

Doctrine of Atheism

Quotable Quotes in the Debate Between Believers and Unbelievers

1. Nobody talks so constantly about God as those who insist that there is no God (Heywood Broun).
2. In some awful, strange, paradoxical way, atheists tend to take religion more seriously than the practitioners (Jonathon Miller).
3. It amazes me to find an intelligent person who fights against something which he does not at all believe exists (Mohandas Gandhi).
4. Atheists express their rage against God although in their view He does not exist (C. S. Lewis).
5. There's something in every atheist, itching to believe, and something in every believer, itching to doubt (Mignon McLaughlin).
6. A young man who wishes to remain a sound Atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere—'Bibles laid open, millions of surprises,' as Herbert says, 'fine nets and stratagems.' God is, if I may say it, very unscrupulous (C.S. Lewis).
7. We find the most terrible form of atheism, not in the militant and passionate struggle against the idea of God himself, but in the practical atheism of everyday living, in indifference and torpor. We often encounter these forms of atheism among those who are formally Christians (Nicolai A. Berdyaev).
8. Atheism is a crutch for those who cannot bear the reality of God (Tom Stoppard).
9. If atheism spread, it would become a religion as intolerable as the ancient ones (Gustave le Bon).
10. You think you are too intelligent to believe in God. I am not like you (Napoleon Bonaparte).
11. An atheist may be simply one whose faith and love are concentrated on the impersonal aspects of God (Simone Weil).
12. The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful, and has nobody to thank (Dante Gabriel Rossetti).
13. If there were no God, there would be no atheists (G.K. Chesterton).
14. Can one be a saint if God does not exist? That is the only concrete problem I know of today. (Albert Camus).

15. By night, an atheist half-believes in God (Edward Young).
16. If there is a God, He is infinitely incomprehensible, since, having, neither parts nor limits, He has no affinity to us. We are then incapable of knowing either what He is or if He is. [So] you must wager. Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager then without hesitation that he is (Blaise Pascal).
17. I have always considered "Pascal's Wager" a questionable bet to place. Any God worth "believing in" would surely prefer an honest agnostic to a calculating hypocrite (Alan Dershowitz).
18. "Belief" is not something you can turn on and off like a spigot. No person can truly "believe in God" unless the evidence convinces his or her mind. If you don't believe me, try believing that the stars are holes punched into a heavenly dome, with the light of heaven shining through. Pascal's recommendation is inherently impractical (Dave Matson).
19. If there be a God and one has never sought him, it will be small consolation to remember that one could not get proof of his existence (George MacDonald).
20. Well, I tell you, if I have been wrong in my agnosticism, when I die I'll walk up to God in a manly way and say, Sir, I made an honest mistake. (H. L. Mencken). And God will say in that day of divine awakening, "Depart from me. I never knew you."
21. And if there were a God, I think it very unlikely that He would have such an uneasy vanity as to be offended by those who doubt His existence (Bertrand Russell).
22. Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blind-folded fear (Thomas Jefferson).
23. My studies in Speculative philosophy, metaphysics, and science are all summed up in the image of a mouse called man running in and out of every hole in the Cosmos hunting for the Absolute Cheese (Benjamin DeCasseres).
24. I don't believe in God because I don't believe in Mother Goose (Clarence Darrow).
25. I am an atheist, out and out. It took me a long time to say it. I've been an atheist for years and years, but somehow I felt it was intellectually unrespectable to say one was an atheist, because it assumed knowledge that one didn't have. Somehow it was better to say one was a humanist or an agnostic. I finally decided that I'm a creature of emotion as well as of reason. Emotionally I am an atheist. I don't have the evidence to prove that God doesn't exist, but I so strongly suspect he doesn't that I don't want to waste my time. -Isaac Asimov
26. He is a self-made man who worships his creator (John Bright).

27. No philosophy, no religion, has ever brought so glad a message to the world as this good news of Atheism (Annie Wood Besant).
28. Humanism or atheism is a wonderful philosophy of life as long as you are big, strong, and between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. But watch out if you are in a lifeboat and there are others who are younger, bigger, or smarter (William Murray).
29. Still, even the most admirable of atheists is nothing more than a moral parasite, living his life based on borrowed ethics. This is why, when pressed, the atheist will often attempt to hide his lack of conviction in his own beliefs behind some poorly formulated utilitarianism, or argue that he acts out of altruistic self-interest. But this is only post-facto rationalization, not reason or rational behavior (Vox Day).
30. A disbelief in God does not result in a belief in nothing; disbelief in God usually results in a belief in anything (Unknown).
31. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God (Abraham Lincoln).
32. A creature revolting against a creator is revolting against the source of his own powers—including even his power to revolt...It is like the scent of a flower trying to destroy the flower (C.S. Lewis).
33. To sustain the belief that there is no God, atheism has to demonstrate infinite knowledge, which is tantamount to saying, "I have infinite knowledge that there is no being in existence with infinite knowledge" (Ravi Zacharias).
34. A little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion (Francis Bacon).
35. My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water, because man is not a water animal: a fish would not feel wet. Of course, I could have given up my idea of justice by saying that it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies. Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist--in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality--namely my idea of justice--was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning" (C.S. Lewis).

36. I hope for the day when everyone can speak again of God without embarrassment (Paul Tillich).
37. If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped (Evelyn Underhill).
38. Those who believe they believe in God but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself (Madeleine L'Engle).
39. We think having faith means being convinced God exists in the same way we are convinced a chair exists. People who cannot be completely convinced of God's existence think faith is impossible for them. Not so. People who doubt can have great faith because faith is something you do, not something you think. In fact, the greater your doubt the more heroic your faith (Unknown).
40. God is not discoverable or demonstrable by purely scientific means, unfortunately for the scientifically minded. But that really proves nothing. It simply means that the wrong instruments are being used for the job (J.B. Phillips).
41. A god who let us prove his existence would be an idol (Deitrich Bonhoeffer).
42. If we were to judge nature by common sense or likelihood, we wouldn't believe the world existed (Annie Dillard).
43. Shouldn't atheist have an equal obligation to explain pleasure in a world of randomness. Where does pleasure come from? –G.K. Chesterton
44. Understanding God is not attained by calling into session all arguments for and against Him, in order to debate whether He is a reality or a figment of the mind. God cannot be sensed as a second thought, as an explanation of the origin of the universe. He is either the first and the last, or just another concept (Abraham Joshua Heschel).
45. Secrets of the incomprehensible wisdom of God, unknown to any besides Himself! Man, sprung up only of a few days, wants to penetrate, and to set bounds to it. Who is it that hath known the mind of the Lord, or who hath been His counselor? (Jeanne Guyon).
46. God will not take shelter behind a jugglery of logic or metaphysics. He is neither a schoolman nor theologian, but our Father in Heaven (George MacDonald).
47. Without God man has no reference point to define himself. 20th century philosophy manifests the chaos of man seeking to understand himself as a creature with dignity while having no reference point for that dignity (R. C. Sproul).

48. According to the teaching of our Lord, what is wrong with the world is precisely that it does not believe in God. Yet it is clear that the unbelief which he so bitterly deplored was not an intellectual persuasion of God's non-existence. Those whom he rebuked for their lack of faith were not men who denied God with the top of their minds, but men who, while apparently incapable of doubting him with the top of their minds, lived as though he did not exist (John Baillie).
49. The real attitude of sin in the heart towards God is that of being without God; it is pride, the worship of myself, that is the great atheistic fact in human life (Oswald Chambers).
50. God is dead not because He doesn't exist, but because we live, play, procreate, govern, and die as though He doesn't (Chuck Colson).
51. Self is the opaque veil that hides the Face of God from us. It can be removed only in spiritual experience, never by mere instruction (A.W. Tozer).
52. The turning point in our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is (Patrick Morley).
53. I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, I hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that (Thomas Nagel).
54. We may seek God by our intellect, but we only can find him with our heart (Cotvos).
55. I believe in God as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else (C. S. Lewis).