

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN OBJECTIVE MORAL VALUES?

WEREN'T EVIL DICTATORS ATHEISTS TOO? MAO, STALIN, HOXHA, THE KIMS OF NORTH KOREA?

I LIKE MY CHURCH, AND IT'S FULL OF GOOD PEOPLE.

WE DO LOTS OF CHARITY WORK IN MY RELIGION.



Freethinkers Around Redlands



Desert Atheist Community



Victor Valley



Atheists & Agnostics

VALUES

AN ATHEIST
DISCUSSES VALUES

Do you believe in objective moral values?

Value requires an entity to do the valuing; all who hold values are necessarily subjective agents, so the concept of "objective value" is incoherent. However, we can make objective statements about moral actions since 'morality' is a definitional-standard framework. You can't get an 'ought' from an 'is', but if we (as subjective agents) agree to value the 'ought' then we can make objective 'is' moves within a framework. When discussing morality, you've already decided you're talking about right vs wrong because it is embedded in the definition by the word creators (us, and we are subjective agents). We can make it move within a framework. Reconsider this. I believe move is correct.

Weren't evil dictators atheists too? Mao, Stalin, Hoxha, the Kims of North Korea?

Yes, they suppressed traditional religious expression because they couldn't afford to allow competition for the control of minds. Demanding worship like religious figures, this is only an argument against uncritical thinking and worship. Bad people not following your precepts derived from the supernatural doesn't give credence to your precepts being factual. These men also didn't play golf every day but saying someone "doesn't play golf" tells you nothing of what they are doing or motivates them. People act on what they do think, not on what they don't think. These men were megalomaniacs, despots, narcissistic, deranged and possibly mentally ill. These are positive contributing factors to inspire anti-social behavior, not skepticism of supernaturalism. Ask Anders Breivik why he killed 77 Norwegians he says, "preserve European Christendom." If you asked Stalin why he executed and starved tens of millions of Russians, he wouldn't say "Since there is no god, anything is permissible." They were political dissidents to him, and power and malice motivated him, but he was not motivated by a lack of theism or thinking theism is wrong.

I like my church, and it's full of good people.

No doubt your fellow parishioners are pleasant and likely moral. However, if the supernatural claims of your religion are not accurate, they do moral deeds in spite of believing non-factual ideas and not because they have them. "Religion gives good people bad reasons to do good when good reasons are available." -Sam Harris

We do lots of charity work in my religion.

Does this have any bearing on the supernatural claims of your religion being factual?

You need Jesus.

I can't need something which doesn't exist, the historical evidence for the existence of Jesus is abysmally poor. Since there is no Objective Evidence for an after-life, the importance of Jesus in obtaining said afterlife is non-existent. His mission to spread the "Gospel of the Kingdom of God" describes heavenly order on earth and heaven after death to come and the "dependence on God" by his people in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven on earth and afterlife.