

II. Let Go of Your Faulty Premise and Bow Your Knee to the Savior - King Jesus

The philosopher, Jean Paul Sartre, said, "That God is silent I cannot deny. That everything within me cries out for God I cannot forget."

Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts..."

Bertrand Russell, "What will you do, Mr. Russell, if after you die you find out there is a God? What will you say to Him?" And Russell answered, "I'll tell Him He just did not give me enough evidence."

Romans 1:18-22 "¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools."

Titus 3:3-6 "³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men."

Just Be Good for Goodness' Sake

Pastor Brad Bigney / Grace Fellowship Church / December 14, 2008

I. Look at the Problem You've Got without God!

Psalm 53:1-3 "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one."

Psalm 16:1-2 "Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. O my soul, you have said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You.'"

A. Many People Don't Want God Anymore – But They Still Want the Safety Net of a Free-Floating Morality and Justice

"The fact is, if there is no God, then all moral statements are arbitrary, all moral valuations are subjective and internal, and there can be no external moral standard by which a person's feelings and values are judged."

"As things are now, everything is up for grabs. Nevertheless: napalming babies is bad. Starving the poor is wicked. Buying and selling each other is depraved... There is such a thing as evil. All together now: Sez Who? God help us." Arthur Allen Leff, "Unspeakable Ethics, Unnatural Law," *Duke Law Journal* (December 1979)

Five of the 'New Ten Commandments' according to Richard Dawkins in *God Delusion*

1. Do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you.
2. In all things, strive to cause no harm.

3. Treat your fellow human beings, your fellow living things, and the world in general with love, honesty, faithfulness and respect.
4. Do not overlook evil or shrink from administering justice, but always be ready to forgive wrongdoing freely admitted and honestly regretted.
5. Live life with a sense of joy and wonder.

(God Delusion, Richard Dawkins, p. 263)

- Apart from God why should anyone think of someone other than themselves?
- And what's going to sustain any sense of joy and wonder in my life?

“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no other good. Nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.” *River Out of Eden ~ A Darwinian View of Life*, Richard Dawkins, 1996.

Only God can provide the security net and the foundation of justice that human heart longs for.

Psalm 89:14 “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.”

Psalm 33:4-5 “For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.”

“Every normal person recognizes that we must have moral rules that transcend mere men - that is, rules that come from above, and are truly authoritative - in order for true freedom to exist. He who ignores these rules denies in principle the safeguard of human prosperity, and invites tyranny.

The village atheist cannot see this, because he is blinded by his hatred of God. He thinks the existence of a sovereign God limits his freedom, when in reality it is God who establishes it. If human rights are given to us by man, they can just as easily be taken away by man. You may praise the Golden Rule, but when you take God out from behind it, all morality loses its power. The atheist has no Golden Rule because he has no Golden Ruler. The atheist has, in fact, a gold-plated rule. It has the appearance of morality (stolen from religion) but a cold iron core. The gold will rub off eventually, and the truth of atheistic culture will tarnish history once again. *The Return of the Village Atheist*, Joel McDurmon, pg. 28

B. Without God You Don't Just Struggle to Make Right Choices – You Struggle to Make Sense Out of Life

Genesis 1:26-27 “God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air.... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.’”

Isaiah 43:6-7 “... Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth – Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory...”

"We are here because one odd group of fish had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures... because the earth never froze entirely during an ice age; because a small and tenuous species, arising in Africa a quarter of a million years ago, has managed, so far, to survive by hook and by crook. We may yearn for a higher answer - but none exists. This explanation, though superficially troubling, if not terrifying, is ultimately liberating and exhilarating." Stephen Jay Gould, quoted in *2000 Years of Disbelief, Famous People with the Courage to Doubt*, by James A. Haught, Prometheus Books, 1996