
Subject: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Torn](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 06:23:51 GMT
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ar ther any relligiss peple on this form that think if you share diffrent beleifs or r cathlic than them YOU will burn in hell???

just askin becus acording to my frend im not cathlik so im going to hell

thees peple think were bad.....

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 06:45:18 GMT
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Catholics do not believe that acknowledging yourself as a sinner is necessary, and that doing good deeds will get you into Heaven (directly contradicting the Bible).

They also pray to Mary (idolizing), chant (God said don't do that!), and consider the Pope to be holy (for our righteousness is that of filthy rags-- sound familiar?).

Whoah, where did all that come from? I'm not a Catholic!

Creepy...

PS: Issues not related to Renegade should be posted in the "Politics" sub-forum.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Dover](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 07:46:13 GMT
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He can post crap like that in the general discussion if he'd like. General discussion = anything goes.

Although, it would be nice if this particular ban-evader stopped coming back. Or became legible.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Viking](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 09:27:25 GMT
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im beleave in no god.

no religion i win!

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Mad Ivan](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 11:22:23 GMT
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hmmm, it's kind of funny that these religion-related topics appear often in the community.

Like idjit, i am an atheist. I believe in no gods, no supernatural beings, demons or whatever. There could be a god, but there is nothing to convince me in His existance, yet.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Jecht](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 12:49:06 GMT
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All I can say is: You had better be right. Or you're fucked.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 13:19:08 GMT
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Believing just to *avoid* being fucked is just cowardly in my opinion...if you can't find a better reason to believe than that, you might want to rethink your values...

Bah, what I believe is that people should stop labeling each others , especially into different religious groups, but I guess that's not possible.

Personally, I'm some sort of agnostic-atheist combination if you insist converting my beliefs into a word. I believe that a higher being can exist, but it doesn't have to be "supernatural" or otherwise outside our grasp, it could be just a very advanced(evolved) being capable of affecting the world through ways we haven't discovered yet. Or such a being might not exist at all.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 14:48:24 GMT
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Since this is a topic regarding religion, and the impending insults relating to the ...English... of the initial post, I'm moving this to the Hot Topics forum.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 16:06:40 GMT
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I can't take this topic seriously because its first post was just awful, even by Moe's standards.

By the way, Moe, though I do not believe in god, I still hope you go to hell.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [Jecht](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 16:30:41 GMT

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I didn't say that's the reason why I believe. I just said that if he doesn't, and he is wrong, he's fucked.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 17:38:09 GMT

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gbull wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 11:30 Scythar wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 08:19 Believing just to *avoid* being fucked is just cowardly in my opinion...if you can't find a better reason to believe than that, you might want to rethink your values...

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I didn't say that's the reason why I believe. I just said that if he doesn't, and he is wrong, he's fucked.

God is all forgiven, so hes not fucked and aswell Jesus died for our sins, so thats two get out of hell cards.

Am Agnostic.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 17:39:35 GMT
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I wonder why it is that people insist on saying that there must be one and only one true path through life. There are billions of people living on this planet, and no faith has ever been able to claim more than a quarter to a third of them at any given time. Does that mean all the rest are automatically doomed because they believe something different? Even if your faith tells you that anyone who doesn't follow your faith is destined for damnation, is it not possible to accept the fact that they don't believe that to be true? It isn't always so clear-cut as "If you're wrong, you're fucked." What happens if the hereafter turns out to be just another stage of a continuing existence, where one's words and actions before death have little to do with what happens to them afterwards? What happens if everyone ends up exactly where they believed they would, according to what they really believed to be the absolute truth?

The entire span of human history has never seen a single, unified faith for all. How can any one claim that all the others are by their very nature wrong, when there are so many out there who believe otherwise? Try to see people with different beliefs not as people who have strayed from "the Truth" but as people who have merely found a different "Truth" to follow. It puts things in a whole new perspective.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 18:08:40 GMT
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Well, I believe that all religions have preyed on people's instinctual(?) need to know what happens when you die in order to control and manipulate them and keep them in line. I think most people know that, deep down, but are afraid to admit it out loud when they've been brought up to believe in all this "God" crap.

I'm not specifically saying there is no diety higher than humans, but I think there are many many other possibilities to explain why we're here, and ultimately, it probably doesn't matter. I am mostly an atheist/agnostic type, though my beliefs can't fall into any specific category. Unlike some atheists, I do believe that most people are too weak to stay on a "do unto others" path without the manufactured fear of an omniscient watching them and promising eternal punishment. For that, I like religion.

I believe that IF the more popular faiths are right, then this God isn't going to banish me to hell

simply for not believing he exists, if I have strived to live my life without causing harm to others.
(Even if sometimes I fail at that)

All of you heretics should enjoy this:
<http://www.jhuger.com/kisshank>

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [PlastoJoe](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 18:16:00 GMT
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Berkut wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 01:45 Catholics do not believe that acknowledging yourself as a sinner is necessary, and that doing good deeds will get you into Heaven (directly contradicting the Bible).

They also pray to Mary (idolizing), chant (God said don't do that!), and consider the Pope to be holy (for our righteousness is that of filthy rags-- sound familiar?).

Whoah, where did all that come from? I'm not a Catholic!

Creepy...

PS: Issues not related to Renegade should be posted in the "Politics" sub-forum. Normally I would address such misconceptions, but since it seems that most people paying attention to this thread are atheist or agnostic (and knowing that I can't possibly change your mind with one forum post and that religious discussions on the Internet inevitably lead to bad, bad ends...and seeing that this was started by Moe, in which case I refuse to add anything to encourage his moronic excuses for threads) I won't bother at this time. I will recommend engaging in serious discussion with a priest or other trained apologetic or checking out books for another point of view (such as Pope Fiction and others by Patrick Madrid) if you seriously would like to better understand what we believe and why.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 19:39:16 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 14:08 I believe that IF the more popular faiths are right, then this God isn't going to banish me to hell simply for not believing he exists, if I have strived to live my life without causing harm to others. (Even if sometimes I fail at that.) Well, I had a brilliant stroke of genius in #apathbeyond one day when we were discussing things about how God would banish his people to an eternity of torture. That, I believe, is a complete misconception. God isn't torturing you... you're allowing yourself to be tortured. Think of it this way... as we are his children: You're a child, you start to wander from your parents at a store. You keep wandering until you parents are NOWHERE in sight. You're scared out of your mind. This, to you, is torture. Now, your parents aren't torturing you by not being there... you've allowed yourself to be tortured by not staying on the right path. I don't believe Hell is this hot, fiery eternity. I think

it's more or less you just being eternally lost.

As for being a kind person... so? Again, I'll go with a child-parent analogy. Your parents aren't going to allow you into their house if you treat them like they don't exist. Whether or not you're a kind person. How does that make your parents desire to let you back in their house. They've been there for you, but if you fail to acknowledge them... then why are you expected to be allowed into their house without recognition? This could be turned on the flipside as to why bad people are allowed into Heaven. No matter how bad of a person you may be, your family will be there alongside you... as long as you choose to acknowledge them and love them. You don't have to be perfect for them to love you.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [Scythar](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 21:16:39 GMT

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j_ball430 wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 15:39as we are his children: You're a child, you start to wander from your parents at a store. You keep wandering until you parents are NOWHERE in sight. You're scared out of your mind. This, to you, is torture. Now, your parents aren't torturing you by not being there... you've allowed yourself to be tortured by not staying on the right path.

It's not the children's fault if he gets lost in a mall. It's the parents. If you lose your 6-year-old kid, it's your problem. I don't think any real parent could blame it on the child. On the other hand, if the child deliberately decides to leave his parents at later age for example, then he obviously doesn't want to be with them in the first place. If compared to your metaphor, it would mean that we, the children, believe in God, but don't want to be with him. We want to live our own lives.

Quote:As for being a kind person... so? Again, I'll go with a child-parent analogy. Your parents aren't going to allow you into their house if you treat them like they don't exist. Whether or not you're a kind person.

If you treat your parent like they're nothing, you're obviously not a kind person. Unless there's somekind of "kindness-meter" that decides whether you go up or down, but we're not aware of one. The only thing we have are the values in the Bible, and based on those, only a very small percent of christians could go to Heaven.

Most faiths are good, they teach important values and respect towards others. I'd like to think god as an omnipotent and omnipresent being: one that is everywhere and capable of doing anything. That basically means he can also be anything. Maybe christianity, buddhism, hinduism etc, are just individual ways to believe in the one true omnipower, since it can be anything...this means even bad things are a vital part of life.

But enough of this for today, sorry for any possible errors on my part, it's a bit late.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Thu, 13 Jul 2006 22:45:36 GMT

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Has anyone here read Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 03:32:12 GMT

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Scythar wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 17:16j_ball430 wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 15:39as we are his children: You're a child, you start to wander from your parents at a store. You keep wandering until you parents are NOWHERE in sight. You're scared out of your mind. This, to you, is torture. Now, your parents aren't torturing you by not being there... you've allowed yourself to be tortured by not staying on the right path.

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No, as a child I wandered away from my parents. It was MY fault. My parents didn't do anything special to make me walk away. In my own ignorance and own little world, I wandered away. Was I bad for doing so? No, but I'm still at fault for walking away. Did I know it was going to result in me being lost? Again, no, but that still doesn't shift the blame.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [superj69](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 03:37:26 GMT

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Wow so many different views on religion.

Im not even sure what religion i should be and havent decided yet.My mom was anglican, and my dad a muslim lol.Kinda a wierd mix.Anyway i dont beleive that there is a GOD but that there could and hopefully be a higher power and hopefully that there is a heaven.Its really hard to imagine that once you die thats it like ure spirit is gone forever.Then there is reicarnation that sounds like it could be true.My mom has told me some stories about myself and how i told her about my past life when i was like 3, like i told her in great detail.There are so many different religions that is impossible to say that one is right and all the rest are shit out of luck.IF there is a god i cant see him/her/it sayin that if u dont do exactly as i say ure going to hell,haha.It makes more sense that he/her/it would just want people to be good desent people that dont go around stealing or killing or hurting people or other bad things.

so i have no clue what religion i am, i dont have exact beliefs.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 04:55:47 GMT
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Remember this, though. No one can tell you what to believe, only what they believe. The rest is up to you.

As for me, I could not understand the 'invented' faiths. I tried incorporating science to make a judgment, but it only contributed to a Creationist view. All existence must come from a prior source. Evolution among other faiths removes any primary source in such a ways as to dictate that existence originates from... existence?

I also hear the "Well, I'll believe God when I see Him" deal. Good argument. I can't see my eyes, but I'm pretty sure I have some. I can't see entropy, yet entropy is one of the most powerful governing controls of this existence. Besides, by the time you see God, it's a bit too late to have a second opinion.

Think what you will, but Atheism is still a faith... the faith that there is no God. Better hope you're right on that one.

As for the "well, a kind and just God wouldn't make people go to Hell" deal; Hell was not meant for humans. We screwed that one up with Adam. Besides, no one has to go to Hell. What makes it so hard to admit to doing wrong? And (as some people have), to denounce God and risk Hell just because God offered a way out of it? Where's the sense in that?

"The churches only exist to get money." Sure. This makes some sense. I'll pay 30% of what I make to the government in income taxes, pay taxes on postage, taxes on every single thing I buy, on inheritances, and on my own house! Sure! Why not? But God forbid I give 10% of what I make to an organization whose only income is inconsistent donations...

Razgriz out.

What the heck made me type like that? There should have been twice as many grammar errors.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 05:26:52 GMT
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Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

You vigorously deny the existence of thousands of gods claimed by other religions, but feel outraged when someone denies the existence of your god. I love it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 05:32:30 GMT
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Outraged? Nah, I don't care quite that much about it. It's their decision.

...when did I say outraged, anyway?

When any other gods start saving my life on a regular basis, I'll thank them.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 08:42:08 GMT
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A debate on religion!?

I WANT TO PLAY TOO!!!

These are always fun.

I believe in God. I believe Jesus died for my sins and I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that I can not get to heaven because I am not perfect. I believe Jesus died for my sins and that is why I believe I will go to heaven. I believe that because thats what the bible teaches. If you ever hear some one say they have been saved thats what they are talking about. I believe if you don't believe in God, or Jesus you will go to hell. Your willingly ignorant to the truth. Even if you don't believe the truth.

It would be cool if you got down on your knees tonight before bed and prayed to God, or Jesus... *same thing believe it or not*
It's not to late. Even if you bashed God all your life he will forgive you.

In your prayer tell Jesus that you acknowledge you are a sinner and your not perfect. Thank Jesus for dieing on the cross for your sins. Ask Jesus to lead your life and ask him into your heart and he will forgive your sins. If you truly believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins and you ask him into your heart and acknowledge you are a sinner when you die you will go to heaven. There is nothing you can do to go to heaven the only way is Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Sorry thats the way it is. Ok I know I really opened myself up here for a good bashing... but thats half the fun.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 08:51:23 GMT

Berkut wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 23:55 I can't see my eyes, but I'm pretty sure I have some. I can't see entropy, yet entropy is one of the most powerful governing controls of this existence. Besides, by the time you see God, it's a bit too late to have a second opinion.

Think what you will, but Atheism is still a faith... the faith that there is no God. Better hope you're right on that one.

First you can prove you have eyes, by looking at a other person or better yet, a mirrior, digging them out and looking at them etc.

You cant prove there is god, only man made ideas about it which in the end are meaningless as it was created by man.

Now, Atheism is not a faith and will never be a faith.

God and religion was created by man 1000s of years ago to explain why things happan, like why did my wife, goat, sheep whatever die and why does it rain and shit on me? etc..

I dont know about you, but if today some guy started to talk about god and start his own religion up, he would be called a wacko and laughed at and happy ignored, but cause our major religons are so old, everyone belives in it... so typical of human stupidty to fellow anything thats been passed down the ages.

I dont really care if people belive in gods and whatever, thats their choice and I will happy defend their freedom of choice with my life, I just dont like it when someone starts screaming at me or others that they must convert ot they gonna go to hell, etc like many god believeing people do.

orgasised religion should be banned in my eyes, it promotes too much human stupidty in people, dont belive me`?

All the christian crusades and now the muslims terrorists bombing almost anything... this is what happans when you get people together who all belive in the same thing, they force it upon others.

ends rant.

(Am not attacking you or anything just thought I would post on what I think about the subject after I replied to you ´r thoughts)

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 08:58:08 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 00:26Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe

he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 08:59:26 GMT
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Berkut wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 01:32

When any other gods start saving my life on a regular basis, I'll thank them.

But that's like saying "when any other gods starts lifting things around in my house, I'll believe them" or "When I see any other gods, I acknowledge them". How could you know if some other god hasn't already rescued you from a close call situation? It's not like the divine folks leave a message on paper after each time they save you. My point is that you'd praise your current god for whatever miracles happen, making your statement a bit more complicated. You don't believe in other gods, and so you won't thank them. How can you be sure that if you experience some religiously rich sensation, it's your god, the right god, that's causing it?

Quote:What makes it so hard to admit to doing wrong?

The problem isn't in people not admitting they've done wrong. I'm betting about 98% of us on this planet admit that we've done something bad in our lives.

Quote:And (as some people have), to denounce God and risk Hell just because God offered a way out of it? Where's the sense in that?

If there was a religion that believed that there are 16 Great Guardians of the sun, and if you don't believe in them, your spirit eternally burns in sun after you die, would you believe in them? You know, just not to risk it...it could be true, after all, no?

Yeah, you don't believe it. You don't believe that your spirit would burn in sun, so there's not much to risk. Same applies to your question. People aren't bothered by things they don't believe in. Makes perfect sense. I swear, if I had to start worrying about every faith and religion in this world to avoid bad things, I'd go nuts.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 09:03:05 GMT
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Scythar wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 09:59Berkut wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 01:32

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I think he means saving as in dieing and saving him from his sins. Or maybe he means literally saving his life I don't know.

Just saying that cuz i was trying to figure that out too

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 09:24:08 GMT
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GrayWolf wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 04:42...If you truly believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins and you ask him into your heart and acknowledge you are a sinner when you die you will go to heaven. There is nothing you can do to go to heaven the only way is Jesus...

Believe in Jesus as the son of the omnipotent God, or as a human that existed? Just asking because a lot of folk believe he existed, but he was just a man which we made divine with our writings, not divine to begin with. If I believe Jesus existed, and even believe he died for our sins because he wanted to, does that take me up there? I already know I've done bad things in my life, just like most other folks, and I'm sure I won't stop believing so when I die. This doesn't even require me to believe in any supernatural force, just to a man who lived and was, perhaps, a philosphist who decided to die for us for whatever reason.

Nice to see folks who actually read the book, there's a lot of christian folks around who haven't even read it. Even I've read most of the Old Testament and I don't really believe in it.

I don't think we have that many bashers on this board, people are pretty open-minded, it seems.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 09:37:10 GMT
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Scythar wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 11:24GrayWolf wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 04:42...If you truly

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This is hard to explain without explaining the trinity. The trinity is the father, the holy spirit, and Jesus. All parts make up God...
Best I can explain it without going into great detail.

Scythar asked

"Believe in Jesus as the son of the omnipotent God, or as a human that existed?"

The bible says both. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Scythar asked

"If I believe Jesus existed, and even believe he died for our sins because he wanted to, does that take me up there?"

The bible say's that Yes if you believe Jesus existed, and believe he died for your sins because he wanted to, and that he rose from death and ascended into heaven you will be saved and go to heaven.

You brought up a good point.

Jesus came to earth knowing full well he was going to die for us, and rose from death, defeating death. He wanted this because he loves us. We are his creation.

Also thank you for being so polite.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [warranto](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 12:59:04 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 23:26 Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

I'm sorry Crimson, but do you realize how -well, to call it what it is- pathetic it is to base your belief on the absence of something doing what you demand it to do?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 13:44:29 GMT

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Berkut wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 00:55 I tried incorporating science to make a judgment, but it only contributed to a Creationist view. All existence must come from a prior source. Evolution among other faiths removes any primary source in such a ways as to dictate that existence originates from... existence?

I've incorporated evolution into my theologic views. I believe completely in evolution. In fact, I believe in the Big Bang Theory. I believe that the Creationist theory is correct... just told in a different way. I mean, they didn't exactly have advanced sciences during those ancient times, so explaining it the way we are taught now would have went over their heads. Instead, the way Genesis explains it is a more colorful and easy way of understanding it.

That is purely my opinion. Nobody told me this, and I'm certainly not going to preach this as truth.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Dave Mason](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 14:07:30 GMT

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GrayWolf wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 09:58 Crimson wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 00:26 Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

How convenient...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 14:15:23 GMT

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God isn't going to show himself to anybody through any intervention like that, and expecting Him to do so is ludicrous.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 19:58:30 GMT
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Quote:Remember this, though. No one can tell you what to believe, only what they believe. The rest is up to you.

QFT. From any perspective, regardless of why you said that, it is quite possibly the most universally applicable thing I've ever seen anybody say in a thread like this. Lots of folks will try very hard to show you their door, but only you can make the decision to go through it or hold back. That goes for anybody, regardless of what they believe.

One thing I'd like to pick on a bit, and I realize that I always do this when these threads crop up- Atheism is not a faith. I am an atheist because I believe in no gods. Anybody in this thread who believes in one God is a monotheist. Atheism is simply a blanket grouping for any number of beliefs or belief systems that hinge on the key point that there are no such things as gods. That's it; that's all there is to it. You might meet one person who is an atheist who believes there is nothing but the physical, observable world, and you might meet another the very next moment who believes in an afterlife, ghosts, spontaneous generation, etc. Atheism is no more specific than Monotheism or Polytheism, as it defines only one aspect of any given person's faith. Don't fall into the trap of assuming all Atheists believe in the same exact things.

I believe in the infinite. I do not believe there ever was an absolute beginning, nor do I believe there ever will be an absolute end. What we see now is only a moment in an infinite chain of events. Death, therefore, cannot be the end of existence. I do not believe anyone can see or understand the true nature of what lies beyond death, but there must be something- or we wouldn't be here at all. The only absolute is that there are no limits; there is no power that cannot be reached- but that also means that there can be no supreme, insurmountable power. Therefore, even if we were as a race created, our creator would not by definition be a god- merely someone or something so far beyond our present understanding as to appear godlike. Humanity could some day reach such a level, and continue to grow far beyond- perhaps death is merely the next step higher.

Right or wrong, that's what I believe to be true.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 20:29:34 GMT
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Nukelt15 wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 15:58 Don't fall into the trap of assuming all Atheists believe in the same exact things.
Assuming all Athiests believe the same thing is the same concept as everybody assuming all

Christians believe in the same exact things. That's obviously false, else there wouldn't be several denominations of the church.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 22:03:55 GMT
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Nukelt15 wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 15:58

I believe in the infinite. I do not believe there ever was an absolute beginning, nor do I believe there ever will be an absolute end. What we see now is only a moment in an infinite chain of events. Death, therefore, cannot be the end of existence. I do not believe anyone can see or understand the true nature of what lies beyond death, but there must be something- or we wouldn't be here at all. The only absolute is that there are no limits; there is no power that cannot be reached- but that also means that there can be no supreme, insurmountable power. Therefore, even if we were as a race created, our creator would not by definition be a god- merely someone or something so far beyond our present understanding as to appear godlike. Humanity could some day reach such a level, and continue to grow far beyond- perhaps death is merely the next step higher.

Yeah this is a very interesting point of view, I've thought about it sometimes too. It also means that these "gods" probably wage wars against other ones just like we here. They form alliances and ultimately try to gain as much control as possible, just like us. Even if the human race knew there was no end the existence, and gaining everything was not possible, I'm pretty sure something would still be driving us to succeed as far as possible, and gain as much as we can. But we haven't really taken even the first steps on this infinite ladder.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 00:44:34 GMT
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[quote title=Scythar wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 17:03]Nukelt15 wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 15:58
I believe in the infinite. I do not believe there ever was an absolute beginning, nor do I believe there ever will be an absolute end. What we see now is only a moment in an infinite chain of events. Death, therefore, cannot be the end of existence. I do not believe anyone can see or understand the true nature of what lies beyond death, but there must be something- or we wouldn't be here at all. The only absolute is that there are no limits; there is no power that cannot be reached- but that also means that there can be no supreme, insurmountable power. Therefore, even if we were as a race created, our creator would not by definition be a god- merely someone or something so far beyond our present understanding as to appear godlike. Humanity could some day reach such a level, and continue to grow far beyond- perhaps death is merely the next step higher.

This is what I believe myself regarding to something that is far ahead of us and has god like powers, who knows a vast power out there could have made us and would be our "god" but would

we become our own gods one day when we crate life outselfs`? I think so, one day, who knows.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 03:23:56 GMT
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I don't think humanity will ever be able to create life...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 03:38:09 GMT
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There are some people who believe that consciousness is a byproduct of data processing. So while it may be outside the scope of science to create biological life from nothing (maybe it's not, I'm no biologist) perhaps it's possible that we will create--and have been creating--machines that are conscious in some way or another.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 06:28:53 GMT
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GrayWolf wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 23:23I don't think humanity will ever be able to create life...

Why not? we already on our first steps on cloning dogs and sheep.. and there are people who want to move onto the next step and clone humans...

Its all about genes and modding crap, you take something and remodel the genens and you make something elas.. like rats with human ears and crap..

There is nothing we can do now, the only limit is our knownage.

mrpirate wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 22:38There are some people who believe that consciousness is a byproduct of data processing. So while it may be outside the scope of science to create biological life from nothing (maybe it's not, I'm no biologist) perhaps it's possible that we will create--and have been creating--machines that are conscious in some way or another.

Yes I agree, this is why we should be careful in building rebots.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 07:07:11 GMT

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Animals that are being cloned today aren't being created, but modified to share the same genes as the animal they were taken from. Humans aren't creating life when they do that. They're only modifying it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 07:21:31 GMT
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I take back what I said. Humans create life all the time... Sex. lol

I should have phrased it like this. Humans will never create life from scratch.

Cloning isn't creating life. Cloning still needs the use of a mother. No life has been created in a lab or a jar or anywhere from scratch its impossible. At least impossible for humans. I believe God is the only one who can create life from scratch. I do not believe life just randomly just started.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 08:04:12 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

GrayWolf wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 02:21 I take back what I said. Humans create life all the time... Sex. lol

I should have phrased it like this. Humans will never create life from scratch.

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Whoever said "God" didnt crate us from something elas`? its pretty much a fact that we didnt just "pop" to life on the earth, unless you belive adam and eve bs story lol

It took us 1000s of years to evole to what we are now.

Am sure in time when we evole more, there be nothing we can do, only limit is our knownage and new knownage is being learnt at a super fast rate and with knownage comes power and with power becomes godhood.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 08:21:26 GMT

GrayWolf wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 03:21

I should have phrased it like this. Humans will never create life from scratch.

What do you personally define as "from scratch"? Is it enough to mix DNA? Or should we start from molecules? Atoms? Quarks? Or the intense circumstances present at the time things were created, one way or the other? In my opinion, to start from scratch means we have to understand the world completely to figure out the "scartch" in the first place.

Your argument is strong considering we don't even know what IS a scratch yet, but time seems to be on the scientists side for now...maybe by the time we can make things from scratch, we already know whether there's a God or not.

Quote:

Whoever said "God" didnt crate us from something elas`? its pretty much a fact that we didnt just "pop" to life on the earth, unless you belive adam and eve bs story lol

Eve was made from Adams rib, if that's the right bone I'm looking for.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [Crimson](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 12:07:31 GMT

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warranto wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 05:59Crimson wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 23:26Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

I'm sorry Crimson, but do you realize how -well, to call it what it is- pathetic it is to base your belief on the absence of something doing what you demand it to do?

I guess you fail to grasp my point. I don't believe in any god created by any religion. I see your belief in a god as you view a child believing in Santa Claus. To me, the story of a man up at the North Pole making toys with elves is just as illogical and implausible as the story of our Jesus. Personally I don't see how it was such a huge sacrifice if the story is as you say. If he knew he would come down and die for our sins and become a god or whatever, then how is that a sacrifice? If I could die right now and become an immortal god, I'd sign up too. The sacrifice of death loses all meaning when you don't actually lose your life.

That's my point. It's a joke. All of it. A very elaborate joke that has fooled billions.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 14:47:54 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 07:07warranto wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 05:59Crimson wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 23:26Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

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That's my point. It's a joke. All of it. A very elaborate joke that has fooled billions.

Yep, very true.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 14:50:17 GMT
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I wish people were a little more informed on the story if they care to share their opinion. Jesus didn't get to become a god because he died... he IS God, was God, and always will be God.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 16:24:30 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 09:50I wish people were a little more informed on the story if they care to share their opinion. Jesus didn't get to become a god because he died... he IS God, was God, and always will be God.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 16:27:10 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 10:50 I wish people were a little more informed on the story if they care to share their opinion. Jesus didn't get to become a god because he died... he IS God, was God, and always will be God.

That still doesn't nullify her point. Since Jesus was God and continued to be so after being killed, where's the great "sacrificed himself for the humanity"-part? What did he sacrifice? I can understand the part about forgiving us our sins and whatnot, but am I supposed to feel bad for the poor dude because he lost his avatar on earth and "had to" return to heaven?

Sacrifice just isn't the right word, no matter how I try to look at it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 16:32:11 GMT
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Scythar wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 12:27 Since Jesus was God and continued to be so after being killed, where's the great "sacrificed himself for the humanity"-part?

Right, I forgot that crucifixion is a completely pain-free process and does not, in any way involve embarrassment beyond human reasoning.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 16:44:40 GMT
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Berkut wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 12:32 Scythar wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 12:27 Since Jesus was God and continued to be so after being killed, where's the great "sacrificed himself for the humanity"-part?

Right, I forgot that crucifixion is a completely pain-free process and does not, in any way involve embarrassment beyond human reasoning.

Yeah that's a good and valid point, crucifixion was supposedly one of the most painful and humiliating ways to end a life. But I still have a feeling that the whole cycle of events was written by sensationalists at best. And about the "beyond human reasoning"-part, yeah this is very close to the part in religion where we have to choose to believe or not ourselves, it's not something someone else can tell you.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 17:19:00 GMT
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Berkut wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 11:32 Scythar wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 12:27 Since Jesus

was God and continued to be so after being killed, where's the great "sacrificed himself for the humanity"-part?

Right, I forgot that crucifixion is a completely pain-free process and does not, in any way involve embarrassment beyond human reasoning.

If he was "god" then am sure any right minded god/person w/e wouldnt had allowed them to kill him, and if he did allow it to happan, whats the point? hes god, he cant die.. so hes not giving up on anything as he has the power to return time and time again.

anyway, if it lets you sleep better at night, fine.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 17:32:06 GMT

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IWarriors wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 13:19If he was "god" then am sure any right minded god/person w/e wouldnt had allowed them to kill him, and if he did allow it to happan, whats the point? hes god, he cant die.. so hes not giving up on anything as he has the power to return time and time again.

Oh, please. The stupid, and pathetic, "he should have saved himself" argument. Ever think about maybe what he did was for the greater good? Police officers can "save themselves" in certain situations, but they put others above themselves. This is the same concept. Jesus suffered two deaths that day. He suffered an eternal death in Hell and the human physical death. THAT is the sacrifice. He suffered the eternal death, so we don't have to. Not just that he died because people didn't like him. THAT is why he didn't "save himself".

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [warranto](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 17:40:43 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 06:07warranto wrote on Fri, 14 July 2006 05:59Crimson wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 23:26Well, I bought a "Yo God!" meter. If God exists, all he has to do is move the little needle over to "Yes". While it stays on "No", I will continue to believe he doesn't exist. It arrives soon.

I'm sorry Crimson, but do you realize how -well, to call it what it is- pathetic it is to base your belief on the absence of something doing what you demand it to do?

I guess you fail to grasp my point. I don't believe in any god created by any religion. I see your belief in a god as you view a child believing in Santa Claus. To me, the story of a man up at the North Pole making toys with elves is just as illogical and implausible as the story of our Jesus. Personally I don't see how it was such a huge sacrifice if the story is as you say. If he knew he

would come down and die for our sins and become a god or whatever, then how is that a sacrifice? If I could die right now and become an immortal god, I'd sign up too. The sacrifice of death loses all meaning when you don't actually lose your life.

That's my point. It's a joke. All of it. A very elaborate joke that has fooled billions.

Oh, it doesn't matter to me if you believe or not, just don't base it on an argument of "Do what I demand, or I won't believe".

As for the whole "Santa Clause" thing, try to look back on where the idea of him came from. There is a reason he is also call "St. Nick". While the whole North-pole, riding around the world in one night is ficticious, "Santa Clause" was still very much a real person.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Halo38](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 17:56:37 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 14:08
All of you heretics should enjoy this:
<http://www.jhuger.com/kisshank>

brilliant find ROFL

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 19:08:18 GMT
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I honestly feel bad for you people. I do care what you believe in. If I didn't why would I even talk to you. If you guys didn't face hell when you died I really wouldn't care how ignorant of the truth you are. Im not stupid, I know you guys think that believing in God is being brain washed and it means you have to go to church and be a perfect person, and you can't drink anymore and that you can't fun anymore... The people who believe this haven't read the bible. It's simply not true.

I feel terrible knowing that one day you guys might be on the edge of life and death feeling horrible thinking and wondering what you have to look forward to after you die. You think that this is just the end that when you die you will just not exist. Maybe you think when you die you'll be reincarnated as someone else. Then you die and your standing before God. God speaks and says

"Matthew 25:41 "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels."

Jesus said.

Matthew 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father

which is in heaven.

So now your in hell. That's it your there forever. Then you'll believe in God. You'll also probably remember the day on earth when you read what graywolf typed on the Renegade Forums saying this very thing would happen and it did. You have alot to think about when your in the most terrible place ever. A place more terrible than you could ever even imagine. I bet you guys could imagine some pretty terrible things too. It's forever 100 years means nothing to forever. A billion years means nothing to forever 999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,992 years means nothing to forever.

I know you read this and looked for ways to tell me Im wrong, Im sure someones going to say this is a fear tactic. It's true I want you to be afraid of hell I don't want anyone to go there. Im done posting and debating about religion. Im not even going to come back and read any replays to this.

So go ahead bash this all you want talk about how God is bs. Keep believing that if you don't believe in God or heaven and hell it wont affect you. I honestly feel so bad for you people. Ok peace.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 19:18:42 GMT
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You're silly.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 19:44:03 GMT
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A lot of people believe that hate is the worst of human emotions. I don't believe that is true- I think that the worst emotion a human being is capable of is not hate, but pity. Why pity? You can hate a person and still see them as your equal; this is not true of pity. Pity is not a form of sympathy; a sympathetic person still views those with whom they sympathize as equals. Pity is a devious one. Pity carries with it a feeling of inequality. It is impossible to pity another person without looking down upon that person as somehow inferior, or as lacking something that you believe you hold that gives you a higher status than theirs. It is also one of the most difficult emotions to not feel when faced with a debate like this one- many are inclined to pity those who do not hold their beliefs, as their faith tells them that those people are destined for doom.

You do not seek to understand why people have chosen to believe what they believe, yet you condemn their beliefs as false and dangerous and urge them to accept yours as right and true. How is it possible for you to pity what you do not even try to understand?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 19:56:46 GMT
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I said I wouldnt post here again but I just don't want to be misunderstood. I dont look down on anyone say what you wil but I don't. I can feel sorry and bad for someone and not look down on them.

I don't care what and why people believe the things they do. All I know is what they believe is wrong and I wished they knew the truth. Thats it im not going to read anymore responses.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 20:42:44 GMT
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Nukelt15 wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 15:44A lot of people believe that hate is the worst of human emotions. I don't believe that is true- I think that the worst emotion a human being is capable of is not hate, but pity....

That is quite insightful. There's a reason the phrase "I pity you" is used a arguments a lot. In addition, its message is very clear, not perhaps to the one who says it, but to the receiver. It can very effectively make one feel they're somehow bad or insufficient. You might as well say "You ain't got what it takes". People should be careful with this word, it's quite high on the list of worst things to say to someone.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spaghetti_monster

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 21:27:48 GMT
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I think GrayWolf just said it right there guys.

I find it funny, and ironic, how some people who try to bash Christianity as much as they can believe in evolution. I think anyone can add on to what I just said.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 21:48:57 GMT
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icedog90 wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 17:27 I think GrayWolf just said it right there guys.

I find it funny, and ironic, how some people who try to bash Christianity as much as they can believe in evolution. I think anyone can add on to what I just said.

GrayWolf said he feels bad because he believes something bad will happen to people who don't believe in the Christian God. Nobody is trying to argue about what he feels, if that's what you're trying to say. Unless you're talking about some earlier post of his.
And what you just said basically starts this whole discussion from the beginning again, so yeah there's a lot to add :S

There are better places to debate at though, with much more resourceful comments and facts based on the bible and other religious material, and scientific facts. I suppose this is pretty pointless, I didn't really gain anything new from all this.

Goes to hunt knowledge elsewhere

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 22:06:52 GMT
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Yeah, there IS much to add.

I didn't mean people were trying to argue with what he said. I was just acknowledging it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Hydra](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 23:36:07 GMT
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"There is no god. All this you see around you? *opens up arms in panoramic movement* It's all absolutely pointless. YOU are absolutely pointless."

How depressing. Why would I want to be an atheist?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 00:53:58 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 12:32 IronWarriors wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 13:19 If he was

"god" then am sure any right minded god/person w/e wouldnt had allowed them to kill him, and if he did allow it to happan, whats the point? hes god, he cant die.. so hes not giving up on anything as he has the power to return time and time again.

Oh, please. The stupid, and pathetic, "he should have saved himself" argument. Ever think about maybe what he did was for the greater good? Police officers can "save themselves" in certain situations, but they put others above themselves. This is the same concept. Jesus suffered two deaths that day. He suffered an eternal death in Hell and the human physical death. THAT is the sacrifice. He suffered the eternal death, so we don't have to. Not just that he died because people didn't like him. THAT is why he didn't "save himself".

HA! but he did save himself, didnt he, he rose up a few days later.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [Sniper_De7](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 00:58:05 GMT

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Hydra wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 18:36"There is no god. All this you see around you? *opens up arms in panoramic movement* It's all absolutely pointless. YOU are absolutely pointless."

How depressing. Why would I want to be an atheist?

I don't know how I deal with it day in day out. It's cutting me up inside that it just hurts so bad. I almost want to abandon all reasoning for living it makes me cry :(

Yeah. Depressing.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 01:25:27 GMT

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IWarriors wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 20:53j_ball430 wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 12:32IWarriors wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 13:19If he was "god" then am sure any right minded god/person w/e wouldnt had allowed them to kill him, and if he did allow it to happan, whats the point? hes god, he cant die.. so hes not giving up on anything as he has the power to return time and time again. Oh, please. The stupid, and pathetic, "he should have saved himself" argument. Ever think about maybe what he did was for the greater good? Police officers can "save themselves" in certain situations, but they put others above themselves. This is the same concept. Jesus suffered two deaths that day. He suffered an eternal death in Hell and the human physical death. THAT is the sacrifice. He suffered the eternal death, so we don't have to. Not just that he died because people didn't like him. THAT is why he didn't "save himself".

HA! but he did save himself, didnt he, he rose up a few days later.

Eh, not really. It just more or less shows that he conquered death. He came back to life after being in Heaven. How would that be saving himself? Wouldn't he just be sending himself back into

torment from paradise?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 01:53:07 GMT
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If there is no God, and this world is truly a mistake, then everything is meaningless. Humans are just useless machines whose only purpose in existence is to create more useless machines in a vain effort to sustain its own presence on this Earth. There is then no value in human life. No point to existence. Success, love, money, status; all are useless. There truly is no reason to live, knowing that all that you have will die with you.

And atheists think we're the ones preaching fire and brim-stone.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 01:57:44 GMT
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There are many people who have, from time to time, been tempted to think for themselves -- who have found themselves questioning beliefs they inherited but really never examined. This is nowhere more apt to be the case than in the area of religious beliefs. Our religious beliefs came to us in a protective coating of age and respectability, like the invisible "force field" of science fiction.

It takes a degree of intellectual courage to penetrate this penumbra of sanctity and inspect a belief on its own merits. Still, many people have done so. They have found themselves asking such questions as, how do I know that this book called the Bible is the supernaturally revealed and infallible word of God? How do I know there is even such a being as God? How does anybody know there is such a thing as immorality? When people begin seriously to raise questions of this sort, they find that their "faith", that is, their accustomed belief-patterns, seem increasingly insubstantial.

To lose one's faith may seem, in prospect, like being turned out of a comfortable home and left to fend for oneself in a vast and trackless waste. Those with a persistent curiosity and adventurous spirit will never-the-less leave their cozy shelter and set out to learn for themselves what it is like "out there." Although their first steps may be taken "in fear and trembling," they begin to find that they are not alone. They discover stalwart companions. They learn, indeed that they are "compassed about" with a "cloud of witnesses." As their minds become strengthened by use, they begin to see what others have seen, that their "spiritual home" was in reality a prison; its walls were built of ignorance and fear, and reinforced by habit and custom.

No one is kept in this prison but by oneself; it is a prison where every inmate is his or her jailer. Everyone, aware of it or not, already has the key that will unlock the door: the freedom to seek the truth.

- From the book Secular Nation by Thomas Vernon

===

I have not read this book or know anything about the author, so don't get all ad-hominem on me.

However, the point stands. When (and if) you realize that this life is all you have and there is no great reward or punishment after you die, you are freed. Freed from fearing that who you love may decide your ultimate fate, freed from fearing that enjoying harmless pleasures won't condemn you to the imaginary pits of hell... As a child, the idea that this God person was there was told to me by my mom. Neither of my parents made me go to church more than a time or two, though I have attended at least a dozen sermons in my lifetime and attended Vacation Bible school twice. But even as a pre-teen, the whole god thing never stuck with me. It seemed like a weird story. Little did I know at that point how even intelligent people fell for this stuff and how deep this belief that some people have has gone back through the ages. Only recently did I really come to see clearly how religion was created by man to control people en masse, and as I discover people who I thought were intelligent being so the opposite, and so closed minded about religion.

It makes sense, of course. What better way to cement your religion than to convince the followers that non-believers are EVIL and are going to hell. Then if you hear common sense from us atheists you say the devil is speaking through us and shit. Such a beautiful near-perfect manipulation I see before me. I think less of you for falling for this shit, and you think less of me for not believing. What a beautiful situation that has been created, no?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [Berkut](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 02:12:31 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 19:57

Then if you hear common sense from us atheists you say the devil is speaking through us and s***.

I never said this (nor do I wish to).

Crimson wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 19:57...and you think less of me for not believing.

I never said this (nor do I wish to).

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 02:12:52 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 21:57
However, the point stands. When (and if) you realize that this life is all you have and there is no great reward or punishment after you die, you are freed. Freed from fearing that who you love may decide your ultimate fate, freed from fearing that enjoying harmless pleasures won't condemn you to the imaginary pits of hell... As a child, the idea that this God person was there was told to me by my mom. Neither of my parents made me go to church more than a time or two, though I have attended at least a dozen sermons in my lifetime

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 02:43:17 GMT
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Berkut wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 20:53 If there is no God, and this world is truly a mistake, then everything is meaningless. Humans are just useless machines whose only purpose in existence is to create more useless machines in a vain effort to sustain its own presence on this Earth. There is then no value in human life. No point to existence. Success, love, money, status; all are useless. There truly is no reason to live, knowing that all that you have will die with you.

And atheists think we're the ones preaching fire and brim-stone.

Now you are understanding, humans are here for one thing only, to have sex and have many babies.

There is value in human life cause we make it so, we teach our kids to know that and respect life and our point in existence is to have babies, quiet simple and easy to understand, you dont need a god to believe in these things.

Just cause a person is an atheist, it doesnt mean they think when they die, the life will be over, some believe that your soul gets reborn into a other life in a endless chain.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [DarkDemin](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 04:26:56 GMT
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Berkut wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 02:45 Catholics do not believe that acknowledging yourself as a sinner is necessary, and that doing good deeds will get you into Heaven (directly contradicting the Bible).

They also pray to Mary (idolizing), chant (God said don't do that!), and consider the Pope to be holy (for our righteousness is that of filthy rags-- sound familiar?).

Whoah, where did all that come from? I'm not a Catholic!

Creepy...

PS: Issues not related to Renegade should be posted in the "Politics" sub-forum.

You're a fucking moron. I'm Catholic, and next time you plan on bashing a religion study it for a few years dipshit. Till then shut the fuck up.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 04:28:10 GMT
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The world isn't a mistake. The world just is. Humans are just animals who have been burdened by consciousness. I see ants walking around and to me their lives don't have a whole lot of meaning, but that doesn't seem to stop the ants. Perhaps its this inability of any entity to have an objective view of itself that keeps them from understanding what purpose or meaning, if any, their life entails.

I probably have different views than most people on this forum (partially from substances imbibed), but that's just the point. We all have different views. To me, that basically discredits everyone's view. Thinking that you know the answer is ludicrous because statistically it's almost impossible that you're right. When it comes down to it, as my father once said, whether or not there is a god isn't really relevant, since obviously there can be no concrete statements made about it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Berkut](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 04:29:07 GMT
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DarkDemin wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 23:26[Random slew of swearing.]

Catholic indeed.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Hydra](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 06:03:33 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 21:57There are many people who have, from time to time, been tempted to think for themselves -- who have found themselves questioning beliefs they inherited but really never examined. This is nowhere more apt to be the case than in the area of religious beliefs. Our religious beliefs came to us in a protective coating of age and respectability, like the invisible "force field" of science fiction.

It takes a degree of intellectual courage to penetrate this penumbra of sanctity and inspect a belief on its own merits. Still, many people have done so. They have found themselves asking such questions as, how do I know that this book called the Bible is the supernaturally revealed and infallible word of God? How do I know there is even such a being as God? How does anybody know there is such a thing as immorality? When people begin seriously to raise questions of this sort, they find that their "faith", that is, their accustomed belief-patterns, seem increasingly insubstantial.

To lose one's faith may seem, in prospect, like being turned out of a comfortable home and left to fend for oneself in a vast and trackless waste. Those with a persistent curiosity and adventurous spirit will never-the-less leave their cozy shelter and set out to learn for themselves what it is like "out there." Although their first steps may be taken "in fear and trembling," they begin to find that they are not alone. They discover stalwart companions. They learn, indeed that they are "compassed about" with a "cloud of witnesses." As their minds become strengthened by use, they

begin to see what others have seen, that their "spiritual home" was in reality a prison; its walls were built of ignorance and fear, and reinforced by habit and custom.

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- From the book *Secular Nation* by Thomas Vernon

===

I have not read this book or know anything about the author, so don't get all ad-hominem on me.

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It makes sense, of course. What better way to cement your religion than to convince the followers that non-believers are EVIL and are going to hell. Then if you hear common sense from us atheists you say the devil is speaking through us and shit. Such a beautiful near-perfect manipulation I see before me. I think less of you for falling for this shit, and you think less of me for not believing. What a beautiful situation that has been created, no?

If you haven't read the book, why are you quoting from it? [/NITPICKING]

I feel sad for you, Crimson.

Notice I did not say "I pity you" (I don't view you as somehow lower than me simply because we disagree) but that I feel sad for you.

I feel sad that you have such a cynical view of not only all Christians but religion in general.

I'm sorry so many of my colleagues in Christ have failed to live up to the name "Christian"; though they may call themselves "Christian," many are hardly worthy of the title.

I'm sorry you think that the Christian faith is simply a tool to be used to "control the masses"; Christianity has a rough history, I'll give you that.

I'm sorry so many of the terrible news stories that you hear about often have to do with terrible "Christians" committing some bad act against children or whatever.

But what I'm really sorry for is that you haven't seen all the good that Christianity is doing and has accomplished.

How many Christians, who wanted to provide a medical service to the people in the area REGARDLESS of who they are or what they believe, have started and successfully maintained hospitals throughout the United States? How many churches sponsor mission trips to places overseas to help out with orphanages and areas of natural disaster? How many Christians have

donated millions upon millions of their own, private money to charities that OTHER Christians have already started? How many Christians and Christian groups have risked their own lives to travel to Iraq to help the struggling country rebuild its infrastructure after so many years of tyrannical rule? How many Christians have started group therapy organizations for recovering alcoholics or drug abusers? How many Christians have created similar groups/permanent centers for teenagers with crisis pregnancies? How many Christians have started homeless shelters and food drives for people living on the street? How many Christians have helped those same people living on the street, who acknowledge that they've royally messed, to get back onto their feet?

I could make my fingers tired from writing so many examples of exemplary Christians who have done extraordinary things to help their fellow men for a cause that, you say, is used only to control them.

Is it naiveté to look up at the sky at night and see the infinite complexity and order to the universe and not think that someone or something set it all into motion? How could our vast and great universe possibly have come about to exist if something didn't create it in the first place?

Is it childish to believe that we humans have some higher value than the cow squeeze and slaughtered pig meat that I ate on my pizza tonight (cheese and pepperoni, just to clarify)?

Like I said before, I'm sorry for the actions of my fellow "Christians" who judge and condemn others to Hell when it most certainly isn't their place. Though they are obviously too abrasive in their tactics and don't know how to present their ideas in a tactful way, they really want the best for everyone.

What they mean by, "Believe in Jesus, or you're going to Hell!" is that they want you to experience the most beautiful gift God has ever given to mankind. They don't want you to be left behind in the dust when the taxi to heaven drives off. Though they may not say it in the best way possible, they really want the best for you.

It's the same way with the advice given in the Bible says, "Don't do thus and such." Sin isn't an incarnation of Christians to keep people from enjoying "harmless pleasures" (in fact, you'll have to tell me which "harmless pleasures" the Bible prohibits, because I'm not immediately aware of 'em (though I have a good idea what you might mean, which I will address in a second)). When you think about it logically (of which many atheists are fans), it makes very good sense not to do many of the things the Bible says not to do.

Take adultery for example. The Bible supports sex within the context of marriage fully ("Be fruitful and multiply (or something or other)" Proverbs, I think (never said I was good with Bible verses)). Sex outside of marriage? How can you fully devote your soul's entire love to your spouse if you have an affair every once in a while?

Now examine premarital sex. First of all, humanity's desire for sex is insatiable--no one can get enough of it, am I right? So if I go out every night and try to pick up a one-night stand, first of all, that's gonna cost me an arm and a leg in drinks and mickeys, and second of all, how is that going to fulfill me? I'm just going to go out the next night, and the night after, and so on. And plus, with each additional woman I bang, that increases my chances of catching a VD or having an unwanted child on my hands. Why would I want to have sex when I am neither financially, spiritually, nor maturely ready to have a child?

You can probably apply that logic to whatever other "harmless pleasures" you can think of. As you

can see, the Bible doesn't tell us we can't enjoy ourselves; it's just showing us how we can live a life that will fulfill our every need (whether it's a spiritual, financial, relational, even sexual need).

Some people spend their entire lives searching for their own truth, like trying to drill for an oil well in a number of different places. They'd like to say that they've struck oil so many times even though the best they can find is tar.

We Christians believe we have struck oil. We believe our well is bursting out of the ground, and we feel it is our duty to try to supply everyone with as much of it as we can. They can obviously reject us, as so many have done, and be superficially satisfied with their barrel of tar, yet deep down, something inside of them tells them that their tar isn't the oil they're looking for.

(I probably could have expanded upon and elaborated that analogy a little more extensively if only it weren't 2:00 in the morning....)

So please don't chastize us for only doing what everyone else, including yourself, has done--proclaiming we have struck oil and that our truth is absolute. How "open-minded" is it to say we haven't struck our oil when you haven't even begun drilling yet (that was a figurative "you," by the way)?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [GrayWolf](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 09:04:06 GMT
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Hydra wrote on Sun, 16 July 2006 01:03 The Bible supports sex within the context of marriage fully ("Be fruitful and multiply (or something or other)" Proverbs, I think (never said I was good with Bible verses)).

I'm pretty good with verses. It's
GENESIS 1:28: "Be fruitful and multiply"

I can't help but keep coming back to this topic even though I told myself stop going there its a waste of time, and I know I'm not really getting anywhere from being here.

Hydra that was a long read but it was well well well worth it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 09:53:11 GMT
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Hydra wrote on Sat, 15 July 2006 23:03
If you haven't read the book, why are you quoting from it? [/NITPICKING]

Because I like the passage that I quoted and felt it appropriate to the discussion...

Quote:I feel sad for you, Crimson.

Notice I did not say "I pity you" (I don't view you as somehow lower than me simply because we disagree) but that I feel sad for you.

I feel sad that you have such a cynical view of not only all Christians but religion in general.

I didn't come of it lightly. I have done a LOT of reading of various peoples' ideas.

Quote:I'm sorry so many of my colleagues in Christ have failed to live up to the name "Christian"; though they may call themselves "Christian," many are hardly worthy of the title.

One of the many reasons I don't believe in an omniscient, omnibenevolent god that would allow such horrible acts to be carried out in his name.

Quote:But what I'm really sorry for is that you haven't seen all the good that Christianity is doing and has accomplished.

You're wrong about that. Since religion is a tool to control the masses, it makes them moral and in many cases, less selfish. The good acts are just a result of that.

Quote:Is it naiveté to look up at the sky at night and see the infinite complexity and order to the universe and not think that someone or something set it all into motion?

Absolutely.

Quote:How could our vast and great universe possibly have come about to exist if something didn't create it in the first place?

This is called the "God of the Gaps", or "Argument from ignorance" argument. Just because you can't explain it doesn't mean it's unexplainable. Just because you don't know how something came to be doesn't mean God did it. As science discovers more and more, there is less and less room for god to operate. One day, generations after us, belief in a god will probably be only in the history books, just as the ancient Greek and Roman gods.

Quote:Is it childish to believe that we humans have some higher value than the cow squeeze and slaughtered pig meat that I ate on my pizza tonight (cheese and pepperoni, just to clarify)?

Not necessarily childish, but we don't necessarily have more value. It's the height of egotism to believe this all exists solely for us who inhabit such a tiny fraction of the universe.

Quote:Like I said before, I'm sorry for the actions of my fellow "Christians" who judge and condemn others to Hell when it most certainly isn't their place.

I don't really care. If hell exists, it's not their place or duty to decide whether I go there or not.

Quote: Though they are obviously too abrasive in their tactics and don't know how to present their ideas in a tactful way, they really want the best for everyone.

They don't know what's best for me or anyone else.

Quote: What they mean by, "Believe in Jesus, or you're going to Hell!" is that they want you to experience the most beautiful gift God has ever given to mankind.

What gift? What are you TALKING about? This doesn't make ANY sense to me.

Quote: They don't want you to be left behind in the dust when the taxi to heaven drives off. Though they may not say it in the best way possible, they really want the best for you.

They assume this god exists when they think this is the best for me. I understand that it's more comfortable to imagine that something awaits you when you die, but the odds are good that you'll just be worm food.

Quote: When you think about it logically (of which many atheists are fans), it makes very good sense not to do many of the things the Bible says not to do.

Have you read "Kissing Hank's Ass" yet? Just because some of the advice in the bible is good, it doesn't immediately make the whole book good AND the holy word of this diety.

Quote: We Christians believe we have struck oil. We believe our well is bursting out of the ground, and we feel it is our duty to try to supply everyone with as much of it as we can. They can obviously reject us, as so many have done, and be superficially satisfied with their barrel of tar, yet deep down, something inside of them tells them that their tar isn't the oil they're looking for.

And yet you don't even see that when you have been told over and over that you must share this gift with everyone, that you have become a mouthpiece and a tool for this organization and you have been led to believe that brainwashing other people into your big cult is a GOOD thing for us? Ugh!

Quote: So please don't chastize us for only doing what everyone else, including yourself, has done--proclaiming we have struck oil and that our truth is absolute. How "open-minded" is it to say we haven't struck our oil when you haven't even begun drilling yet (that was a figurative "you," by the way)?

I don't get that analogy. It's like we all read a book and you decided it was true and I decided it was a fanciful fairy tale. Could I be wrong? Sure! But at least I am very thankful that I have been raised in such a way that I can be open minded and make my own decision. If you were told this whole story of Jesus and god as your age having never heard of it before, you would think it was a total load of bullshit, too. It just doesn't make any sense at all. I am not any more or less happy than a god-believer anyway. Mankind has created literally thousands of deities in our lifetime. You don't believe in any of them but one. I just believe in one less than you. Once you understand the reason that you don't accept any of these other gods, you might begin to understand why I don't accept yours.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 18:48:26 GMT
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Quote:One of the many reasons I don't believe in an omniscient, omnibenevolent god that would allow such horrible acts to be carried out in his name.

Free Will. Humanity allows it to happen.

Here's a ficticious case study for you though:

There is someone in the world who is killing indiscriminately, and without mercy. Now, you're God. What do you do? Do you stop him, or allow him to continue?

Quote:As science discovers more and more, there is less and less room for god to operate.

Not true. That just means that less and less can be directly attributable to God.

As for the rest of the stuff, all that is doing is "disproving" Religion, (ie. our current explanation of God). Nothing has been stated that would disprove the existance of God himself.

Interesting take on the "oil" aspect though. The idea of someone pushing their ideals onto others because it is good for them. Kind of sounds like someone who, I don't know, support the "good" that is being done in Iraq, by "forcing" the ideals of America on them.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Doitle](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 07:55:43 GMT
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Crimson, you continuously make distinctions about people who can think freely and people who beleive in organized religion. Neither of my parents are religious. I never went to church as a kid, I've faced no prosecution or pressure towards any denomination. I told my parents I wanted to attend CCD and did so, I'm a confirmed Catholoic. I've thought about it and continue to to this day. When someone "Is capable of rationally thinking", they do not automatically shed religious beleifs. You seem to make the case that only people too stupid to think for themselves are religious. The fact that so many people here are sharing their impressions and interperetations of religion show this. If you ask my impression of heaven, my impression of salvation and sin, they will be different from another Catholic and another Christian. Now you might say well one of you listened more closely to the "Propoganda". No, as you receive information and learn, you process it differently than another. The old cliché saying "One mans heaven is anothers hell", is very true. If you've ever seen the episode of the Twilight Zone I'm about to describe then you know what I'm talking about. A man who spent his life gambling, dies. He wakes up in a very nice room and meets a old man looking like a butler. The man explains that here he can have anything he wants, and if he wants to gamble he can go right ahead. The man tests it out, and wins, and he plays games all day and wins every time. He soon realizes he can't lose. He always wins no matter what. After a while he begins to lose his sanity because he can't lose at anything, no matter how hard he tries.

The chance was the most important aspect to him and because he could never lose, there was no chance, there was just winning. Finally he goes to the old man and says "I hate it here in heaven!" and the old man says "This isn't heaven" MWAHAHAHAHA. The point of this all is just that Heaven is described as paradise and Hell is described as an anti-paradise. It's up to you to fill in those blanks, how Jesus was ressurected in the cave? That's up to you wether you picture it as him materializing in the cave on that morning or him hanging up on the cross with a respawn timer and then him spawning behind the rock, walking up to the PT in the wall and pressing E, going to characters and buying a Jesus. Just because someone beleives in organized religion do not discount them as a brainwashed idiot. I notice every single time you defend your stance on organized religion you say something about people thinking less of you because of it. I don't think any less of you because you don't beleive in organized religion, I do however think less of you because you view every follower of organized religion as a brainwashed zombie. I can tell you, there are zombies. I'm not one, and I'm sure a lot of other people on here sharing their beleifs aren't zombies either. I would wager some people are even learning more about their own faith here, discussing it and answering the challenges from others. After all, you learn through "practise". Ha, bad pun. Practising Religion.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 12:37:57 GMT
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I'll admit, I was pretty much brainwashed as far as faith goes up until I started college. This was where I started to question things. I still question things until this day, but I still never lose my faith. It's not because I'm too stupid to let go. It's because I've found that science and the Bible DO work together, as long as you don't take the Old Testament too literally. I believe those stories to be true, but told in a different way that can contradict science if the symbolism isn't stripped from the stories.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Doitle](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 18:35:40 GMT
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Think relativity. If god was zooming around at a speed close to that of the speed of light the first "7 days" could have taken billions of Earth years.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 19:45:52 GMT
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Honestly, though... when you are at the level that I am on all this stuff, those who bind themselves to one belief are so significantly less open minded than those who only put this "god" as one of many possibilities. And I can explain this:

Given the two broad unanswered questions that religion attempts to answer:

- How did we get here/who put us here/where did the universe come from?
- What happens to us when we die? Do we have a soul or spirit?

There are basically infinite possibilities of answers to either of these questions. There may even be more than one actual true factual answer. So, when you think about these questions, you can come up with theories ranging from "the Universe was sneezed out of the nose of a being called the Great Green Arkleseizure" to "we are actually existing as part of another world larger than us and we are just atoms to them". But, if you limit yourself to setting "God" as a constant, then you are severely limiting yourself and closing your mind to the possibility that there is not and never was the Christian god Yahweh/Jehovah. Hence, you ARE in fact closed minded if you're not seriously putting your faith the the ultimate challenge of logic and question.

However, if you consider the very real possibility that there's a reason so many people have decided not to believe in Yahweh, and really question this whole "story of Jesus", you just might find more flaws in that logic than you ever thought could exist.

The biggest hurdle, however, is the negative view that atheists have in society. All you theists have been told all your lives that atheists are going to hell for not believing and that people who go to hell are evil. The "logical" jump there is that we are evil and live our lives without regard for others, without morals, and without care of consequences. In reality, my life is vastly comparable to yours and wonderful things and bad things happen to me just like they happen to you. And I don't pray for things either way. Shocking, isn't it?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 19:57:53 GMT
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CrimsonBut, if you limit yourself to setting "God" as a constant, then you are severely limiting yourself and closing your mind to the possibility that there is not and never was the Christian god Yahweh/Jehovah. Hence, you ARE in fact closed minded if you're not seriously putting your faith the the ultimate challenge of logic and question.

Those who blindly follow faith are closed-minded. That's not something that I disagree with. I continue to mold and shift my beliefs. However, I still remain a Christian. I have yet to see anything to prove me otherwise. I don't pretend that I know absolute truth, but to me... it is truth. Whether wrong or right, until I am proved wrong, it's what I'll stick to. I will also continue to challenge my faith. I will continue to question. I don't have to practice something to be open-minded. I accept that other things could be truth, but I've settled on one thing, and I'll stick to it. Just because I'm heterosexual doesn't necessarily mean I'm closed-minded to homosexuality. I don't practice it, but I'm certainly not going to say that heterosexuality is the ONLY way to live because it obviously isn't.

CrimsonHowever, if you consider the very real possibility that there's a reason so many people have decided not to believe in Yahweh, and really question this whole "story of Jesus", you just might find more flaws in that logic than you ever thought could exist.

I know there's a reason. I just don't agree with it. I don't see the flaws in anything I believe. My beliefs aren't disproven, so how can you say that they're flawed? They may very well be, but to date... they're not.

CrimsonThe biggest hurdle, however, is the negative view that atheists have in society. All you theists have been told all your lives that atheists are going to hell for not believing and that people who go to hell are evil. The "logical" jump there is that we are evil and live our lives without regard for others, without morals, and without care of consequences. In reality, my life is vastly comparable to yours and wonderful things and bad things happen to me just like they happen to you. And I don't pray for things either way. Shocking, isn't it?
Would you care to not generalize about Christianity's view on the secular world? That's only the extremists' views.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:14:42 GMT
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Once again, that could only be seen as proof that RELIGION is wrong. RELIGION has nothing to do with GOD, other than it is humanities interpretation of him. It wouldn't matter if every religion ever invented, or that will be invented has gotten it wrong, it does nothing to prove or disprove the existence of God.

God, under the assumption, for arugment's sake, that he exists will continue to exist, even after all religions of the world fail, and everyone turns athiest.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:19:33 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 15:45Honestly, though... when you are at the level that I am on all this stuff, those who bind themselves to one belief are so significantly less open minded than those who only put this "god" as one of many possibilities.

What level would that be?

You appear to be relegating the global theists to a backwards state of thinking while elevating your atheism to some moral high point we need to correct ourselves to, and work towards.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:27:01 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 14:57

Those who blindly follow faith are closed-minded. That's not something that I disagree with. I

continue to mold and shift my beliefs. However, I still remain a Christian. I have yet to see anything to prove me otherwise. I don't pretend that I know absolute truth, but to me... it is truth. Whether wrong or right, until I am proved wrong, it's what I'll stick to. I will also continue to challenge my faith. I will continue to question. I don't have to practice something to be open-minded. I accept that other things could be truth, but I've settled on one thing, and I'll stick to it. Just because I'm heterosexual doesn't necessarily mean I'm closed-minded to homosexuality. I don't practice it, but I'm certainly not going to say that heterosexuality is the ONLY way to live because it obviously isn't.

If you claim the name of "christian" and discount this statement about homosexuality: "1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders." ; then you are mitigating the truth in the word and doubting God as competent enough to get the written word right.

Heterosexuality is what was intended as evidenced by the very fact that the parts were made to go together to start and the paragraph above.

Homosexuality was man's foolish deviation from the perfect ways of God, just as organized religion, robes, popes and everything else not stated in the bible is.

Correct yourself to the truth, and return to what is right. Not what is popular.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:29:56 GMT
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I never said I accepted it as truth or even like it, but I'm certainly not going to slander homosexuality simply because it exists and discount that it IS a viable way of life. The correct one? Obviously not in my belief system, but the point still remains that I'm not closed-minded simply because I choose to adhere to one belief/lifestyle.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:37:06 GMT
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No one's asking you to slander anything.

It's just plain incorrect thinking according to the bible. And to call it viable gives mental assent to that deviancy.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:42:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 16:37No one's asking you to slander anything.

It's just plain incorrect thinking according to the bible. And to call it viable gives mental assent to that deviancy.

Yeah, it's incorrect, but it still doesn't make them any more of a sinner than anybody else. All sins are equal, so to claim moral high ground simply because we chose to believe that a heterosexual lifestyle is the correct one is false and a sin in itself. Not that I'm saying that it's okay because we all sin, anyways, but it still doesn't make them any worse than us. I know that's not what you're saying, though.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 20:54:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

j_ball430 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 15:42KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 16:37No one's asking you to slander anything.

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It's not my moral highground I'm promoting. It's GOD's.

If we give mental assent to one sin, it becomes easy to start mitigating the rest of them. Where do you draw the line?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 21:08:14 GMT
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Keep in mind that there is a difference in the acceptance of the lifestyle/person and the sexual act itself.

You can be tolerant the person and their choice of lifestyle, and that is what Religion is teaching. The sexual act is what is prohibited by religion, not the lifestyle per se.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [NeoSaber](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 21:30:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Crimson wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 15:45 All you theists have been told all your lives that atheists are going to hell for not believing and that people who go to hell are evil.

So you know everything about all of us? No one ever told me my father is going to hell, and I certainly don't believe he will. If anyone in my family ends up in hell it'll be me. I'm a horrible human being.

Some theists don't even believe in hell. Your generalizations keep betraying your ignorance on these subjects every time you post. When you say something like "I just believe in one less god than you" to a Christian you are claiming to believe in -1 gods. Christians don't believe in any god at all. That's a polytheist concept, not a monotheist one.

You keep talking about how you're better than the rest of us, but you don't even know what you're saying. I don't know whether to laugh or cry when I read stuff like this.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 22:24:07 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 12:57 Would you care to not generalize about Christianity's view on the secular world? That's only the extremists' views.

Extremists?

In a 1999 poll, 48% of Americans said they would not consider voting for an Atheist. Some dictionaries offer an alternate definition of Atheist as "wicked." The Boy Scouts membership form says, "no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God."

How are people supposed to know that Atheists in fact do grow up to be the best kinds of American citizens every day — if we aren't visible? Atheists of Silicon Valley is reclaiming the A-word in our community by encouraging local Atheists to come out of the closet and be open with friends, co-workers, neighbors and family. We're standing up and speaking out. 14% of Americans and 19% of Californians identify themselves as some kind of non-believer. We may be a minority, but we're sizable and growing. According to the American Religious Identification Survey, Americans who answered "none" when asked to identify their religion numbered 29.4 million in 2001, more than double the 14.3 million in 1990.

- From www.godlessgeeks.com

NeoSaberYou keep talking about how you're better than the rest of us, but you don't even know what you're saying.

I never said better. I guarantee it. Better is far too general a word for this situation. I can't remember when I wasn't an atheist (except when I dabbled in agnosticism). And I never said my "level" and specified that it's a level above or below yours. It's just my level. The amount of time, effort, and thought I put into it. I define a supreme being/deity as a variable in my equation, whereas you guys seem to want to define him as a constant, and anything that doesn't fit that constant is simply rejected rather than considered. I believe that's the very definition of closed-mindedness if I'm not mistaken.

Like I said before, I have been to churches. I've heard the sermons. I've felt very uncomfortable and embarrassed as people bowed to their knees and made a scene of themselves in the pews, because whatever they felt or pretended to feel just simply wasn't there for me. I have never read the bible and probably never will. But I have had one experience that challenged my lack of faith. It will just take more of them to change my mind. I'm not holding out hope.

NeoSaberYour generalizations keep betraying your ignorance on these subjects every time you post. When you say something like "I just believe in one less god than you" to a Christian you are claiming to believe in -1 gods. Christians don't believe in any god at all. That's a polytheist concept, not a monotheist one.

I'm not sure how I can "betray my ignorance" but you are missing the point. The funny part is that I know you are smarter than that, so you're just picking apart my words because you can't refute the actual argument. Care to try again? Let me make this really really clear for you so that you can comprehend, ok? You do not believe in the ancient Greek gods. You know that Helios doesn't cart the sun across the sky. You know that Thor doesn't throw lightning bolts down. You disbelieve in all these other gods that have been created by man. I just disbelieve in a little bit more than you disbelieve. Is that clear enough for you? I hope I didn't leave any other lingual oddities in there for you to pounce on to dodge the issue.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:01:54 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 18:24: I define a supreme being/deity as a variable in my equation, whereas you guys seem to want to define him as a constant, and anything that doesn't fit that constant is simply rejected rather than considered. I believe that's the very definition of closed-mindedness if I'm not mistaken.

ENOUGH WITH THE GENERALIZATIONS!

Where do you get this from that we just simply reject it? Have any of us in this thread implied that we take the Bible literally? Every single word? I haven't seen it, so stop generalizing. If I'm not mistaken, I've even said I agree with the Big Bang Theory.

What's funny is that you're trying to call it closed-mindedness because "we" reject something that doesn't fit this "constant" you claim we define, yet you think less of us because of what we believe. Who is rejecting what?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:19:46 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Wed, 19 July 2006 11:01 Have any of us in this thread implied that we take the Bible literally? Every single word? I haven't seen it, so stop generalizing. If I'm not mistaken, I've even said I agree with the Big Bang Theory.

I do.

It's the inspired word of God. What's in there is EXACTLY what he intended to be. If he can create matter and energy, he sure can make sure his word is infallible.

There may be metaphors parables figurative language and the like used as teaching instruments (parable of the seeds for example), but what's in there belongs in there, and is inerrant.

Edit: Ms. Korza, if not for anything else than just understanding christian theology better, I recommend an anonymous online bible study like the following:

<http://www.netbiblestudy.net/>

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:26:16 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

^ Yikes.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:28:43 GMT
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To not believe it means my God is so incompetent that men can usurp his will. They cannot.

http://www.netbiblestudy.net/new_page_21.htm

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Sniper_De7](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:44:20 GMT
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mrpirate wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 18:26^ Yikes.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:48:33 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Sniper_De7 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 19:44mrpirate wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 18:26^ Yikes.

Ah yes. The mass mindset sets in. It's no wonder no one in the atheist community takes us seriously. 99 percent of professed believers aren't even sure the bible is true.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:54:16 GMT
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There is a difference between "says what is intended" and taking it literally.

As with the parable regarding the seed, it may not be that all of it is to be taken word-for-word literal as what is written, but rather as something to guide us in the right direction. It contains the answers, but not always as obvious as we would like it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2006 23:55:56 GMT
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What good is a lesson that doesn't make you think?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:03:56 GMT
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Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's law. I have learned a great deal from you, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however,

regarding some of the other specific laws and how to best follow them.

* When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord (Lev. 1:9). The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. How should I deal with this?

* I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as it suggests in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

* I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev. 15:19-24). The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

* Lev. 25:44 states that I may buy slaves from the nations that are around us. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans but not Canadians. Can you clarify?

* I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

* A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. 10:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?

* Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

[From godlessgeeks.com]

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:11:58 GMT
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KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 17:55: What good is a lesson that doesn't make you think?

My point exactly. Being told everything is to be taken literally, word for word offers nothing to make you think.

Quote: All of Crimsons latest post

Hence the reason for not taking things word-for-word literally.

edit:

To show some of the faults in taking it literally.

1. The odour may be "pleasing" but that doesn't mean you have to do it. Or, perhaps it simply refers to giving up something that is expensive?
2. Slavery as we understand it today is completely different that it was then. As well, simply because it mentions if it were do happen, doesn't mean it should.
3. what does "contact" refer to? Simple touching, or does it mean in a familiar/sexual nature?
4. Does death mean in the mortal sense? Could it have a different meaning? After all, "working yourself to death" doesn't actually mean you work until you physically die.
5. No where in that does it distinguish between the "holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean", so if your going to reference that, you may wish to explain further.
6. Lev 21:20 does not state that, try reading what is around the passages, as it gives hints as to what it is referring to.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:12:47 GMT
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Easy.

The old law passed away when christ was made the ultimate sacrifice.

Ephesians 2

14For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Romans7

6But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

There are multiple covenants God made with humans to try to achieve a relationship with man. Man violated each and every one of them.

God provided a final solution by taking the initiative to oslve the problem knowing we were a hopeless mess.

Jesus was that answer. He died as a perfect sacrifice to atone once and for all for all sins. No longer would man need to constantly sacrifice to atone. All that is required to be atoned for through the death of christ is:

Acts 2:38

38Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

40With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:13:31 GMT
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KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 19:19There may be metaphors parables figurative language and the like used as teaching instruments (parable of the seeds for example), but what's in there belongs in there, and is inerrant.
I have to agree. It's inerrant, but my whole point is that it IS up for interpretation. I believe it was written in symbolism for the people of the time to understand. It's just for us to decypher it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:16:46 GMT
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j_ball430 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 19:13KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 19:19There may be metaphors parables figurative language and the like used as teaching instruments (parable of the seeds for example), but what's in there belongs in there, and is inerrant.
I have to agree. It's inerrant, but my whole point is that it IS up for interpretation. I believe it was written in symbolism for the people of the time to understand. It's just for us to decypher it.

Certainly.

We need only be united on the basics tenets of faith as mandated by christ. Everything else is "disputable matters" as paul puts it.

Romans 14
The Weak and the Strong

1Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. 2One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:27:00 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 20:03 Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's law. I have learned a great deal from you, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the other specific laws and how to best follow them.

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room here?

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Two words: Old covenant (or Old Testament)

Either way, that's God's old promise to Israel and its 12 tribes. However, as Kirby stated, that was changed with Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The new covenant was then in place. Jesus is our Lamb.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [NeoSaber](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:27:16 GMT

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Crimson wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 18:24: I'm not sure how I can "betray my ignorance" but you are missing the point. The funny part is that I know you are smarter than that, so you're just picking apart my words because you can't refute the actual argument. Care to try again? Let me make this really really clear for you so that you can comprehend, ok? You do not believe in the ancient Greek gods. You know that Helios doesn't cart the sun across the sky. You know that Thor doesn't throw lightning bolts down. You disbelieve in all these other gods that have been created by man. I just disbelieve in a little bit more than you disbelieve. Is that clear enough for you? I hope I didn't leave any other lingual oddities in there for you to pounce on to dodge the issue.

The existence, or lack of existence, of Helios, Thor, Baal, etc. makes no difference to me. Sure I don't think Helios drags the sun across the sky, but even if he did, he wouldn't be worthy of my praise. A 'god' is the concept of a being with greater power than a human. The concept of 'God' is that of the Creator, that which always existed and made all that was created. A 'god' is finite. A 'God' is infinite.

You've asked us to think about why we don't believe in the ancient Greek gods. I don't worship them because even if they exist, they are finite like I am. They have their Creator, just like me. They wouldn't be any more worthy of praise than I am. I give reverence to God because I give praise to the Creator. All other things are His creation.

The more I question if a Creator exists, the more certain I am that one does. Everything I know, everything I learn, every opinion I hear, and every challenge to it I've faced ultimately points me back to that premise. That's why I don't worship ancient Greek gods, or others like them. They aren't the Creator, just more created. It's not a 'my god is better than your god' argument. It's an issue of what makes something worthy of praise to begin with. Nothing about 'the gods' makes them worth a second thought. 'God' is another story entirely.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 00:30:05 GMT

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Well, there's that , and the fact that there's a tourist center on top of mt olympus.

I suppose the best evidence for me is that 12 men were executed, tortured, banished and persecuted for thier faith in a man they SAW and witnessed ascending after resurection.

What odds are there that all twelve upon being tortured wouldn't give up and renounce a charlatan after nails were driven into thier bodies and thier bones crushed?

They belived he existed, and that thier deaths were meaningless because they had seen with thier eyes that resurrection happens through christ. If the romans extracted a confession that jesus was fake, don't you think christianity would have died in the coloseums of rome? Entire families were given death sentences for not renouncing the name of christ. You don't do things like that for lost fake causes.

That's powerful.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 02:32:12 GMT
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Be careful with that association though. There have been many suicide cults that take their own lives because of <insert reason here>.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 02:46:12 GMT
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And people think Scientology is evil...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 03:23:03 GMT
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Belief is a very powerful force; no matter what you believe, if you believe in it strongly enough you can accomplish a great many things that would not otherwise be possible. Enduring pain, for example, secure in knowing that death is not the end of life, and that something infinitely better awaits you on the other side. Or overcoming incredible odds to beat a disease that defied all cures through the belief that an otherworldy power was lending you its strength (the curative effects of faith, regardless of which faith, are well known). There are known examples of Buddhist Monks who, through their beliefs, are able to achieve total control of their bodies to the point of being able to halt the beating of their own hearts.

The power of true belief isn't anything new to Christianity. As far back as human history goes, true believers (regardless of what they believe) have always been willing to die for their beliefs. Many

wars have been fought using religion as a motivational tool to bolster morale and drive soldiers to make the ultimate sacrifice without fear; the sacking of Troy, for example- both sides in the Trojan War believed that they had the backing of many powerful gods, and that death in battle would bring glory in the afterlife. The Crusades (and Saladin's highly successful campaign against the Crusaders) are another example, and the list goes on.

True belief is power, a power that- like any other power- can be called on to achieve great things or corrupted and abused for personal gain. It is also a power completely independent of any single faith- yet which each and every faith may help a person tap into.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 04:04:48 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Tue, 18 July 2006 20:46And people think Scientology is evil...

Not evil, just the puchline.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 11:11:17 GMT
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Read more than the geek manifesto before you start throwing around over general statements only fit for debate with teenagers.

Humanity is evil. Christ and his teachings are perfect.

There's a reason I don't voluntarily throw myself into death as opposed to standing for what I believe is far more important than anything else you can understand in this life.

You understand why soldiers go to war for "Democracy". Why is it so hard to understand why men stand up for god's teaching peacefully and are persecuted for it.

Don't start bringing extreemism into this or the crusades. Those are deviant man made philosophies in the same vein as homosexuality. They show LACK of understanding and ignorance of the reality of the bible.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 18:05:02 GMT
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Quote:Humanity is evil. Christ and his teachings are perfect.

And again, says who? Mankind has been around for several million years, and many billions more have lived who didn't believe that than ever did- and the same goes for every other faith, bar none. Do try to put things in perspective- I'm not saying that you are wrong, necessarily, but that statement is something that you believe- and that countless others do not. What elevates your beliefs as having a higher status than those of anyone else? To date, I've been unable to find a satisfactory answer to that question- even where my own beliefs are concerned. Do you have an answer that could satisfy someone outside your own faith?

Quote:There's a reason I don't voluntarily throw myself into death as opposed to standing for what I believe is far more important than anything else you can understand in this life.

It would be impossible for any person to understand completely the beliefs of someone else who follows a different faith. However, to say or imply that the same person cannot hold their own beliefs with the same strength of conviction and devotion is simply untrue.

Quote:You understand why soldiers go to war for "Democracy". Why is it so hard to understand why men stand up for god's teaching peacefully and are persecuted for it.

True belief in one is fundamentally no different than true belief in another- from an outsider's point of view, of course; I realize you believe one to be far greater. You must, however, realize that many others don't.

Quote:Don't start bringing extremism into this or the crusades. Those are deviant man made philosophies in the same vein as homosexuality. They show LACK of understanding and ignorance of the reality of the bible.

Yet extremism is driven by the same beliefs which drive others to seek peace with their fellow man, the same beliefs which allow a person the strength to overcome almost insurmountable adversity. Even the most genuinely heartfelt truths can be abused by someone powerful with an agenda- it is very rarely the fault of the rank and file, who are merely led along by those same corrupt people. You are absolutely correct- it is not the belief that is corrupt, it is the person. Perhaps that is the reason why there have been so many thousands of vastly different faiths, each claiming to hold the key to ultimate Truth?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Javaxcx](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 21:40:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

KIRBY-098 wrote on Wed, 19 July 2006 07:11 Humanity is evil. Christ and his teachings are perfect.

Despite being quiet in this thread as to see where it goes, I'm hoping to get a reasoned and well thought out response from you in regards to the question I'm going to ask.

Up until recently, I've held very similar beliefs to you. I held for a long while an atheist approach to this issue because it made more sense that we are more animal than anything else; that our consciousnesses are merely the sum of the parts by which we are made. A Christian friend and I

discussed the flaws in Catholicism, more importantly, the pomp and circumstance that the entire dogma fondles itself with. Then it led to the situation of denominational religion (all based around Abraham's 3 major tendrils) and how the fundamentalists are, if they are right, the ones that their respective "God" would be looking for in the ideal human being. Literally taking their documents word for word in their correct context and application can only be doing exactly what God wants-- word for word, right?

I grew up in a Catholic environment, and even now I still treat the notion of Jesus resurrecting as so phenomenal that it is not even something I sit down and reconsider. Whether or not he actually did almost seems to be a non-issue in lieu that if he merely died and did not come back, he was a pretty awesome guy anyway worthy of being remembered as one of the greatest philosophers humanity has ever produced. After I looked through the Catholic doctrine and found how little of it has Biblical reinforcement, I was more or less swayed into the more fundamental approach that "Christians" hold. That being said, I confess I might have jumped on that boat a bit prematurely. Of course I was immersed in the Bible all throughout school, but I never read it critically as an adult in the fundamentalist context. Suffice to say, it's a pretty big fish to catch.

For example, the story of Samson defies so many fields of probable science that in context, (Biblical or not) the possibility of it happening is relative to me reaching through my monitor and pulling out a purple monkey dishwasher. Another is the story of Creation, the story of Adam and Eve, and even more improbable, the issue that people lived up in excess of 900 (nine hundred) years before dying. You'll notice that a lot of the Old Testament is so fantastic that it's like living in MiddleEarth. I researched the issue as to why people believe this is truth by associating "Christian Science" to the equation, but after looking at that such data critically, there are numerous flaws in each of the theories presented. The explanations seem vilify the science practiced today and formulate anew around a very, IMO, dangerous idea that I will tell you in a moment.

The New Testament is much more believable, and I am more inclined to believe that as it is written, it actually happened very much the way described. This isn't including the issue of miracles and other supernatural happenings which I am quite undecided on because:

The axiology does not make sense.

That is my primary concern regarding every single organized religion that has ever existed and will exist. Why should I treat the Bible as an objective truth when its existence defies the criteria that would otherwise allow for objective truth? Normally this wouldn't be an issue. I mean, no one really cares about objective comprehension of why doors open and why cola tastes good, but this is a metaphysical issue that demands our absolute obedience to avoid a state of physical pain. That's huge! Much of the Christian literature I read speaks of some kind of divine intervention on their psyche. Frankly, I'm not sure what to make of that. They tell me to give my heart to Jesus (how I'm to do this exactly I've inquired about, but I'm still confused as all fuck), accept salvation (this too I've asked many times and have yet to receive an answer that makes even comprehensible sense), and read the Bible for objective truth to the issues I have in life. As such, I am now left in a limbo of agnosticism. Logic tells me that God almost certainly exists, but rationality tells me that such a God is not necessarily the one outlined by the pages of the Bible.

My question to you my friend is thus: Why? How?

Not, "Why should I bother", because that is an obvious and extremely arrogant question to even

posit. I'm referring to the metaphysical principles that MUST exist otherwise the arguments for Christianity have failed before they start.

How does this even work? I've asked this to my Christian friends and I am always left with a lingering issue regarding the circular tendencies. For example; I've asked how they can come to know God (in the Biblical context, obviously) or Jesus in a truly phenomenal way if prior to reading the same words I have read, they were unaware of them. They claim to speak to God on a daily basis as well. I can honestly tell you that regardless of how much I believed in God as a child and teenager, that every time I spoke to God I never received any kind of tangible (or intangible) response-- to others this is not true and quite the opposite. Either I was "praying wrong", insane, innocently ignorant, or I was right in bringing these issues of personal, absolute inconsistency up. That being said, as per my understanding, without the Bible, the knowledge of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit would be confined to the leather bound pages next to my monitor. This raises some pretty insane consequences and I'm sure I don't need to elaborate too much on the inductive nature of what I'm talking about. So I'm left with:

Why is this truth? Why is *insert non-biblical doctrine* not truth? Is there a rational non-circular argument to support the objectivity of the Bible? If so, I would truly like to hear it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 21:57:39 GMT
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Simple solution to that year-gap.

Different calendar. Perhaps a "year" was defined as a lunar month. Interesting coincidence: Using 12 lunar months a year, $900 \text{ "years"}/12 \text{ lunar months} = 75 \text{ of our "years"}$

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 22:14:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Javaxcx wrote on Wed, 19 July 2006 16:40

Why is this truth? Why is *insert non-biblical doctrine* not truth? Is there a rational non-circular argument to support the objectivity of the Bible? If so, I would truly like to hear it.

Intelligent discourse!

I will get back to you on this. I've just got back from Disney with the kids and am headed to Bible study in a few.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Javaxcx](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 22:19:37 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

warranto wrote on Wed, 19 July 2006 17:57: Simple solution to that year-gap.

Different calendar. Perhaps a "year" was defined as a lunar month. Interesting coincidence: Using 12 lunar months a year, $900 \text{ "years"}/12 \text{ lunar months} = 75 \text{ of our "years"}$

From my understanding, the original Hebrew uses ambiguous words for that. So you're almost certainly absolutely correct.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 23:32:00 GMT
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You mean kind of like how the word "begot" means to "father", as well as to "cause to exist"? ie. I exist because my great-x20 grandfather had a kid. He "begot" me.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 12:11:19 GMT
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As another random observation;
Why is(are) there not a religion(s) wherein the central deity is blamed for all that goes wrong? I mean, from prehistoric animals eating your son to everything that goes wrong nowadays you'd think we'd blame someone who can't argue back...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 13:18:37 GMT
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Actually there is. Every religion ever created has the same gods blamed for all that is good as well as all that is bad. Perhaps you've even seen in this thread "Why does God let bad things happen?"

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 13:20:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

CarrierII wrote on Thu, 20 July 2006 08:11As another random observation; Why is(are) there not a religion(s) wherein the central deity is blamed for all that goes wrong? I mean, from prehistoric animals eating your son to everything that goes wrong nowadays you'd think we'd blame someone who can't argue back...

There are probably a lot of reasons. But the main one might be that if a god has the ability to make things go wrong, you'll NOT want to get in his "blacklist", or you're likely to get killed by some accident. So practically, when people believe a deity is malevolent, they'll end up making sacrifices and rituals to please him and try to get on his good side, not mock him. I haven't researched that many religions, but there's probably many examples of this.

It's the same reason you don't blame your stronger big brother for all your mishaps when he's around...

EDIT: Warranto is right in that many gods are both blamed for bad and praised for good, but I'm not sure if there's a deity which ONLY gets the bad blames and no respect, and has no other purpose. There were some such beings in the old finnish mythologies, for example Ajattar, who was some female godly creature of the woods that led people missing, but she wasn't a central god by any means.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Sat, 22 Jul 2006 04:52:19 GMT
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i only read the beginning of this, just wanted to say im a firm believer in god, christ and the wholy trinity.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [glyde51](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 01:00:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Torn wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 02:23ar ther any relligiss peple on this form that think if you share diffrent beleifs or r cathlic than them YOU will burn in hell???

just askin becus acording to my frend im not cathlik so im going to hell

thees peple think were bad.....

I'm an Athiest myself, but I suppose I have to respect others opinions, though I believe it was rather rude of your friend to tell you that "you are going to Hell."

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [pirkel123](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 06:20:05 GMT
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glyde51 wrote on Sat, 22 July 2006 21:00Torn wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 02:23ar ther any relligiss peple on this form that think if you share diffrent beleifs or r cathlic than them YOU will burn in hell???

just askin becus acording to my frend im not cathlik so im going to hell

thees peple think were bad.....

I'm an Athiest myself, but I suppose I have to respect others opinions, though I believe it was rather rude of your friend to tell you that "you are going to Hell."

Just curious, what do you think happens to you when you die?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 07:25:17 GMT
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Our body decomposes, the bones being the last thing left of us, but in time even they turn to dust. Or if you're talking about a spirit of some kind, an atheist wouldn't probably believe in such a thing anyway. We're just very complicated machines, and that area in science is advancing pretty fast too. We already have quite a lot of evidence that we don't even have a freedom of choice, it's just an illusion. Did you know that your brain knows what you're going to do before you acknowledge it? For example, if you have a button in front of you and you're to press it anytime, your brain starts the action almost 500 milliseconds before you "decide" to press it. Sure, there's a lot of room for speculation and I'm not a neurologist, but I'm just trying to make a point: there is still no evidence of any divine spirit that lies in us, and from the atheists point of view there's no reason to believe in one. Just my 20 cents, even if I'm more of an agnostic than atheist.

EDIT: This was just posted on Slashdot:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/07/060721182137.htm>

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 17:34:34 GMT
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Scythar wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 09:25Our body decomposes, the bones being the last thing left of us, but in time even they turn to dust. Or if you're talking about a spirit of some kind, an atheist wouldn't probably believe in such a thing anyway. We're just very complicated machines, and that area in science is advancing pretty fast too. We already have quite a lot of evidence that we don't even have a freedom of choice, it's just an illusion. Did you know that your brain knows what you're going to do before you acknowledge it? For example, if you have a button in front of

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EDIT: This was just posted on Slashdot:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/07/060721182137.htm>

Well that's just common sense, that's how our bodies work.. it's like moving from A to B, you don't think about moving your legs and walking there, you just do it.

Am agnostic, I think we have some spirit or life force that will be reborn into a new life when we die.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [reborn](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 21:23:19 GMT
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Mad Ivan wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 07:22
Like idjit, i am an atheist. I believe in no gods

Atheism by definition is the lack of theism. It makes me laugh that you believe there are no Gods, rather than you do not believe in God.

I was in an interesting debate recently with someone who also said they believe that God does not exist, and I pointed out that that remark in itself demonstrates a belief, so therefore they are not an atheist. One could also argue that the belief that God does not exist is a religion in itself.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 22:21:49 GMT
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Being an atheist doesn't mean that you're not allowed to believe in anything, it means that you don't believe in a God or gods. Believing there is no god means the same thing as disbelieving in god.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [reborn](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 00:56:18 GMT
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mrpirate wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 18:21 Being an atheist doesn't mean that you're not allowed to believe in anything, it means that you don't believe in a God or gods. Believing there is no god

means the same thing as disbelieving in god.

Atheism, in its broadest sense, is the absence of theism. - sourced from wikipedia

He has stated that he believes there are no Gods, which means he is acting on faith.

There is a difference between "believing there are no Gods" and "not believing there are Gods".

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 00:58:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Reborn wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 16:23Mad Ivan wrote on Thu, 13 July 2006 07:22

Like idjit, i am an atheist. I believe in no gods

Atheism by definition is the lack of theism. It makes me laugh that you believe there are no Gods, rather than you do not believe in God.

I was in an interesting debate recently with someone who also said they believe that God does not exist, and I pointed out that that remark in itself demonstrates a belief, so therefore they are not an atheist. One could also argue that the belief that God does not exist is a religion in itself.

Ah sometimes reborn, I think you and me are not that different, I totally agree what you said and thats why am not a atheist anymore as its a belief in itself.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 01:46:07 GMT

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The statements "believe in no god" and "do not believe in god" seem to logically imply each other, to me. Further, theism is defined as the belief in a god or gods, so, naturally, atheism is not believing in a god or gods. I don't know why you think that atheism implies having no beliefs whatsoever.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 02:56:18 GMT

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Javaxcx wrote on Wed, 19 July 2006 16:40

Despite being quiet in this thread as to see where it goes, I'm hoping to get a reasoned and well

thought out response from you in regards to the question I'm going to ask.

Why is this truth? Why is *insert non-biblical doctrine* not truth? Is there a rational non-circular argument to support the objectivity of the Bible? If so, I would truly like to hear it.

<http://answering-islam.org/Case/index.html>

Sorry to throw a website at you java. I hate doing that, but I face serious time constraints ATM. I prefer a more personal and less wordy version, but this answers what I think you're asking.

Right now, i'm trying to raise three kids, keep marital bliss, serve in the local congregation and study for an upcoming entrance math exam for the school I just sold my house, and quit my job to attend.

(If any of you have heard of fullsail, you know what I'm up against)

If you have further questions on the authenticity of the bible, let me know.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 04:10:02 GMT
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Believing in nothing is a nihilist.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [jnz](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 04:39:10 GMT
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i think our god is that dude that is #1 on the westwood ranking out of all the servers.

so all bow down to me!

ps: i could only dream of being at the top of the ranking system.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [jnz](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 04:47:12 GMT
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sorry to double post but:

Quote:The Bible is a basically reliable and trustworthy document of history.

- 1) On the basis of this we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- 2) Jesus Christ teaches that the Bible is the very Word of God.
- 3) Conclusion: Since the Bible is the Word of God, then Christianity is true.

how on earth is anyone going to believe that. how do we know that the bible hasn't been written by a Victorian in his/her spare time.

if J.K. Rowling were to write her Harry Potter books 2000 years ago would we believe in magic. it is the same principle here.

i suppose this is like telling my kids there is no Santa Clause.

ps: i would not like anyone to take any offense to this. i did not mean this in an offensive manner.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 05:36:10 GMT
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Straight owned by help-linux.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Hydra](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 06:38:35 GMT
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WAY TO QUOTE OUT OF CONTEXT.

Quote:Introduction

In this series of newsletters I am seeking to set forth the case for Christianity. In Part 1 of this series I laid out the argument for the reasonableness of our faith. The argument consists of three premises:

1. The Bible is a basically reliable and trustworthy document of history.
2. On the basis of this we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
3. Jesus Christ teaches that the Bible is the very Word of God.

Conclusion: Since the Bible is the Word of God, then Christianity is true.

That was a summary of a certain newsletter. Obviously, if you wanted to read the support for those claims, you would have to read the newsletter.

Those three points were not the author's evidence but rather an overview of what he already wrote.

Why couldn't we say the very same thing about every single scientific text that has been published since Aristotle?

P.S. Crimson, I'm curious as to what you read that brought you to your current state of thinking;

did you mix in some religious texts with your atheistic reading, or did you just stick with documents that "disproved" the existence of God?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 08:12:28 GMT
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Creationism is cool!

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 09:06:31 GMT
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I don't always tend to read other people's thoughts and recycle them as my own. I've thought the whole "god" thing was ridiculous as long as I can remember. Reading what other people say on atheist-oriented sites just helps put my thoughts into words. Heck, I came up with the theory of quantum immortality when I was in 4th grade (or earlier)... reading about it just let me put my thoughts into words.

In fact, if I really think back, my dad was an atheist (he's not anymore). He had some atheist group's newsletter at his house and I found it and read it. I don't remember the contents of the newsletter but I remember that it was the first time I learned that there were people who didn't believe in "God". I would guess that not only as a result of very little church exposure, combined with this... as long as I can remember, this whole "God" thing didn't sit well with me. I put that story on the same level as Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy. Learning that there existed people who didn't believe put it in some sort of perspective for me and I haven't believed since. Not even for a moment. At this time I was most likely in 5th or 6th grade.

Just to clarify... this newsletter really just put a name and an identity to how I felt. Just like I didn't know my youthful "infinite dimensions" theory was called "quantum immortality" in scientific circles. I suppose there was a time when I took the alleged existence of "God" at face value but seeing how weird people acted in church and the whole concept of talking to someone you can't see was just the start of the path I am on.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [reborn](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 10:47:20 GMT
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mrpirate wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 21:46The statements "believe in no god" and "do not believe in god" seem to logically imply each other, to me. Further, theism is defined as the belief in a god or gods, so, naturally, atheism is not believing in a god or gods. I don't know why you think that atheism implies having no beliefs whatsoever.

The fact that he believes no God exists means he is acting on faith.

If he simply "did not believe in any Gods", then it would of meant he had a lack of faith in the their existence.

The difference is subtle, but quite important. There is a big difference between positively believing that a thing does not exist, and simply lacking belief in it's existence.

Because I am saying he is acting on faith, I am saying he has a religion, he has positive belief in the non-existence of God. I am implying he is a theist at heart, not that atheism means having no beliefs.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 11:00:11 GMT
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Looks like just a problem with grammar to me, just like many have troubles understanding the difference between "God" and "god". Nevertheless, whether a person believes in something or not doesn't have anything to do with how good he is at english.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 12:03:26 GMT
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So you read one paragraph of a four part series on the authenticity of the bible, and it's secular supports for existence and validity and you think you're an expert on the subject matter.

There is no shortcut to studying this topic children. If you don't want to take time to properly research the topic to provide a reasonable, and respectful answer then stay out of discussions on serious theological discourse.

This site is just adressing how a secular mind can start to see why christians consider the bible inerrant.

There are real and quantifiable supports in the non-christian world for the things that DID happen in history.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [jnz](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 13:11:05 GMT
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Hydra wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 07:38

That was a summary of a certain newsletter. Obviously, if you wanted to read the support for those claims, you would have to read the newsletter.
Those three points were not the author's the evidence but rather an overview of what he already wrote.

Why couldn't we say the very same thing about every single scientific text that has been published since Aristotle?

you can say the same thing about scientific text.
the text that i quoted from was the introduction, but why lie about the body of the page in the introduction?

the reason (i think) that people oppose god/gods is that there is no hard evidence of his/her existence. people say the bible but like i said that could be a story made up by someone 1000 years ago. people go the scientific way because it is like an opposite to religion but the scientific way doesn't need any evidence. plus the science way admits that they don't know what happens when you die.

also when you look at when the world was created, i believe that it was created when clouds of particles started heating up and clumped together. the moon was created when a massive object hit earth (big splash).

also, god had done a lot for people 2000 years ago (allegedly) but why not now? why is it that there is not many people that say "yesterday i was blind, now i can see again".

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Jecht](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 14:42:29 GMT
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The answer to the reason he doesn't openly do things now may be because the next step is the Rapture.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 15:18:37 GMT
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The Bible is not a story written by Harry Potter. It is a compilation of books written by many people. Disciples of Jesus Christ, who "did a lot" for people 2000 years ago. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John The Baptist each wrote a book during their studies under Jesus. I think the evidence of the life and trials of Jesus Christ are well documented.
If you believe in God or not, or believe that Jesus walked on water is one thing. The facts are that Jesus walked the Earth, followed by a flock of people who documented his life. These documents help to make up the Bible, a book of books.

P.S. It should be GNU/Linux-help as Linux is the kernel and final piece to the puzzle, but GNU is the open source project that set out to build the operating system. Much like the Bible, a collection of work is reduced to a single name and many are confused to it's origin.

gnu.org

by Richard Stallman @ gnu.org Most free software projects have the goal of developing a particular program for a particular job. For example, Linus Torvalds set out to write a Unix-like kernel (Linux); Donald Knuth set out to write a text formatter (TeX); Bob Scheifler set out to develop a window system (the X Window system). It's natural to measure the contribution of this kind of project by specific programs that came from the project.

If we tried to measure the GNU Project's contribution in this way, what would we conclude? One CD-ROM vendor found that in their ``Linux distribution'', GNU software was the largest single contingent, around 28% of the total source code, and this included some of the essential major components without which there could be no system. Linux itself was about 3%. So if you were going to pick a name for the system based on who wrote the programs in the system, the most appropriate single choice would be ``GNU''.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 15:58:43 GMT
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Reborn wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 06:47mrpirate wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 21:46The statements "believe in no god" and "do not believe in god" seem to logically imply each other, to me. Further, theism is defined as the belief in a god or gods, so, naturally, atheism is not believing in a god or gods. I don't know why you think that atheism implies having no beliefs whatsoever.

The fact that he believes no God exists means he is acting on faith.

If he simply "did not believe in any Gods", then it would of meant he had a lack of faith in the their existence.

The difference is subtle, but quite important. There is a big difference between positively believing that a thing does not exist, and simply lacking belief in it's existence.

Because I am saying he is acting on faith, I am saying he has a religion, he has positive belief in the non-existence of God. I am implying he is a theist at heart, not that atheism means having no beliefs.

OK, dude. If you don't believe in a god, then it follows that you believe there is no god. I'm not sure how you don't see this. If I do not eat anything, then it follows that I eat nothing. Since no one will ever know if there's a god or not, ANY opinion you have on god(s) whatsoever amounts to faith. Finally, the existence of faith does not make a person a theist unless that faith is in a god.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [warranto](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 16:14:03 GMT

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mision08 wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 09:18 The Bible is not a story written by Harry Potter. It is a compilation of books written by many people. Disciples of Jesus Christ, who "did a lot" for people 2000 years ago. Mathew, Mark, Luke and John The Baptist each wrote a book during their study under Jesus. I think the evidence of the life and trials of Jesus Christ are well documented. If you believe in God or not, or believe that Jesus walked on water is one thing. The facts are that Jesus walked the Earth, followed by a flock of people who documented his life. These documents help to make up the Bible, a book of books.

Just to support this idea:

The new testament is, in fact, a collection of biographies. What people did 2000 years ago.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [reborn](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 19:34:24 GMT

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mrpirate wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 11:58 Reborn wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 06:47 mrpirate wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 21:46 The statements "believe in no god" and "do not believe in god" seem to logically imply each other, to me. Further, theism is defined as the belief in a god or gods, so, naturally, atheism is not believing in a god or gods. I don't know why you think that atheism implies having no beliefs whatsoever.

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If I do not believe that Gods exist, then it doesn't mean I believe Gods do not exist, because that is an act of faith in Gods absence. You are wrong in saying they naturally follow. The existance of faith in God exists, albeit a faith in his non-existence.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 20:15:41 GMT
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Ugh, inherent problems in the grammar of the English language (not your fault though).

In the way that the phrase "I do not believe that Gods exist" is being interpreted is both correct, it just depends on where the two ideas diverge.

"I do not believe - that Gods exist" has a different meaning than "I do not - believe that Gods exist. One is the act of believing that God does not exist (the first example, or mrpirate's interpretation), the other is the act of not even bothering to believe in the first place as no sort of belief is taking place (the second example, or Reborn's interpretation).

I think I have that right, but correct me if I'm wrong. It's a poor explanation, but the best I can come up with in the limited time I have to type this.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 21:06:57 GMT
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I think warranto may have found the problem.

There appear to me to be three possible categories for a person to fit here: belief in god, belief in no god, and ambiguity. Our argument seems to centre around where the statement "does not believe in god" places someone. Upon first inspection this statement seems to rule out only the first category. So you and I have then been arguing over whether or not it belongs in either "belief in no god," or "ambiguity." I assert that it cannot belong in the "ambiguity" category, since if one makes a statement saying they do not believe in god then clearly they are no longer ambiguous. Thus, according to me, if you don't believe in god, you also believe there is no god. Only if you're actually ambiguous can you be... ambiguous.

I was hoping that I would be able to get my point across well here, but in reviewing what I wrote I do not seem to have entirely succeeded. I suspect that you (Reborn) won't agree with my ruling out of the "ambiguity" category, and I also suspect that a good argument can be made from your side, so have at it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [jnz](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 21:18:53 GMT
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i do not oppose any religion in any way, i tolerate people and can be open minded when someone tells me their belifs

let me just tell my belives,
i belived their was a guy called Jesus and other people in the bible.

what i don't believe is true is the powers and supernatural stuff that is in the bible. although i do believe some stories.

eg: i cannot remember the full thing so here goes.

Moses sent 7 plagues, in protest to get the king to let the slaves go. the reason i believe this is because there are scientific reasons these plagues could have happened.

i don't believe in heaven or hell.

i don't believe in ghosts or spirits. however i do believe in a sort of soul. not the sort you are thinking.

i believe in the scientific *theory* of how the universe was created (big bang)

i also believe in the scientific theory on how the earth was created with living things on it.

im sorry about my spelling, i am not good at that. im the bestest at english.

also this will be my last reply in this thread as i don't want to make enemies. i did not mean any of my posts to offend anyone.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 22:36:43 GMT

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Well I thought I'd throw my 2 cents in. As I posted before I am a Christian, I believe in God, Christ & the Holy Ghost. I believe in the Holy Trinity. I believe that Christ died on the cross for me and has forgiven me of my sins. I have absolutely no doubts in my beliefs. I believe this way to the very core of my soul that these things are the truth.

With that said I'm probably going to piss off more religious types than any other group with this post. I use religion loosely because not everyone who is religious believes in God. Sure they tell you they do; they go to church each week, sing the songs, listen to the preacher, pay their tithes or whatever they can spare, then they leave feeling they did their weekly duty of going to church. They said hi to their friends and associates at church that they see each week. Everyone knows "hey I went to church today" I did my weekly church visit. I'm doing what every good religious person does.

Let me stand and give you a round of applause

The other 6 and half days of the week you would never know you were a religious type. You know the worst group to give a tip in a restaurant is someone who goes to church and the worst day of the 7 is Sunday. Sorry gave at the church did my duty for the week. For two hours on Sunday you're doing the religious walk, maybe more for you hardcore types. You cuss at others on the road, you drink, you lie, you do what you need to get by in this life just as long as those in your church peer group never see the real you. All is good in your world. You're convinced heaven is awaiting you because you do your duty of showing up once a week. Some of you show up twice a year, some just on Easter or Christmas. I bet most of you can't even remember

what the service was you attendant on Sunday were even about or the songs you sang.

On the news are death and destruction and killing in the name of God. Everywhere your turn there are people doing things in the name of God that is appalling. We were attacked on 9-11 in the name of God. The KKK marches on the streets in the name of God. Television fills our minds with story after story of blood shed in the name of God. All kinds of atrocities happen in this world because of religious zealots. Kids abused by religious types we are supposed to trust. You get my drift.

I am not your cookie cutter Christian. I don't believe in order for my soul to be saved I have to put on a show for you and come to church each week. God loves you for you so stop being fake. Be throughout the week then same person when you're in church. If you're not the goody to shoes you pretend to be a church then knock it off. You want those who don't believe in God to listen to anything you have to say, and then be yourself. Don't go around trying to impress your friends and neighbors that you're some kind of a saint when your really not.

And above all stop trying to ram scripture down someone's throat. If you want to convince someone that there is a God your going about it all wrong. Telling them that if they don't believe they are going to hell so you better believe is a sure way for them to tune you out next time you open your mouth. Got news for ya, if you only believe in God because your afraid of hell, get the asbestos suite ready because that's where you're headed. And stop with trying to beat someone upside the head with your Bible. You're only giving them a headache and next time they see you they will just avoid another headache.

So now you have someone who doesn't believe in God and you're trying to convince them otherwise. Well with all the news about killing in the name of God, fake people doing their weekly duty, kids being raped, and on and on and on. What do you expect them to believe? Why would they believe?

In order to make them believe there is a God you need to make them see the failing of their own belief system and they have to want to seek the truth for them. It's a personal decision, it's not a group thing, and I don't need to see a preacher or pray to any idols. It's personal, pure and simple.

If I pissed any of your religious types off then maybe you needed to read this.

DK out.

P.S. sorry this was so long.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 00:45:26 GMT

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sigh.....

Java, come back please.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 13:51:16 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

KIRBY-098 wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 19:45sigh.....

Java, come back please.

??? wow great comeback. your sighing which part. all of it, could you come up with a more intelligent response then just sigh....

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 15:02:52 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Darkknight wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006 08:51KIRBY-098 wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 19:45sigh.....

Java, come back please.

??? wow great comeback. your sighing which part. all of it, could you come up with a more intelligent response then just sigh....

The supreme irony here is your rant about christians being hateful to each other.

Anyways:

You have regugitated the same thing that was posted about 14 times in this topic in an attempt make yourself look holier than thou. The debate here is about the authenticity of the bible. What you posted is a tangential rant out of left field.

So instead of adding to the debate in a positive way you have managed to not only inflame the debate in a negative way, but also alienated other believers.

This is oh so typical of believers who cannot defend the faith they espouse because they are so unfamiliar with how the basic tenets of the faith link to the prophecy and wisdom of the Old Testament.

I tire of circular logic from fellow believers when real people need real answers.

Seekers don't need mysticism based on ignorance whether intentional or unintentional. Especially when it ends in the usual circular logic.

It's ok to say, "I don't know.". What's not ok, is not looking for the answer.

Java has brought a real and valid question to sharp focus. That's where our focus in this topic should lie, because it's the root of everything else in this topic.

If the bible cannot be supported as real, then everything else is irrelevant.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 15:45:03 GMT
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Becareful of what you mean by "real" though. While the old testament, at it's worst, is a collection of stories meant to guide us in the right direction, or simply to provide an antiquated explanation of things that would prove "correct", but told in a way so the people of the time could better understand them.

That wouldn't make everything else false, despite the stories being untrue. The only false-ness about the whole thing is not the story themselves, but the understanding of them.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 16:04:39 GMT
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warranto wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006 10:45Becareful of what you mean by "real" though. While the old testament, at it's worst, is a collection of stories meant to guide us in the right direction, or simply to provide an antiquated explanation of things that would prove "correct", but told in a way so the people of the time could better understand them.

That wouldn't make everything else false, despite the stories being untrue. The only false-ness

about the whole thing is not the story themselves, but the understanding of them.

What exactly do you find "untrue" or just a story? Jesus believed it was truth. I do too.

Specifics, please.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 16:26:08 GMT
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I was just speaking to this statement:

Quote:Java has brought a real and valid question to sharp focus. That's where our focus in this topic should lie, because it's the root of everything else in this topic.

If the bible cannot be supported as real, then everything else is irrelevant.

I didn't even state what I thought of the old testament, I just spoke as such in the event that it was all "proven" untrue.

At it's worst, the old testament is a collection of stories, etc... That is not saying that it IS untrue, just that if it is...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 16:46:24 GMT
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I see what you're saying. It was worded strangely, but I see your point.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 18:44:32 GMT
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KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006 10:02Darkknight wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006 08:51KIRBY-098 wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 19:45sigh.....

Java, come back please.

??? wow great comeback. your sighing which part. all of it, could you come up with a more intelligent response then just sigh....

The supreme irony here is your rant about christians being hateful to each other.

Anyways:

You have regugitated the same thing that was posted about 14 times in this topic in an attempt make yourself look holier than thou. The debate here is about the authenticity of the bible. What you posted is a tangential rant out of left field.

So instead of adding to the debate in a positive way you have managed to not only inflame the debate in a negative way, but also alienated other believers.

This is oh so typical of believers who cannot defend the faith they espouse because they are so unfamiliar with how the basic tenets of the faith link to the prophecy and wisdom of the Old Testament.

I tire of circular logic from fellow believers when real people need real answers.

Seekers don't need mysticism based on ignorance whether intentional or unintentional. Especially when it ends in the usual circular logic.

It's ok to say, "I don't know.". What's not ok, is not looking for the answer.

Java has brought a real and valid question to sharp focus. That's where our focus in this topic should lie, because it's the root of everything else in this topic.

If the bible cannot be supported as real, then everything else is irrelevant.

thank you thats so much better than just saying , sigh

Maybe i should just leave my response as that. would be the same as just saying sigh... with no relevant information following.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [\\$c0p3](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 02:19:32 GMT

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im a pirate

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 02:36:43 GMT

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\$c0p3 wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006 21:19im a pirate

with or without a patch?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 10:42:55 GMT

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I'm going to believe in Pink Unicorns because their existance makes me feel good!

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 15:13:37 GMT

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Well, hey. If you think that Pink Unicorns created the universe, and we are wrong about our current interpretation of what God is, the more power to you.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 15:23:54 GMT

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JohnDoe wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 05:42I'm going to believe in Pink Unicorns because their existance makes me feel good!

Topic IQ: -35 pts

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 18:08:06 GMT

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warranto wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 10:13Well, hey. If you think that Pink Unicorns created the universe, and we are wrong about our current interpretation of what God is, the more power to you.

Sure, why not...makes me feel even better.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [PaRaDoX](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 18:12:50 GMT
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JohnDoe wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 06:42I'm going to believe in Pink Unicorns because their existance makes me feel good!
YAY IM NOT CRAZY

>.>

<.<

i mean im not the only one who belive in them.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 18:33:54 GMT
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Not a bit crazier than the other people who believe in mythical figures.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [PaRaDoX](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 18:38:45 GMT
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I also see little green people that dance on the rim of the bong.. but thats beside the point.

And i happen to be catholic and if your not, thats good for you.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 19:41:19 GMT
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I feel like I'm at an archery range for the blind.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 20:15:02 GMT
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JohnDoe wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 12:33Not a bit crazier than the other people who believe in mythical figures.

True, too bad you rely on them to simply make you "feel better". Too bad no one can prove one way or the other that they really ARE "mythical figures".

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mision08](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 20:16:33 GMT
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JohnDoe wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 05:42I'm going to believe in Pink Unicorns because their existance makes me feel good!
How can anyone think of trolling with such an intellectual discussion taking place?
There are a number of possible reasons your parents don't love you Scott. Maybe you were an accident. Mom trying to feed her hungry children and ends up with another mouth to feed. Maybe your dad doesn't like the sissy way you swing the bat.
I know, it's because you're not quite evil enough. You're quasi evil, you're semi evil, you're the margarine of evil, you're the diet coke of evil, just 1 calorie not evil enough.
Unicorns, why not Bambi or Puff the Magic Dragon?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 21:17:32 GMT
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Quote:Why not...Puff the Magic Dragon?

'Cause he lives by the sea. Besides, you can only see him in the autumn mist in a land called honah lee.

Edit: ok, that was lame on my part. Continue with the discussion.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Sniper_De7](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 22:55:34 GMT
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I used to watch that when I was young. Fun stuff.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 07:57:27 GMT
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warranto wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 15:15JohnDoe wrote on Wed, 26 July 2006 12:33Not a bit crazier than the other people who believe in mythical figures.

True, too bad you rely on them to simply make you "feel better". Too bad no one can prove one way or the other that they really ARE "mythical figures".

Obviously not, but that's what God and Heaven is about. Some mythical figure/place that cannot be disproven, but makes people feel good about the afterlife and secure about the universe/their surroundings.

Mision08, I wouldn't have expected you to understand my metaphor anyway...after all, there are things living at the bottom of ponds with more wit than you.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mision08](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 09:55:46 GMT
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touche' honky

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 13:14:07 GMT
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JohnDoe wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 01:57

Obviously not, but that's what God and Heaven is about. Some mythical figure/place that cannot be disproven, but makes people feel good about the afterlife and secure about the universe/their surroundings.

Not true. Admittedly, that is what some people use the concept of God for, but that is not the "reason" for God and heaven.

God, in simplist terms, is the creator of all that is, was, and ever will be. That has nothing to do with making you "feel good". Heaven is simply the expression of the place where God resides. Simply because some disillusioned people seem to use those examples as a way to feel better doesn't mean that those reasons are the way things actually are.

As for that "mythical" expression, it may be true that there is no factual basis for the existance of God, but there is also no factual basis for many other things that the average person is told to be true (err.. didn't we have this discussion in some other thread?). As such, it's a moot point.

Unless, you're using the term "mythical" to suggest that God is fictitious. If that is the case, then prove it. Nothing can be labeled fictitious unless there is some sort of proof to suggest otherwise.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 13:30:45 GMT
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KIRBY-098 wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006 09:02Darkknight wrote on Tue, 25 July 2006
08:51KIRBY-098 wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 19:45sigh.....

Java, come back please.

??? wow great comeback. your sighing which part. all of it, could you come up with a more intelligent response then just sigh....

The supreme irony here is your rant about christians being hateful to each other.

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If the bible cannot be supported as real, then everything else is irrelevant.

Quote:

The supreme irony here is your rant about christians being hateful to each other.

The true irony of this was you were obviously offended by what I wrote. There is a big difference between a religious type and a Christian. Religious types make a mockery out of what a Christian is. Every example I gave that you found distasteful was of a religious person not a Christian. If that offended you, you might want to look in the mirror and ask yourself, which one best describes you.

As for being hateful, I am not hateful towards other Christians. I do however do not like those who say there are Christians, but are really just religious types in disguise.

Quote:

So instead of adding to the debate in a positive way you have managed to not only inflame the debate in a negative way, but also alienated other believers.

I stated above, true believers do not pretend. So I wasn't referring to them at all. I see you read what I wrote with a very judgmental eye yourself. Do you do this with all who post? Don't answer that was just thinking out loud.

You obviously missed the whole point of my post and focused on the negative instead of trying to understand my point. It's not out of left field. Unless I'm wrong this post is about the Bible and whether its really the word of God or not.

What my post was pointing out is your talking to someone who doesn't believe their even is a God so how can you prove a book from or by him is real if they don't believe He even exists. What I was pointing out is all the hypocrisy they see in the world from fellow religious types who call themselves "Christians" just because they do all the same actions. Actions without true belief does not a Christian make.

Talking to an atheist about whether the Bible is real or not is the equivalent of trying to make them believe that the Christmas presents under your tree was really put their by Santa Claus.

So you need to go about this differently then the 8 pages already on here or the only thing you will have when its all said and done is both sides agreeing the other is wrong.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [PaRaDoX](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 13:47:36 GMT
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'i enjoy my life and my beliefs and what not but if you don't want to enjoy my beliefs have fun with your's

Thats the best advice i have ever had.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 15:03:10 GMT
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warranto wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 08:14JohnDoe wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 01:57
Obviously not, but that's what God and Heaven is about. Some mythical figure/place that cannot be disproven, but makes people feel good about the afterlife and secure about the universe/their surroundings.

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Unless, you're using the term "mythical" to suggest that God is fictitious. If that is the case, then prove it. Nothing can be labeled fictitious unless there is some sort of proof to suggest otherwise.

I used "feel good" because it's provokative and therefore fit in the rest of the post...let's rephrase it to "explain things that men couldn't", then. It's always been like that and always will be.

I use the term mythical in the same way as I would label bigfoot , the yeti or of course my pink unicorns...there's no proof going their way or suggesting otherwise. I choose not to believe it, others do.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [KIRBY-098](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 15:42:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Darkknight wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 08:30
I stated above, true believers do not pretend. So I wasn't referring to them at all. I see you read what I wrote with a very judgmental eye yourself. Do you do this with all who post? Don't answer that was just thinking out loud.

You obviously missed the whole point of my post and focused on the negative instead of trying to understand my point. It's not out of left field. Unless I'm wrong this post is about the Bible and whether its really the word of God or not.

What my post was pointing out is your talking to someone who doesn't believe their even is a God so how can you prove a book from or by him is real if they don't believe He even exists. What I was pointing out is all the hypocrisy they see in the world from fellow religious types who

call themselves "Christians" just because they do all the same actions. Actions without true belief does not a Christian make.

Talking to an atheist about whether the Bible is real or not is the equivalent of trying to make them believe that the Christmas presents under your tree was really put their by Santa Claus.

So you need to go about this differently then the 8 pages already on here or the only thing you will have when its all said and done is both sides agreeing the other is wrong.

There is a vast chasm of difference between objectivity and bias.

You seem to have trouble seperating the two.

In order to have an intellligent conversation in an objective way there are no "tricks" to getting them to see my point that there are secular supports for the authenticity of the bible.

Whatever this "religiosity" rant is pointed at, I fail to see how that links in any way to this discussion.

Quite opposite from offended, I am baffled at how you are making this link in my defense of the bible. Instead of discussing the important topic at hand you've somehow hijacked this into an ad hominem "Real" christian contest.

Which is how these topics always seem to end.

Someday I hope to have real discussion on the veracity of the bible. This is not that day apparently.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 16:31:22 GMT
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JohnDoe wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 09:03

I used "feel good" because it's provokative and therefore fit in the rest of the post...let's rephrase it to "explain things that men couldn't", then. It's always been like that and always will be.

I use the term mythical in the same way as I would label bigfoot , the yeti or of course my pink unicorns...there's no proof going their way or suggesting otherwise. I choose not to believe it, others do.

Even then, the only people who use God to explain things that they can't (and I mean as a definitive it-can-be-no-other-way type of answer) are wrong, but that doesn't mean that is why God is there. Some just prefer to use him that way.

The only problem with comparing God to those other things is that all of them but God has a

physical being to be seen. Therefore there is the possibility of being proven/disproven. There is no physical being that could be identified as God. That puts him, for better or worse, in a unique category which is separate from the standard mythologies.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [DarkKnight](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 16:55:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

KIRBY-098 wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 11:42Darkknight wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 08:30
I stated above, true believers do not pretend. So I wasn't referring to them at all. I see you read what I wrote with a very judgmental eye yourself. Do you do this with all who post? Don't answer that was just thinking out loud.

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Which is how these topics always seem to end.

Someday I hope to have real discussion on the veracity of the bible. This is not that day apparently.

maybe true. maybe i should start a new thread on are you a christian or do you just like e1 thinking you are.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 17:09:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

warranto wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 10:31JohnDoe wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 09:03
I used "feel good" because it's provokative and therefore fit in the rest of the post...let's rephrase it to "explain things that men couldn't", then. It's always been like that and always will be.

I use the term mythical in the same way as I would label bigfoot , the yeti or of course my pink unicorns...there's no proof going their way or suggesting otherwise. I choose not to believe it, others do.

Even then, the only people who use God to explain things that they can't (and I mean as a definitive it-can-be-no-other-way type of answer) are wrong, but that doesn't mean that is why God is there. Some just prefer to use him that way.

The only problem with comparing God to those other things is that all of them but God has a physical being to be seen. Therefore there is the possibility of being proven/disproven. There is no physical being that could be identified as God. That puts him, for better or worse, in a unique category which is separate from the standard mythologies.

Don't you use God to explain something that you can't understand (formation of the universe) as well?

Use the mothman then...lol it's really not another category.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 17:18:10 GMT
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Heh, how'd I know that would be used...

Yes, I use God as the explanation as to how the universe was created. However, that example, I'm sure is a minor exception to the rule. Now, before you go crying hypocrite, hear me out.

I relate you back to our previous argument about this. Something created the universe, as science is so fond of expressing, nothing physical can be create itself. I'm not claiming that the Christian idea of God, or anything like that. I'm simply saying that something created the universe, and we

call that something "God".

But what about the universe having always existed? Ok, then God didn't create the universe, but now the path has been open to state that it is possible for God to have always existed as well.

Mothman doesn't work either. Mothman and bigfoot both have a physical body to be identified with. That encompasses the "Physical and therefore seeable" category. God has no physical body, and therefore belongs in the "non-physical and therefore unseeable" category.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 17:48:15 GMT
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Our previous argument ended somewhere along the lines of my opinion being that the pre-Bigbang Universe was nothing alike the post-Bigbang Universe and is absolutely unimaginable/unexplainable, but lead to the Bigbang and therefore creation of our known Universe, and I just call both "Universe", because there are no other words. Your view was pretty similar to this, but you decided to call the unknown "God"...which pretty much proves my point.

I'm not really into myths, but I'm sure there are some without physical appearance and are therefore known for their character traits...just like God is known for being an eternally nice fella.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 19:32:20 GMT
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trippy, man...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mision08](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 23:05:03 GMT
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God has a physical presence here on earth. The one who left a footprint that can be seen 2000 years later. One who transcended culture and race, and rocked this tiny world to it's very core. Why do you always debate religion? Study quantum physics or something different. You can debate time-space and the idea of bending time. Albert Einstein had a few ideas that may have been ahead of his time. Ha I used time three times in two sentences. 5 in 3

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

OK, here are a few questions that I can't seem to find an answer to:

1) Why did this perfect and unchanging God need or want to create a universe or the Earth or us? Please do not use "his plan" in your answer because it's a very flimsy excuse.

2) Why are churches allowed (presumably by God) to commit any number of sins in his name? Why hasn't God stopped this if he is omniscient and all-powerful? And if you give me a bullshit, unthought-out trained monkey response of "duhhhh free will" I will bitch slap you.

3) If God created the universe, who created God and why?

4) The universe has been around for about 13 billion years. It took about nine billion years before our Earth was formed, and single celled bacteria were forming ecosystems about a billion years after that. Life on Earth evolved and became more complex, as shown by the evidence for Earth's history in its rocks and fossils. Then humans, God's supposed reason for the whole creation, finally came along within the last 150,000 years or so — on one planet orbiting one of the trillions of stars. This seems like a lengthy, complex, massive, and apparently natural process for an omnipotent being that could have simply snapped everything (or just one magic planet) into existence. (This is copied from an essay by Mark Thomas, but I have often wondered the same thing) What is your response or explanation for this?

5) If we all know now that the Greek and Roman gods of the sun, fertility, thunder, etc. have had their functions and explained by science and have vanished in a puff of logic, then is it so far fetched to believe that since we haven't linked a scientific answer to the questions of "why are we here?" and "where do we go when we die?", that the Jehovah god is just as nonexistent as these ancient Greek and Roman gods and all the other hundreds of gods that have been invented by man over our existence?

6) This might be related to another question, but how can "free will" exist if God has a "plan" for us? How can I choose whether to turn left or right at a crossroad if God already has a "plan" that I will do one or the other?

The summarize, here is an interesting logical "proof" that God doesn't and can't exist. This is also from Mark Thomas.

Quote:The Problem of Evil, or Theodicy

God also can't be both omnibenevolent and omnipotent, because terrible events really do occur, and this all-loving god hasn't prevented them. This is known as the Problem of Evil (also known as theodicy), and I think that it is one of the biggest problems for those attempting to prove the existence of the Christian god. How can anybody explain the existence of a loving, all-powerful god, while also knowing the bad things that happen to all of us and the terrible things that happen to far too many?

The ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus summed it up well when he wrote these ideas:

Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can and does not want to.

If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent.

If he can, but does not want to, he is wicked.

If, as they say, God can abolish evil, and God really wants to do it, why is there evil in the world?

And yet the idea of an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-good god with free will won't go away.

So, here we are discussing this subject again. It's good to remember that there have been over 2500 gods created by humankind. Monotheists don't believe in all but one of them.

Atheists don't believe in just one more.

In fact, the existence of honest and kind Atheists is another proof that the Christian god, who demands belief, doesn't exist. If this all-good god existed, it would want everybody to be saved — even Atheists. If this all-knowing god existed, it would know that Atheists just want real proof of its existence. If this god were all-powerful it would be able to give unambiguous proof of its existence. It hasn't. Therefore this god doesn't exist.

As I have shown, the concept of God is also logically contradictory; God not only does not exist but cannot exist. In short, God is impossible.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them

Posted by [Crimson](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 00:37:45 GMT

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Here's one other quote I agree with and love immensely, also from the same essay by Mark Thomas:

Quote: Many religious people ask how Atheists can be happy without God. For me and for many Atheists I know, the realization of our Atheism has been extremely freeing and has opened us to our own happiness.

Atheism helps us to see reality as it actually is, without the mental filters of superstition preventing us from directly experiencing it.

Atheism opens us to experience our selves, without the debasing idea that we are innately sinful.

Atheism allows us to experience true interpersonal love, without any imaginary supernatural intervention.

Atheism gives us the freedom to think for ourselves, to construct our own meanings. We each can choose what we think has value.

Atheism shows us that we can gain meaning by seeking to make our world a better place, for ourselves and our posterity.

Atheism teaches us to take responsibility for our behaviors in the here and now, not in an imaginary afterlife.

Atheism lets us see that we have to make choices about our future. No big daddy god is going to protect us from bad decisions.

Atheism teaches us to treasure this moment, this life, and this world — because we realize that it's all we have.

Atheism also can work well for free societies. Free nations with high levels of Atheism — such as Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia, Switzerland and Japan — are among the healthiest, wealthiest, most educated, and most free societies on Earth.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 07:58:10 GMT
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You might wanna exchange "God" with "Christian God" in your non-quoted part...debunking a specific religion's God is pretty easy, tho.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 15:07:35 GMT
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One huge problem with your arguments Crimson.

You can not argue RELIGION to argue GOD. They are exclusive of each other.

Quote: Why did this perfect and unchanging God need or want to create a universe or the Earth or us? Please do not use "his plan" in your answer because it's a very flimsy excuse.

Who knows. Something to do? Perhaps we're a byproduct of motions that he created. An accident, so to speak. (The primordial ooze and all that) The point is, it is a concept of religion that God created the universe specifically for us.

Quote: Why are churches allowed (presumably by God) to commit any number of sins in his name? Why hasn't God stopped this if he is omniscient and all-powerful? And if you give me a bullshit, unthought-out trained monkey response of "duhhhh free will" I will bitch slap you.

If you had bothered to answer my question the first time you brought this up, you'd have at least some progression on this topic.

Quote: If God created the universe, who created God and why?

If there is no God, how did the universe come to exist? Perhaps it was always there, and if that is the case, then the idea of God having always been there is not far fetched either.

Quote: The universe has been around for about 13 billion years. It took about nine billion years before our Earth was formed, and single celled bacteria were forming ecosystems about a billion years after that. Life on Earth evolved and became more complex, as shown by the evidence for Earth's history in its rocks and fossils. Then humans, God's supposed reason for the

whole creation, finally came along within the last 150,000 years or so — on one planet orbiting one of the trillions of stars. This seems like a lengthy, complex, massive, and apparently natural process for an omnipotent being that could have simply snapped everything (or just one magic planet) into existence. (This is copied from an essay by Mark Thomas, but I have often wondered the same thing) What is your response or explanation for this?

What, and broken the laws of physics to do so in the process? Perhaps all he did to "create" the universe is set things in motion, and let the laws of physics develop itself. As you brought up before, why did he even create the universe for our benefit?

Quote:If we all know now that the Greek and Roman gods of the sun, fertility, thunder, etc. have had their functions and explained by science and have vanished in a puff of logic, then is it so far fetched to believe that since we haven't linked a scientific answer to the questions of "why are we here?" and "where do we go when we die?", that the Jehovah god is just as nonexistent as these ancient Greek and Roman gods and all the other hundreds of gods that have been invented by man over our existence?

Wrong. The Roman gods were not proven to have not existed. The CONCEPT the Romans had of their gods were dismissed. As I said, you can not argue religion to argue God.

Quote:This might be related to another question, but how can "free will" exist if God has a "plan" for us? How can I choose whether to turn left or right at a crossroad if God already has a "plan" that I will do one or the other?

Once again, you are arguing religion to argue God. The idea of God having a plan for us is a religious concept. Proving it wrong has no impact on the existence or lack thereof of God.

Quote:God not only does not exist but cannot exist. In short, God is impossible.

Based on what? The idea of the Christian religion being wrong? Once, yet again, you can not argue religion to argue God. Who cares if Christians got it wrong, that does not mean God does not exist, that just means that the Christian interpretation of God is wrong.

Quote:Many religious people ask how Atheists can be happy without God. For me and for many Atheists I know, the realization of our Atheism has been extremely freeing and has opened us to our own happiness. (AND REST OF POST)

All those things can be done while still possessing the belief that God exists. Therefore atheism is simply an excuse to make yourself feel better about your belief that God doesn't exist. It is no better or no worse than the belief in God. But hey, if it makes you feel better... to quote an earlier post,

Quote:[it] makes people feel good [...] and secure about the universe/their surroundings.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 16:48:46 GMT
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warranto wrote on Fri, 28 July 2006 11:07 One huge problem with your arguments Crimson.

Quote: The universe has been around for about 13 billion years. It took about nine billion years before our Earth was formed, and single celled bacteria were forming ecosystems about a billion years after that. Life on Earth evolved and became more complex, as shown by the evidence for Earth's history in its rocks and fossils. Then humans, God's supposed reason for the whole creation, finally came along within the last 150,000 years or so — on one planet orbiting one of the trillions of stars. This seems like a lengthy, complex, massive, and apparently natural process for an omnipotent being that could have simply snapped everything (or just one magic planet) into existence. (This is copied from an essay by Mark Thomas, but I have often wondered the same thing) What is your response or explanation for this?

What, and broken the laws of physics to do so in the process? Perhaps all he did to "create" the universe is set things in motion, and let the laws of physics develop itself. As you brought up before, why did he even create the universe for our benefit?

Is God still a God if he doesn't break the laws of physics? We don't even know what the laws of physics are when it comes to complicated matters. When thinking about God apart from any religion, it's a possibility among others, making him more or less like us: a machine. But it's all just speculation, we don't know anything about God unless we choose a religion that tries to describe him/it. We don't even know if he/it exists*the ultimage vagueness! It's even impossible to believe in such a thing, since forming any sort of belief is 99.9999% incorrect.

*You know, saying that God exists whether or not you believe in him is also a belief...it's STILL possible that God *doesn't* exist

Erm, I think I made a logical mistake somewhere, but I can't spot it. Gah, I love these discussions.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 17:06:19 GMT
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That was even more unsatisfying than the response I predicted from the God-believers. Nitpicking at semantics rather than addressing some of the core reasons I simply can't believe in "god"/"God"/whatever.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 17:38:39 GMT
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Crimson wrote on Fri, 28 July 2006 11:06 That was even more unsatisfying than the response I

predicted from the God-believers. Nitpicking at semantics rather than addressing some of the core reasons I simply can't believe in "god"/"God"/whatever.

Well, I can't really help it when your arguments are flawed in the first place.

I could really care less whether or not you believe in God, just don't argue his existence based on someone's interpretation of him. Heck, there are numerous people who get the wrong idea about me, but despite their interpretation of me being wrong, I still very much exist.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 19:00:29 GMT
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I guess I just find it really a huge leap to take a religion's deity and say that the deity exists, but the religion that created him is all a bunch of hooey. I can totally agree that while science can get within nanoseconds of the Big Bang, we still don't know what happened before that. But to say and believe it was caused by something with a consciousness is still a leap of faith that I can't do.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 19:30:20 GMT
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Oh, I'm not saying to take the deity that a particular religion "created", I'm just saying the deity itself.

Think of it like this: Just for the sake of argument, assume that everything I'm about to state is true.

God exists and created the universe and -directly or indirectly- everything in it. Eventually some people come along and start wondering about the creator. They decide he must have acted a certain way, and wanted us to do certain things. Eventually this small group tell others about their view, and get them to believe the same thing. Soon, someone doesn't like that idea, and thinks a few things are wrong, so he goes out and starts his own belief system.

Time passes.

A new concept of this creator develops and is held as the true way. The old view is deemed obsolete, and is abandoned as heresy. Science eventually proves that even this way is the false way of interpreting God.

/End

Ok, now this is what I am getting at. It was proven that the ways of interpreting God have been false. However, one thing still exists. Read the first two words of that example and you'll (hopefully) see what I am getting at about the two being separate.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 20:08:51 GMT
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Yeah so it's like this:

Matter of faith #1 - This is the God that has always been. He created everything.

Matter of faith #2 - This is a religion that describes the God's ways, e.g. Christianity. This is spawned from #1, but is just a guess at best.

What Crimson is saying is "I don't believe #1(God) because #2(Guess) is BS"

So, yeah, the religion might be BS but the God still exists. However, if you deny the religion, you are left with a God that you know absolutely nothing about, except that he/it started everything (even this isn't provable, but it's often the basis of an omnipotent God). It's not very easy to believe in that, but it's beside the point. Warranto's argument isn't there to support any religion or beliefs. In fact, the only effect it seems to have is deny any religion in the first place, but not deny God. As I've stated in other threads, I too believe in a higher force, but not the one described in any curent religions. I make my own observations of this force, but I'm quite open-minded about the whole thing.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 20:47:12 GMT
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Higher forces, indeed- then again we are higher ourselves than some other forces. So what is to say that each higher force does not have another, even higher force above it, ad infinitum? Are there really any limits, or is it merely easier to picture the universe when it can be put in perspective using an imagined solid frame of reference?

Not trying to say anybody is right or wrong, but if infinities are possible- which they certainly are, at least in the form of the infinite nothingness that is space- why can there not be an infinite number of different levels of existence, which would mean that there is no ultimate force or power?

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 21:02:04 GMT
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Nukelt15 wrote on Fri, 28 July 2006 16:47Higher forces, indeed- then again we are higher ourselves than some other forces. So what is to say that each higher force does not have another, even higher force above it, ad infinitum? Are there really any limits, or is it merely easier to picture the universe when it can be put in perspective using an imagined solid frame of reference?

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of different levels of existence, which would mean that there is no ultimate force or power?

Sure it's possible. In which dimension do you mean infinite though? In size? Distance? Both? Or perhaps in the way that the universe is "pulsing", expanding and collapsing again and again. I have to admit that current science quite firmly shows that objects can't be of infinite size. And with that mean, objects aren't infinitely small. However, quantum science or whatever is still in early stages, who knows what we'll find from inside, say....electrons. As far as I know, they're currently just some negatively charged "things", we don't really know what we would see if we could zoom closer...

Anyway, it still wouldn't answer the basic question, "What's the meaning of life?". We would no doubt keep expanding and adventuring farther away from home in order to become the new God, even if we knew that we can't have everything...you know, just because we can.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 23:48:13 GMT
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It was once thought that atoms were single particles, the smallest possible. It was also once thought that Earth was the extent of the universe. Every major discovery pertaining to the possible minimums and maximums of the known universe has expanded, not contracted, the number of possibilities. There is no reason to believe that trend will ever reverse itself, unless you follow a faith that calls for the end of existence at some point in time.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 00:14:25 GMT
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Just because we're on the topic, a good book for people to read is God's Debris, by Scott Adams.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 02:20:09 GMT
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In that case, why not keep my comments directed towards those who ARE religious and follow a specific religion, even though I still deny the existence of an ultimate deity. So we both agree that man-made religions are bullshit, big deal.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [warranto](#) on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 02:33:27 GMT
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Actually, I'm Roman Catholic. And while I admit there are a number of faults, I still believe that it is the better of the choices out there.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 04:05:53 GMT
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The Problem of Evil was discussed in my philosophy class last year, and there is a solution to it. It is possible that "good" only has meaning because there is evil. If everything was good then good would just be neutral. (I get the feeling Robert Pirsig would not agree with this point).

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Javafx](#) on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 06:00:23 GMT
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KIRBY-098 wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 20:45Java, come back please.

I'm afraid you're not the only one struggling to make day to day life work blissfully ad infinitum. I haven't posted recently because I wanted to reflect on the information and make sure that my position is clear, at the very least, to myself.

I've managed to find the time to thoroughly read through your article and I've got some issues I'd like to talk about. It's interesting to note that the author managed to provide a fairly effective argument to justify objective truth in favour of the Bible using subjective conditions. My concerns however, deal with the frameshift the author used in affirming the "philosophical" by means of the "historical". This of course, I'm referring to the argument of "Who is Jesus". Like I said before, the New Testament is something I regard in a truthful historic light due to the high level of correspondence used in its formulation. I've got a few quams about that as well, but I'll get to those later.

The author mentions that it is futile to try and argue the case for the philosophical aspects of the Bible (miracles and God's existence) from the historical point of view when the individual denies or reserves judgment on the possibility of either. This has the potential to work out nicely, but it doesn't exactly cover all the tracks. From the agnostic point of view, the reservation of knowledge isn't because such knowledge doesn't exist, it's because the form of the knowledge is supposedly unknowable; so even if you did "know" it, you wouldn't know you knew it. The point is, if you're "unsure" about the existence of God or miracles, you can't possibly subscribe to the conclusions provided as a solid link to the objective truth claimed by the Bible. Thus, any such conclusions made, while possibly logically coherent, are entirely dependent on whether or not the individual's epistemological criteria allow for it to be truth. While a bit confusing at first, I'll explain it a bit more in a moment. I understand it seems to be grasping at straws, but it is rather a fundamental question that needs answering before anything else can be considered. An example is better to get this point home:

On the topic of euthanasia, it's easy enough to say: "Euthanasia is wrong because it is murder".

But when drilled about it, it comes down to asking where the moral code comes from and why it is authentic. Assuming a Christian debator, it goes such that "the Bible (thus God) teaches that murder is wrong, therefore it is wrong." Simply put, the argument has escalated from an ethical dilemma to a metaphysical one. The issue of the existence of God (save the meandering details of Biblical authenticity) is now the focus. A similar objection is brought up: How do you know God exists? The question is reasonable, and fundamental toward determining whether or not euthanasia is moral or not. Regardless of whatever answer given (generally); "I know God exists because *insert answer*", the response is inevitably "How do you know that is true?". The argument shifts to an epistemological conundrum because the nature of knowledge invariably is fundamental before even touching the subject of God, the Bible, morals, etc. So the philosophical argument for any given situation (again, in general) is: Epistemology --> Metaphysics --> Morals --> Anything else

So to bring it full circle, epistemological questions need to be answered before you can start going about saying "this is true" and more in context, "the Bible is true because *blah blah*". So while we use the historical evidence to point to an accurate account of the events that transpired, the issue lies primarily with the epistemological problems that arise. If the history of the Bible is assumed true as written, then obviously the whole package is assumed truth by association. However, the philosophical issues can't be discredited merely because the history seems to be the encompassing factor. The author doesn't seem to answer this issue at all, so I find contention with it. That being said, I do not think that anyone is trying to trick anyone else. That is, I do not believe that Biblical authors intentionally meant to deceive.

For example, take the book written by Ezekiel. I have no reason to believe that Ezekiel did NOT literally see what he claims to have seen (I'm aware this is OT and not NT). I do, however, have reason to believe that what Ezekiel saw did not happen in the reality (I use that loosely, for philosophical reasons) that you and I exist in. This isn't some silly existentialist metaphor or anything, it's simply that the events that occurred in the book of Ezekiel defy the natural logic of the universe. Let me be clear however: I'm not saying the events could not have happened. I am inclined however, to believe that they did not actually happen because it is unlikely for the laws of physics to be broken in such a contextual and specific manner to suit a certain ends. I understand it sounds like I am picking and choosing, but from my point of view I am not. I would no more take the word of the Koran, which claims similar miraculous events to support a metaphysical proof for the very reason that I find miracles to be a highly contestable subject.

It seems to me that, while miracles are epistemologically possible, they are unlikely to fit the criteria established by the Bible. Sadly, it is another circular argument. For, in order for the God of the Bible to be affirmed, we must take the word of the book which establishes the very God it claims to exist; proved by the miracles claimed in the Bible caused by the God claimed to exist, proved by the miracles...

The point is, the question of "Who is Jesus" is historically viable; But the evidence for His divinity is circumstantial and highly contextual. I am quite unsure as to how the events described in the New Testament considered miraculous actually occurred. I personally don't believe that anyone intended to deceive, but I am swayed by logic and probability to say that something is fishy to which I do not have enough evidence to make judgment on. Now, I have made one large assumption here that makes my argument quite weak. I'm assuming that because by "modern standards" the authenticity of the Bible is justified, that it must be true. While I most definitely do

consider most literature I read as truth, I would be less than inclined to do so about something, however historically viable, regarding the divine and objective. I say this purely for philosophical reasons that I've elaborated beforehand. For example, if I were given a choice on historical documents, all considered historically viable by modern standards, all claiming contact with the divine, and all having claim to miracles which actually happened... how am I to choose which is truth? Why is the word of one man worth more than the next? Historic viability does not seem to confirm the authentic existence of miracles, nor does it seem to make it probable. Which leads me to my next point: The authors of the New Testament.

It is to my understanding that the authors of the New Testament were not limited to those who have been selected for the Bible. I'm not sure who selected Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and *the* Gospels, but I am quite sure there are more pieces of correspondence to the New Testament that apparently didn't make the cut. This may or may not be a necessary piece of information to have. For should the information contradict, or introduce foreign elements to the Bible, does that not effect the overall clarity and "objectivity" of the Bible? Why were these documents not included? If it were for religious reasons, then we have a serious man-made problem here. I am trying to discern how it is that what we have now called the Bible is God-inspired and for all intents and purposes "perfect". I would also like to know how it can be considered a perfect document when it is people like you and I, fallable, silly people have the ability to slip words in and call it the word of God. Worse, we have the ability to slip possibly contradictory gospels from the same era by the same people that followed Jesus around. I've asked this question to some Christian friends, and the common response is "God wouldn't let that happen." I'm sure you can understand why I don't buy that. Unfortunately, it's another circular situation. The God affirmed by the Bible wouldn't allow the Bible to be tweaked with new books and gospels, but without the exact content of the Bible as it is now, it would be "less perfect", thus not the word of God, thus wouldn't affirm the God that says that it can't be tweaked. It's self-affirming, so it's covering its ass. Unfortunately, we have to fall back onto philosophical problems in order to discern whether or not the God of the Bible is who He says He is.

Regardless, enough time has been spent on the New Testament. I am thoroughly unsure about its application in my life because there are many philosophical loose ends that can't simply be fixed by assuming something is truth because the Bible says it is truth. Surely God would help us solve these problems without telling us to close our eyes and just nod... right?

The Old Testament is a whole new story. I'm sure I don't need to remind you how crazy it actually sounds upon reading it the first time. I understand that in Biblical context, the Old Testament was a different time because of the nature of sin. I am confused as to some of the explanations given to describe why it is the old testament stories are possible. I understand that according to the new testament, Jesus said all of it was true, but as I've already tried to contend, I'm not sure that's a good enough answer (as arrogant as that sounds). Almost everything about the New Testament defies the logic that you and I live by today. I am either left thinking that God was a big meanie who was far more involved in our lives insomuch that people seemed to frequently talk with Him (which would, at least to me, be the deciding factor in this big cosmological game) and get responses, or the stories written in the old testament were greatly exaggerated and changed over time before actually being recorded. I call attention to Genesis, where it claims that people live for upwards of nine HUNDRED years. Everything we know about biology says this can NOT happen. So either we weren't human back then, or something is awry in the story. Likewise is the story of the flood, and how Noah managed to fit two of every animal into an arc that physically could not

contain two of every animal. The point is, the God introduced in the Old Testament seems to be so fictitious and unapplicable to our lives today because of the events claimed to have happened, that calling it truth is comparable to saying that I can fly if I REALLY try hard enough.

I have a few more issues I want to call attention to, but I want to let you respond before I start making the same arguments that you've answered time and time again and thus wasting both our times.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [U927](#) on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 14:07:25 GMT
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TOO LONG DIDN'T READ

On a serious note, I pretty much agree with everything said there. A lot of thought and time went into that post.

Once again, Java comes to save the day.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [aveator](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2006 15:40:43 GMT
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Its not that I dont believe in devinietes or God, Jesus, Ala, Satan, or what ever else, it's the fact that there is so many different views on one religion that I dont agree or follow in any way. Even if they be true or not, I can base this of religion. Judeisism doesnt believe in Christ like christins do, their view of him is very different.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2006 23:03:56 GMT
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Well I just stumbled upon these on Digg.com: "The 73 best atheist quotes". The page loads a bit slow due to high traffic at the moment. As I've stated, I'm more agnostic than atheist, but many of these quotes are quite insightful (although I disagree with some).

<http://www.chrisbeach.co.uk/viewQuotes.php>

Some of those have been used in this thread too. Good read. Does anyone know of a good pro-religious list of quotes?

Edit: Might help if I posted the link too...

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [xpTek](#) on Wed, 09 Aug 2006 04:40:23 GMT
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An invisible guy in the sky watches you while you masturbate and he's furious about it.

Subject: Re: hope none of you are them
Posted by [Javaxcx](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2006 19:05:57 GMT
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bumpity bump bump
