

**Part I: What is atheism?**



**INTRODUCTION TO ATHEISM**

## DEFINITION

- **Lack (Unclear)**
  - Atheism is a lack of a belief in God(s).
- **Disbelief (Choice)**
  - Atheism is the belief that there is no God(s).
  - Atheism is the belief that there's no justifiable reason to believe in God(s).
- **Non-Theism (Rational Default)**
  - Atheism is a set of all beliefs that are not explicitly theistic.
- **Anti-Theism / Certainty**

Non-Theism

Typical amongst non-theists.

Lack

Atypical, mainly certain type of atheist, phrased this way for argumentation purposes (most defensible formation).

Disbelief

Least defensible version (though still defensible obviously), this is the *choice* to reject theism for various reasons.

My use – most self-defined atheists are.

Anti-theism / certainty wrt. To god question

Atypical but often implicit, esp. For religious users.

## AN ATHEIST

- Difficult to speak about atheists in general.
- Construct an idealised (not necessarily ideal) individual to speak about.
- Idealised/Specificity may be irrelevant *to you*, but not in general.



The purpose of an idealised version...

Two tiers of an ethical stance wrt. the world/morals/etc.

## PATHS TO ATHEISM

- Rational
  - By argument.
  - *Of Note: Debate Tactics.*
- Sceptical
  - Incredulity
  - *Of Note: X-Files and Superstition.*
- Ethical
  - Choice between frameworks.
  - *Of Note: Movie Goer's Guide.*

Most important are Ethical and Sceptical in *convincing* people.  
Rational is most important in debate.

## BEING ATHEIST

- **Ethics**
  - Moral Relativism & Points of View.
- **Meaning of Life**
  - Freedom
- **Death**
  - Alternatives
- **One Life**



Living with vs. Without God

## LIMITS OF ATHEISM

- The Inadequacy of Reason
  - Questions of life:  
Who, What, Where, Why, When?
  - Defensible Theism
- The Problem of Death
- Radical Agnosticism
  - Equally weighted possibilities of creation?
- Notable: Limits of Atheism

Need external standard to judge limitations... (non-Rational limitations)

IoR

Why is IoR wrt QoL a *limit* of atheism?

Well comparison w. Other frameworks... Atheism says other frameworks have this limitation, ie. Implicit in human cond.

In ethical terms (discounting reason)... Seen as limiting humans (etc.)

Def. Theism

Impossible not only to disprove but to speak of as epistemically less or more merit worthy than competing ideas.

Solution? Revelation not def. The. So likelihood of human idea corresponding to reality slim... Analysis of human condition WITHIN the framework of atheism