
Subject: Re: Questions I would like to pose to athiests
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Sat, 15 Jan 2011 09:35:50 GMT

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I classify myself as an atheist. I was given the great gift (thought they may not have known it at the time) of not being taken to a church for regular worship. Though I will admit I did attend a couple of "Vacation Bible Schools" as a kid but even then I thought the whole idea of the "imaginary friend" that is the Judeo-Christian "God" to be silly and felt the people around me were delusional. But I digress...

As for the creation of the universe, I like the idea of the infinite universe, the zero-sum concept. I'm going to watch that video tomorrow as I am very intrigued. Before reading this thread, I had always said that I'm open to the possibility that some conscious being started the Big Bang and/or created the conditions for it to exist. But, that being said, to also go on to say that this being requires me to worship it, will subject me to heaven or hell when I die, listens to me if I pray... that is wayyyy too far-fetched for me.

From here on the outside of religion, I see it simply as a form of mass control. The root being threat of eternal hell if you fuck up. The "Powers That Be" decided to prey on peoples' fear of what happens when you die to create a hard-to-refute scenario (since no one can tell you what happens after you die, I believe you cease to be, but I secretly hope you reincarnate and start all over) where if you are bad, even if no one sees you do it, Lord Almighty sees you do it and you'll be judged to be damned to hell after you die. It's a GREAT way to control massive amounts of people! Everything else was added on after the fact. Prayer is a way to get you into a ritual where you are constantly reminded of Big Brother watching your every move.

But, believing that after this, there's nothing, I am driven only to be as good to others as I can be and enjoy the time I have here, however long it may be. I don't need the threat of eternal damnation. There's enough punishment here in life, and I usually end up getting punished in a karmic way if I do something I shouldn't do and don't get caught.

As for Pascal's Wager that was posed earlier, I believe that if there is in fact a judgment after I die, a silly little thing like not believing in something I can't perceive with any of my 5 senses isn't going to keep me from an eternal reward if I've been relatively good.
