

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN
GOD?

YOU REJECT THE EVIDENCE FOR
MY GOD.

YOU'RE CLOSED MINDED, NOT
OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF MY
GOD'S EXISTENCE.

I DON'T HAVE A RELIGION; I
HAVE A CLOSE PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

I'VE HAD A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
OF GOD/SUPERNATURALISM.

RELIGION X IS WORSE THAN MINE.

MY RELIGION GIVES MY LIFE
MEANING.



Freethinkers Around Redlands



Desert Atheist Community



Victor Valley



Atheists & Agnostics

RELIGION

AN ATHEIST
DISCUSSES RELIGION

Why don't you believe in god?

No objective evidence for the existence of anyone's claimed version of a god.

You reject evidence for my god.

This argument is a conflation of the difference between a rejection and objection. I can't reject something which doesn't exist; I can object like an attorney in court if you've offered some alleged evidence which requires subjectivity. There is no Objective Evidence for your "Extra powerful human-like god. There are some hearsay arguments and simply written non-contemporary historical declarations, but no Objective Evidence.

You're closed to the possibility of my God's existence.

I'm open to having my mind changed by Objective Evidence, which is the only way we have of knowing anything. This dependence upon Objective Evidence shaping our understanding is not to be confused with the claim "we have OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE for everything."

I have a close personal relationship with Jesus.

"I don't drink cola; I have a close personal relationship with soft drinks." This argument is a recent ploy of Christian "apologetics" (reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory

religious doctrine) to convolute the conversation. If you believe in the existence and resurrection of Jesus -> you believe he is the "Christ" (savior) -> you are calling yourself a 'Christian' -> Christianity is a religion by definition. Cut & dry, black & white. Belief in Jesus as a Christ is a subset of Christianity, which is a subset of religion in the same way cola is a subset of soft drinks. If Christianity is not a religion, then it's taxable like someone's close personal relationship with cola.

I've had a personal experience of god/supernaturalism.

The clear majority of these claims occur within the cultural context of where a person lives or was raised. People in India tend to have visions of Hindu gods and people in Alabama tend to have visions of Jesus, nothing about this is surprising, and your belief isn't swayed by their personal experience in the same way mine isn't by yours. Everyone is equally convinced their personal experience is legitimate despite mutual exclusivity. If the Hindu god Brahma created the universe; Yahweh didn't, and vice versa. Both claims cannot simultaneously be right, but both can be wrong. Your personal experience is subjective; no one else can experience what you have personally.

If we could test your personal experience under laboratory conditions, it would cease being personal. The brain is immensely powerful and continually doing things of which we are not consciously aware.

The mind is so desperate for patterns and answers it would prefer to invent a fake solution than have none. Watch Brain Games on NatGeo for numerous fascinating examples of how our brains are perpetually playing tricks with our perceptions and running the show behind the scenes.

Religion X is worse than mine.

Does this have any bearing on the supernatural claims of your religion being factual? If there is no such thing as supernatural then all such applications are wrong and they would all be wrong in the same way and to the same degree.

Religion gives my life meaning.

Not if your religion is wrong about its supernatural claims. In this case, you are giving your life meaning and erroneously ascribing it to your religion in the same way someone from another religion thinks they get meaning from a different supernatural source. Many equate the meaning that religion can give to a person's life as their "Way" of life that is now filled with instructions on how to live well. This includes what foods to eat, what days to celebrate and worship, right and ethical living and to be obedient to one's god's laws. The supernatural is not required to find profound meaning in life.