

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

ARE YOU AN "ATHEIST"?

ISN'T ATHEISM LIBERAL, OR  
COMMUNIST?

YOUR RELIGION IS ATHEISM/  
SCIENTISM/EVOLUTIONISM ETC.

WHAT IS YOUR EVIDENCE  
ATHEISM IS TRUE AND CORRECT?

AREN'T YOU MORE OF AN  
"ANTI-THEIST" THAN AN  
"ATHEIST"?



Freethinkers Around Redlands



Desert Atheist Community



Victor Valley



Atheists & Agnostics

# ATHEISM

AN ATHEIST  
DISCUSSES ATHEISM

## Are you an “atheist”?

“Atheist” is the word expected and widely understood. It is a useful term when conversational expediency dictates, but it has serious limitations.

People who apply this label usually mean it in one of two forms:

- 1- ‘without-theism’
- 2- ‘I believe the supernatural claims of theism are wrong’.

An analogy would be, “I am without golf”, which is not a claim about a sport you play. Also; “I won’t play golf” is equally not a positive claim about what activities you do, just one which you will not.

## Isn't atheism liberal or Communist?

No, it is either: 1-without theism or 2-thinking the supernatural claims of theism are wrong. Liberalism and communism are political philosophies unrelated to the supernatural. Atheists come in all flavors. (Since many associate atheism with liberalism, socialism, etc., it strengthens your statement to point it out directly.)

## Your religion is Atheism/Scientism/Evolutionism etc.

“Atheism” exists only as a reaction to theism, so if theists stopped talking about theism, no one would find an occasion to discuss non-theism. A reaction to theism is not a belief system. No prophets or holy books guide people skeptical of the accuracy of theist claims. Almost all working definitions of “religion” require a supernatural component. Not being a theist or thinking theism is wrong entails no supernaturalism.

“Scientism” is dogmatic philosophical naturalism (science knows everything), not actual science. Science is the method we use when we want to know something and mitigate as much of our own bias as possible, another name for it is “methodological naturalism.” The difference might appear subtle, but simply put; philosophical naturalism is science knows everything while methodological naturalism means the only way we can know is via measurement, testability, empirical evidence, falsifiability, and peer review.

“Evolutionism” is a pejorative rhetoric term meant to paint an understanding of accurate scientific models as a belief system. It is not. Evolution is just changing over time; biological evolution is the only working theory to explain the diversity of life on earth. All the evidence points towards it, and none contradicts. You either understand biological evolution, or you don't.

## What is your evidence atheism is true and correct?

Two different answers for two forms of “atheism”:

1- ‘Without theism’ > null hypothesis. Default position until Objective Evidence has been presented for any claim is non-belief. 2- ‘I believe the supernatural claims of theism are wrong’ > The absence of Objective Evidence (which could and should exist) is evidence of absence, not wholly conclusive... but highly suggestive. AKA; theists have never met their burden of evidence.

## Aren't you more of an “anti-theist” than an “atheist”?

I don't consider myself “anti” as much as “pro”. I'm doing my best to be pro-fact, pro-accuracy, pro-skepticism, and pro-critical thinking. If your supernatural claims are not factual or accurate, then your religion is “anti-factual” and “anti-accuracy”.

If you're not skeptical or thinking critically, you could be taken advantage of or bamboozled with ease, bringing along others whom you influence and who trust you, on the wrong path.