in one way or another. Their anger toward their earthly father affected their rejection of a Heavenly Father. That is understandable but sad. They aren't the same.

Many become or remain atheists due to the Moral issue. They know that if they believe in God, they will have to change their life style. Since they don't want to do that, it is 'out' with God. Oh, I've known many who 'played this card.' That was basically my approach when I was an unbeliever. My concept of God was skewed and wrong. I thought God was a kill joy. I've learned he is anything but that.

Some people have used the inconsistency of other's Christian life as an excuse to dismiss it all. That is what my dad did for 79 years of his life. He used among other things one of my married aunts who ran off with the choir director at her church as his reason for rejecting his need for God. "I'm better than she was."

I remember when I didn't believe in God. I did my best to avoid those who did. I wanted nothing to do with them. From where I stood, they didn't have anything I wanted, needed or was interested in. I had no interest in conversing or interacting with any of them about anything. I thought they were rather foolish and I had no need for them in my life.

Over the years I have been amazed at the irritation, annoyance, bitterness and anger some atheists (AEAAA) hold for those who do believe in God. Avoiding them isn't part of their strategy. A 'head on assault' is the plan. Take them down, humiliate and ridicule them for their silly 'faith in God'.

It is most interesting how some of them (AEAAA'S) seem to make it a life mission to challenge and discredit those who believe in God. You can even Google and find their efforts to do so related to well known Christian leaders who used to be atheists. You can Google most all former atheists who have become Christians and are well known; you will find someone who tries to discredit them, their conversion, their explanations, their arguments and reasons for becoming a Christian.

It seems as if the AEAAA lay awake at night, irritated at what they see has happened in the lives of others who used to be counted among their ranks. They apparently feel that those who have become believers are 'an affront, a personal embarrassment, a serious challenge' to their own unbelief system. It appears they feel it necessary, their life task to 'take them on' in an effort to protect their own 'unbelief system'. They will not be proven wrong by the other's foolish decision or beliefs.

Their irritation and annoyance (of the AEAAA's) seem rather absurd to me. Maybe they are just 'bored' atheists. Is this the best they can find to do with the little bit of time they have left?

**I assume most all of them (AEAAA) don't believe in God or life after death and that when they die it is over. Lights out. Get a dust pan and mop or broom to clean it all up. Finished, over, end of game, lights out, plug is pulled, shut the door, it's all she wrote, blank screen, nothing more, close the book.**

They could die tomorrow or the next day or live another 20 or 40 years before cancer, heart attack, or something gets them. It is reported that about 54,000,000 people die every year. Sooner or later they will be in that report.

## **That being the case whatever time they have left IS IT!**

What is absolutely amazing to me is why anyone who truly believes that would waste 5 minutes, 5 hours, days, weeks, or months:

Writing books, developing arguments for their position,  
Preparing and giving speeches,  
Debating others, formally or informally,  
Posting on FB,  
Challenging those who don't agree with them,  
Holding protests, or campaigns with banners, etc.  
Trying to discredit those who do believe,  
Getting a degree so they can teach somewhere propagating their views as they try to make their own converts to their non-faith (faith that there is nothing more.).

### **So what if they win the argument that it all ends when you die?**

Give them a trophy. Big deal. Good grief. What an empty victory.

If I believed what they do, (and I used to) I would consider it an absurd, incredible, pathetic, boring, useless waste of the little bit of time that I had left, whatever time that was, trying to convince others they are wrong in believing that there is life after death.

Who gives a hoot if others believe it or not. I wouldn't want to waste my precious little bit of time trying to convince them that they are wrong instead of spending my time doing something I found fun, pleasurable, enjoyable, etc. So I'm trying to convince others that there is NO hope after they die?,.....again.....how bored can you get?

How pathetic it must seem to them (AEAAA) to watch others live out their life thinking there is something more. I guess they feel a 'moral obligation' to rescue those foolish ones from their pathetic beliefs. Again, who gives a hoot?

So what if they (AEAAA) feel judged by some of them (believers) and their life style. Who gives a X#@&# what anyone else believes.

Oh, so spending my time trying to convince others that there is NO hope is honorable? Ya. Sure. Now that is surely a distorted view of honor. What difference does it make if I persuade some of them into believing that when we all die, it is over?

What a life mission! What Good NEWS I have for them! "There is NO hope." Is their drive in converting people from this false hope driven by love and compassion for those poor creatures of faith? How moving! How inspiring! How rewarding! How fulfilling. How loving. Don't you feel better now?

And to think, instead of eating, drinking, drugging, sexing, etc. you were sacrificing your precious little time to convince humanity that they have no HOPE. What an exciting life mission. “Oh it gives me goose bumps just thinking about it.”

Oh the gratitude others must have for being educated in the knowledge that they are about to return to a pile of ‘star dust’. You can go to sleep at night feeling satisfied you made it clear to others that when they die, it is all over. Poof.

Ya, sure. If it wasn’t so sad, I would say it is pathetically hilarious. But there is nothing hilarious about it.

Now, if the AEAAA’s are right and it all ends with death, we all lose at that point. But I guess no one will know they lost. For some, thinking they will go into oblivion is probably assurance for them in a weird way.

But if the ‘God believers’ are right then the AEAAA’s lose big time. The Bible speaks of life after death without God as being “outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.” I assume that means the people who are there are grieving over their bad decision. And to think of what they could have had.

The amazing thing is that there IS HOPE, even for AEEEA’s. Their not believing in God or life after death doesn’t eliminate it all.

But it would be well worth their (AEAAA’s) time to find a reasonable person, a believer, who is educated in the faith, and sit down with them and listen with an open mind and heart. Take a serious look at it.

There are many worthwhile videos to watch on YouTube that will help show there is good reason to believe the Christian message unless you have a ‘locked in’, predisposed mindset that nothing can change. **The interesting thing is that many of these videos are of people who used to be atheists.**

Josh McDowell ; Josh **was an atheist** who set out to disprove Christianity. You can see and hear his life story by going to YouTube and look for: Josh McDowell Story (updated). You can also see other videos of his on YouTube; The Bible is True; Prophecies Jesus Fulfilled; Is the Bible Reliable and Accurate?

Lee Strobel; Lee **was an atheist**. You can find many of his videos on YouTube; Atheist to Evangelical; The last Bible Verse I read as an Atheist; The case for Christ; the Case for a Creator

Dr. David Wood; David **was an atheist**. You can find many of his videos on YouTube; Why I am a Christian; Atheism, Islam and the Dawkins Dilemma.

Dr. Jonathan Sarfati; He is a physicist with many videos on YouTube; The Greatest Hoax on Earth, 1 or 2

**The Atheist Delusion**; a 60 minute video on YouTube. Very interesting.



I wrote the following a few years back.

#### **ATHEISM IS A RELIGION**

First I need to say something to all those who consider themselves to be disciples of Jesus.

As a follower of Jesus we are called, may I say, commanded to love atheists.

Some among us used to be atheists.

Many of them are sincere people, just looking for the best way to explain and live life.

Be kind.

Listen.

Love them.

Don't go to war with them.

Don't be afraid of them.

Love them.

If they choose to 'war' against you, love them anyway. (Do you really need some 'verses' to explain why?)

Good grief anyway.

Most of them, just like most of us who have come to Christ have had questions, doubts or objections about Jesus or church. Most of them have never had the opportunity to sit down with someone to hear a good and clear presentation of who Jesus really is and what life with him is all about. Many of them have just 'fallen in line' with what some professor or 'star' said that seemed cool or popular. Maybe they knew someone who is a bad example of being a Disciple, and they concluded they certainly didn't want to be one. OR they just had bad teachings about who God is and what he really wants from us. Many of those reasons seemingly give people a good reason to 'chuck' God. They conclude it is better to 'believe' in nothing than something that seems to be a weird. That was my scenario for many years.

Now, back to my simple observation. I'm a simple guy but I've worked with a lot of people in life.

I know others have probably already written more deeply about this than I am here.

I'm going to try and keep it short. Obviously much more could be said.

After writing out my thoughts below, I Goggled 'religions of the world' and Atheism shows up on most of the charts found there. On most studies atheists account for less than 3% of the world population. That 3% is becoming more vocal in these days, but so what. It really isn't anything new. And what is worst, a person who claims to be an atheist or a person who claims to be a disciple but is way off track in their teaching or life style? The later is often on the 'inside' doing much more damage to the cause than any atheist could ever dream of.

Now some atheists might not want to be thought of or seen as religious but many in the world see them as such. It appears to me that atheism has all the common features of any world religion.

They have a belief system they attempt to spread and solicit followers for (convert them that is), they have doctrine or teachings and beliefs and they espouse those core beliefs as if they were 'scripture'. They worship, believe in and trust their beliefs. They defend their beliefs. They can become dogmatic. They profess that THEY have the Truth. For most of them it is a system of belief to be spread.

And for every atheist you find, you are likely to find a different explanation or interpretation of all the following items in their belief system. There is no authoritative 'bible' for atheists that I have seen.

While I haven't read it, someone wrote a book titled "I don't have enough faith to be an Atheist". It might be a good read, but the title explains it clearly. To be an atheist you have to have a great faith that the beliefs you hold to are THE TRUTH. If you are wrong, you are in big trouble.

I see atheism as a religion based on the following short list.

**Atheists and atheism have:**

A god.

\* a god or really various gods; they vary some from atheist to atheist; there is NO ONE god or standard,

\*Their god is man himself, 'mother nature' (some unidentifiable force at work making all that happens in nature happen.). The god might be a combination of ideas, philosophies or viewpoints which try and explain and account for how we, much less everything else that is here on earth (including earth) got here, what it's purpose is, is there any meaning to it all, how life is to be lived, etc.

**Faith.** They have faith that their ideas, explanations and philosophies are right. I've also discovered that many of them have deep, serious inner doubts about their own views or thoughts. And that is understandable.

**Hope,** They have to hope that they are right. If not, they are in big trouble.

**Beliefs or 'doctrine',** They have their beliefs about God, god, life, existence, etc. They vary greatly from atheist to atheist. Each one has to sort of make up their own system in as much as there is NO one definitive system set out for them. So each one picks and chooses what seems to make sense for them.

**Moral system,** They have their own system of beliefs. They are varied and most have to be based on a Godless, evolutionary philosophy which in the end is very pessimistic, negative, self centered and abusive.

**It has laws or commandments.** "Thou shalt nots" and "thou shalts".

**It has traditions;** Oh there are many of them.

**Salvation.** Salvation if you can call it that is 'death.' That is more of an escape than salvation.

**Heaven;** Is what you make of your life here on earth.

**Atheists 'worship'** (Webster; to regard with extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.) their favorite writers, spokes persons, ideas, philosophies and life style.

**And atheism:**

Claims to be the way, the truth and the life.

Claims to be right.

It promises a lot. Freedom, intellectual self respect, etc.

It has it's preachers or spokesmen. A few of them are well known. It is interesting how some have claimed that some well known people in history are to be counted among their ranks, while many of those same people stated they weren't atheists.

**Atheism:**

Seeks to proselyte or convert people to their viewpoint or faith.

It promotes itself; books, pamphlets, brochures, classes, seminars, bill boards, TV shows, political campaigns,

DVD's, CD's, etc. etc.

Often mocks those of 'other faiths'.

Often judges those of 'other faiths' as not being very intelligent but instead superstitious or ignorant.

Often is intolerant of those of 'other faiths.'

It has its writings,  
writers,  
gatherings,  
web sites,  
groups,  
teachings,  
'evidences' for no God,  
'evidences for its gods,  
Testimonies from followers.

It has its' belief in its' version of creation, or how everything came into existence or got here; evolution; no creation; everything just came out of nothing or has always been here evolving.

Some of their 'professors or wise men' like to attempt to belittle, mock and quiet those in their school or college classes who have different view points or religious beliefs. Those professors who 'pontificate' and mock those who differ from them, and seek to embarrass and humiliate them, are really 'little' people. Big titles, little people. Any who act that way are actually insecure and they hide behind their academic titles, and positions. They can be 'very arrogant' about their religion or faith. THEY have the truth.

While I respect the right of those who claim to be atheists, I am also aware that many of them are such because of:

Bad experiences with some religious people. And they dumped God because of that.

Bad experiences, losses or suffering in life. And they dumped God because of that.

Never having heard a clear presentation from a legitimate person as to what Jesus is all about. Atheism seems like the most logical route based on the information at hand. I understand that.

Bad education in school where they were taught in a closed system of evolution is the truth, not a theory (a poor one).

With others it is that they don't want to give up their chosen life style; they like what they are doing. It is like was said of the Israelites in the Old Testament when it said that 'they all did what was right in their own eyes.' Now to do that, or to live MY WAY, I have to get rid of God somehow. That is what is behind some atheists choices. It is a 'license' to live with the morals they want and to accept God would hinder that. It is easier to 'get rid of God' (Good luck) than it is to think about giving up my life style.

Or as the Bible does say, "The fool says in his heart, there is no God." It is a heart issue. A hard heart leads to a closed mind.

I have atheist friends. I have many Christian friends who used to be atheists. My dad was a skeptic till he was 79.

Hey Disciples of Jesus:

Just love them. Listen to them. Share with them if they are even open to listening. You will likely see 'chinks' in their armor at some point. . Some of them just haven't had anyone share ANY GOOD REASONS WITH THEM AS TO WHY THEY SHOULD BELIEVE AND FOLLOW JESUS. And you surely aren't going to ARGUE them into changing their mind. Listen, share, love.



