

What is The Value of a Life?

If you are a religious person you probably believe in some form of an afterlife and that when you die a place unimaginably better and more wondrous than anything on earth awaits you. There is a dangerous and fundamental problem with this belief; Sam Harris, author, neuroscience Ph.D, makes the point crystal clear when he says:

"add to this... the fact that 44 percent of Americans are confident that Jesus will return to Earth sometime in the next 50 years, and you will glimpse the terrible liability of this sort of thinking. Given the most common interpretation of Biblical prophecy, it is not an exaggeration to say that nearly half the American population is eagerly anticipating the end of the world. It should be clear that this faith-based nihilism provides its adherents with absolutely no incentive to build a sustainable civilization—economically, environmentally or geopolitically".

So in other words, if the religious believe the end of the world is coming and that when they die the afterlife is infinitely better than this life, what motivation do they have for making the world a better place now? Consider this - what value do the religious put on life if they are certain that they will go to heaven after they die? It can be a difficult concept to grasp but when you come to realize the truth, that there is no afterlife, no heaven, no hell, and this is the only life you or anyone else will ever get, there is an overwhelming sense of urgency to make every moment count, to make the world a better place, to live life to the fullest and to appreciate just how truly precious each and every life is. This is the only life you will ever live, your one shot at existence, please live accordingly.

"Religion is the one area of our discourse in which people are systematically protected from the demand to give good evidence and valid arguments in defense of their strongly held beliefs. And yet these beliefs regularly determine what they live for, what they will die for and—all too often—what they will kill for" Harris. Reason and evidence must be demanded from people when making claims about their beliefs.

This is where you come in, like a light in the darkness; you can make a stand, ask tough questions and demand hard evidence. You should never be afraid to question. The truth can never be shaken no matter how intense the inquisition, it is after all, the truth and the path to the truth must be forged, no matter how difficult the opposition. It's true what they say, Ignorance is bliss - sitting back, taking orders, and letting other people tell you what to believe is easy, but Knowledge is power.

Why should you be kept in the dark? Empower yourself!

Where did Religion Come From?

Gods, deities, supernaturalism, and religion are tens of thousands of years old. They emerged over time in earlier civilizations as a way for people make sense of seemingly mysterious natural events of the earth and sky around them and to help cope with the many faculties of being human like sickness, death, dreams, joy and suffering. As our species grew and developed we started asking questions like where does my father go when he dies? Why can I see him in my dreams? Why am I sick? Why did our village flood? Where does the sun go at night and what are all those lights in the sky? It was only natural that we tried to answer these questions and at the time we didn't have scientific ways of answering them so supernatural answers made the most sense.

Gods were believed to control the tides, the weather, floods, illness, and just about anything else that people couldn't explain, didn't understand, feared, or wondered about. For example: It was believed for centuries that the earth was the center of the universe and that the leprosy and other diseases were caused by curses or punishments from god. Modern medicine and science has cured them.

We have come quite a long way and as we progress in technology and science we find ourselves able to perfectly explain and account for more and more of the ancient mysteries that religion attempted to describe thousands of years ago. The fact is that as time goes on science is able to explain more and religion is able to explain less.

So when did we stop asking questions? Why is it that some groups of people simply stopped looking for answers and regularly accept thousand year old superstition and mythology over science and research? Would you take medical advice from a thousand year old book? No. So what's the reasoning behind treating any other aspect of life with a similar mentality? It just doesn't make sense.

Questioning and testing the world around us is how we grow and learn, as individuals and as a society, it's how we move forward and progress towards a better tomorrow. It continues to make the world a better place to live in, not only for ourselves but for our children as well.

Don't let anyone tell you what to believe, discover the world for yourself. Most importantly ask yourself Why, why do you feel this way, why do you believe what you believe.

So start questioning!

You may not always discover what you expected but it's the only way to get real answers.

Ask more questions and get real answers at www.GodFlyer.com

God?

Do you have questions?
You deserve real answers.

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use."

- Galileo Galilei

Let's start asking questions

Where do Your Beliefs Come From?

Chances are you got your belief system from your parents, most people do.

If you believe in God, then you have chosen to reject Allah, Vishnu, Buddha, Waheguru, Krishna, Shiva, Odin, and thousands of other gods and deities that people worship today and have worshiped in the past.

It's likely that you rejected these other gods without ever looking into their religions or reading their books. You simply absorbed the dominant faith in your home or in the society you grew up in. In the same way, the followers of all these other religions have chosen to reject your God.

You think their gods are imaginary, and they think your God is imaginary.

Out of thousands of practiced religions, most people simply follow the faith of their parents.

In other words, each religious person on earth today arbitrarily rejects thousands of gods as imaginary, many of which he/she has never even heard of, and arbitrarily chooses to "believe" in one of them.

What if you had been born into a family that was of a different faith or to one of no faith at all? What if you had been born in a completely different place on earth? Chances are you would belong to a completely different religion and believe in totally different things. It's really quite simple, think about all the people in parts of the world with severely limited access to information. How would they learn about other religions? Is it their fault they were born in those parts of the world?

What are the chances that out of all the religions and places in the world you just happened to be born in the right part of the world to the right family practicing the one religion that is true?

The following quote sums up the situation very nicely:

"I contend that we are both atheists. I just believe in one fewer god than you do. When you understand why you dismiss all the other possible gods, you will understand why I dismiss yours."

- Stephen F. Roberts

So What Does the Bible say?



It tells us who we should kill

- Homosexuals (Lev.20:13, Rom.1:26-32)
- Adulterers (Lev.20:10, Deut.22:22)
- Disobedient children (Deut.21:20-21, Lev.20:9, Exod.21:15)
- Women who are not virgins on their wedding night (Deut.22:13-21)
- All non-Christians (parable told by Christ - Luke.19:27)
- Those accused of wickedness by at least two people (Deut.17:2-7)
- Anyone who works on the Sabbath (Exod.35:2-3, Num.15:32-6)

Women

- It is "shameful" for a woman to speak in church (1Cor.14:34-5)
- A woman must not teach or hold authority over a man (1Tim.2:12)
- Lot saves the messengers from the men of Sodom by offering up his virgin daughters to "do to them as you please" (Gen.19:8)
- "Kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourself every girl who has never slept with a man" (Moses - Num.31:17-8)
- The rapist of an unwed woman must buy her and make her his wife (Deut.22:28-9)

Slavery

- God supports slavery (Lev.25:44-6, Exod.21:2-8, Eph.6:5, Col.3:22)
- Instructions on how to sell your daughter as a slave (Exod.21:7-8)
- When and how to give your slaves beatings (Luke.12:42-8)
- OK to beat slaves only if they don't die within 2 days (Exod.21:20-1)
- How to mark your slave: drive an awl through its ear (Deut.15:17)

Justice

- If a man suspects his wife of cheating he can serve her a cursed drink; if she becomes deformed, then that proves her guilt (Num.5:12-31)
- 42 children killed by bears for calling a prophet 'baldy' (2King.2:23-4)
- OK to beat your children with a rod - it won't kill them (Prov.23:13-4)
- God commands the killing of infants and nursing babies. (1 Sam 15:3)

Human Sacrifice

- Jephtahah burns his daughter to death as a sacrifice to god for helping him win a battle (Judges 11:29-40 NLT)
- Massacre & burnings of entire towns of non-believers as an offering to the lord (Deut. 13:13-19 NLT)
- The Lord: Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among Israelites, both man and beast, for it belongs to me. (Exod. 13:2)

Do the Old Testament laws still apply?

- Yes. Every "jot" and "tittle" (Christ - Matt.5:17-9)

Christ the role model

- Christ tells us we must "hate" our entire family, and even our own life, if we want to be one of His disciples (Luke.14:26)
- Those who abandon their families will be rewarded (Matt.19:29)
- "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother..." (Christ - Matt.10:35-6)
- "I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Christ - Matt.10:34)
- If you don't have a sword, sell your clothes to buy one (Luke.22:36)
- Didn't want to help girl because she was a "dog" gentile (Matt.15:22-8)

These are just a few of the many horrors written in the bible. Of course there are several good passages also, but one can't simply cherry-pick the parts of the bible they like as if the horrible parts don't exist. Either the entire text is divine and true and to be followed exactly, or it's a flawed piece of human literature and its entirety must be taken as such. Otherwise you're just making up your own religion...

So What do we Actually Know?

The biblical story suggests the earth is about 6,000 years old when according to the best scientists earth is in fact over 4.5 billion years old and modern man is over 200,000 years old. We began making flutes, weapons, pottery, and painting in caves over 40,000 years ago.

History is filled with accounts of religion as the core of many violent acts against humanity - here are just a few: The Aztecs sacrificed hundreds of humans to their gods as recently as the 16th century. Radical Islamists are training children as young as 7 to carry out killings in the name of Allah. Honor killings (family members murdering another family member to preserve their "honor") are **legal** in several countries and are estimated to claim the lives of over 20,000 women each year. Pope Pius V sent Catholic troops to kill 2,000 Waldensian Protestants. After his death he was made a saint. In the 1890s An estimated 200,000 Christian Armenians were killed by Muslim Turks. Recently in Pakistan a 14 year old girl was shot in the head by religious fanatics - calling her crusade for education rights an "obscenity." The list of crimes against humanity for god and religion goes on and on. It needs to stop, and you can help stop it!

Religion has been used throughout history as a way to control people, to keep them subdued, to go to war, kill, and conquer other nations all in the name of a god. Each group murdering the other over their beliefs in a deity they have never seen. Crusaders were absolved of sin and promised eternal salvation for fighting the Catholic Church's holy war. This resulted in over 100,000 lives lost. While other armies of a different faith professed salvation to their people for fighting for their god. People today are still killing and dying in the name of different gods all around the world.

Did you know?

The story of Christ's birth is identical to that of the story of many other deities from the past.

Almost Nothing in Christianity is original. The pre-Christian God Mithras, called the Son of God and the Light of the World, was born on December 25, died, was buried in a rock tomb, and then resurrected in three days. December 25 is also the birthday of Osiris, Adonis, and Dionysus. The newborn Krishna was presented with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Even Christianity's weekly holy day was taken from the pagans. Virtually all the elements of the Catholic ritual - the miter, the altar, the doxology, and communion, the act of "God-eating" were taken directly from earlier pagan religions.

Why is it so important to religious leaders that you believe & behave exactly the way they want you to?