

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

MY RELIGION MAKES ME A GOOD PERSON. MY MORALITY COMES FROM MY FAITH.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MORALS FROM?

ATHEISTS ARE BAD PEOPLE.

YOU JUST WANT TO SIN.

YOU WANT TO LIVE BY YOUR OWN RULES, BE YOUR OWN GOD.

Mo • ra • l • i • ty



Freethinkers Around Redlands



Victor Valley



Atheists & Agnostics

MORALITY

AN ATHEIST
DISCUSSES MORALITY

My religion makes me a good person. My morality comes from my faith.

Not if the supernatural claims of your religion are wrong. You're a moral person because you're a descendant member of a social species who evolved in societies where cooperative symbiotic relationships served as a survival advantage. People figured out stealing, rape and murder were abhorrent anti-social behaviors without being told by a divine source if divinity is fictional. Humanity survived well enough before religion was invented if morality existed before religion, so religion co-opted morality from humanity. Religion can't be a source of morality if religion stole morality from humanity in the same way the moon can't be a source of light if the light came from the sun.

Where do you get your morals from?

If your claimed version of a god doesn't exist, the same way you do. Morality naturally selects because homo sapiens are social animals, we thrive living in communities where anti-social behavior is antithetical to cohesion.

Atheists are bad people.

Does this have any bearing on the supernatural claims of your religion being factual? The most peaceful nations in the world have the least religious people, the most violent are often the most religious. "Good people do good things and bad people do bad things, but for good people to do bad things... this takes religion." -Steven Pinker

You just want to sin.

Incoherent, because "sin" is commonly defined as 'crime against god'. If your claimed version of a god exists, then crimes can't be committed against them.

Atheists practice some of the same moral imperatives the religious do and often with more vigor than the religious because we don't believe that anyone supernatural will forgive and forget about our transgressions against other conscious creatures and our planet. Because we don't believe in an after-life where a god doles out proper justice, we tend to be more insistent on perceived justice in this life from ourselves and others.

If you mean by "sin", 'acting against god's will', then I would have to pick one god from many to decide this god's "will". Properly socialized humans know right from wrong and don't need the supernatural to dictate terms. I also don't need the threat of hell to do the right thing.

You want to live by your own rules, be your own god.

No, you don't get to assign me motives. I want my internal model of reality to match actual reality as closely as possible. The only way to effectively do this is always with Objective Evidence and never with faith² (religious belief without evidence). I also want to maximize the good in the world and minimize as much evil as possible with regards to conscious creatures able to experience well-being relative to unnecessary ill-being.