

ATHEISTS

2 Timothy 2:12-13 ... “If we endure, we shall also reign with him [Christ]. If we deny him, he also will deny us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful; he cannot deny himself.”

Nearly everyone professes a belief in some god. Most of our readers profess a belief in the one true God, our Creator. However, a relatively small number of people resist the notion that there is a god. They profess atheism, which is the denial of God's existence. They argue against any belief system, which is curious because atheism, itself, is a belief system. One of the principles of Communism, is atheism, which is why we see Communist insurgents showing no mercy to innocent and unarmed people; they lack the moral foundation shared by people of faith. Their inspiration, China's Mao, killed millions of innocent people during his cultural revolution and takeover.

At one time, atheism was practiced in secret. Stirring up arguments and discussions with Christ followers, who greatly outnumbered them, led to embarrassing and non-winnable debates. But Atheists are becoming more bold. They are emerging from the shadows to directly challenge Christians, even becoming confrontational. Unfortunately, when they cannot prove the absence of God they may resort to name-calling and insults. Do not worry or argue in response; God has your back and it is really his battle.

As Christians we feel that people who deny the existence of God have simply not found him yet. Atheists are no different than other unbelievers who feel they can manage their lives without God. Eventually, nearly everyone – perhaps as late as when they are lying on their death beds – realize the folly of their mistakes.

How do we minister to atheists? **FIRST**, do not use their tactics; do not call atheists stupid, dumb, or retarded, even if they affix that label to you. You will not earn the respect of anyone by name-calling. **SECOND**, because it is difficult to live among people who believe differently than you, you should understand that atheists often feel desperate and trapped. Their own loved ones and friends see them as difficult to be around, and that makes them feel even more alienated. **THIRD**, they have the same needs as any other person who is trying to navigate through life under their own power and intelligence. Due to the stubbornness of atheists, you may have to give them space until they eventually realize they have made a mistake and reach out to a Christian for help. **FINALLY**, do not fear atheists, even if they demonstrate anger toward you. Remember, they are just a few persons surrounded by people of faith, which can make them feel attacked.

It is extremely hard to be an atheist, because the evidence of God surrounds us. Our very breath is from God. Our ability to believe or not believe, to have faith or to be faithless, and each heartbeat is a gift from God. So, if you know an atheist, do not push or attack him or her. Give the person some space and let God speak and reveal himself to your friend.

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