a-the-ism

[ey-thee-iz-uhm]



a lack of belief in the existence of God or gods

That is the entire meaning of atheism.



Atheism is not a religion, it is not a belief system. Atheism is nothing sinister, and nothing to fear.

When it comes to Zeus, we are all atheists.

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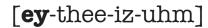


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But aren't atheists bad people?

Not any more than religious people are. Many people use "holy books" as moral guides, but as much as Christians want us to believe that the Bible is the world's best guide to morality, it is clearly not.

We are actually programmed with a moral code by our genes and by the societies we live in. **Adherence to the Bible is not an indicator of increased morality.** In fact the US, the most religious developed country in the world, is far from being the most moral. For example, it has a



murder rate *over 10 times* that of largely atheist Japan, and 2-10 times that of irreligious countries in Europe, with 8 of the 10 most murderous states in the US being in the more religious south, which *also* boasts the highest divorce rates.

Texas, one of the most religious states in the nation, has the largest percentage of its population in prison, despite having the highest execution rate. Higher than the next 6 states *combined*. The US, just 5% of the world's population, has 25% of all prisoners. It has high rates of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, partly *caused* by religiously based "abstinence only" education.

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