

Christian's failure to believe has a devastating effect on the American culture.

The refusal of American Christians to support what is obviously an excellent moral system is having a devastating affect on the American culture.

Approximately eighty percent of the American populace is Christian, which means that Christianity is fundamentally the American conscience. I do not find that to be a problem because the philosophy of Jesus is constructive, uncomplicated and would, if implemented as presented, have significant benefit to our culture. However, American Christians have chosen to ignore most of what is valuable in that philosophy and adopt, instead, various systems with very little accountability and inadequate emphasis on personal responsibility.

The Christian doctrine as defined in the gospels clearly establishes a fundamental principle of social morality; it details specific actions observing or violating this principle, and gives coherent examples of conformity. Essentially it requires humans to treat each other with respect and support in a manner that one would, them self, hope to be treated. The source document requires this to be a lifestyle, not a weekend duty nor an opportunity for exhibitionism.

While giving lip service to this principle, American Christians prefer a system where a declaration of belief their god is sufficient or a system where the individual cannot be held responsible for their actions because of an inherent weakness in the species thereby relying on god to compensate for that weakness. In other words, they prefer systems which require allegiance to a god but not integrity from the individual.

Now, if eighty percent of our population has decided, in opposition to a supposed basic creed, that what they do is not actually important, rather that rhetoric, ritual, and symbolism will suffice, it is no wonder that America is declining into a dysfunctional culture.

Greed, self indulgence, intolerance, condemnation, and pride dominate our culture; war, aggression, torture, and dominance govern our foreign policy; and those in our nation who lack the physical or mental prowess of the powerful suffer with inadequate resources such as health care or proper education opportunities. All of these are absolutely in opposition to the mandates of the Christian philosophy, but can only thrive with the support of the Christian majority of eighty percent.

So, why should an atheist be concerned?

The answer is simple. Christians are happy with their easy morality. They can ignore America's plight, perhaps blame it on the "godless", and bask in their self righteousness of hypocrisy and inaction. Only someone outside their built in self congratulatory system can assess their failings. Certainly the Christian leaders who bask in wealth and glory gained off the backs of their poor and searching congregations are not going to tip the cash cow.

Perhaps they may say that I am simply being defensive because atheists are the real threat to American morality with their desire to remove god from our culture, prayer from our schools Christ from Christmas. My response is that they are not only absurd with such a charge, but that this claim is an excellent example of their duplicity. Atheists comprise roughly three percent of our population facing a total plurality of theists (Christian and other theists) of roughly ninety percent so, there is no possible way atheists would have a significant impact of America's morality even if they were of like mind, organized and indeed obsessed with the removal of Christ from Christmas. But realistically, "atheisms" is no more a definition of an activist group or even an individual than the term "theist" defines someone who perhaps attends a Christian church, perhaps less so because the atheists tends to be individualistic.

The nonsensical charge that atheists have banded together and have the power to destroy Christianity and our culture is instead proof that American Christianity has fallen into disreputable hands. The truth is an essential element in the basic Christian doctrine, as it would be in any system of morality. It was given significant prominence during Christianity's foundation. Contrary to the abuse of the concept of truth rampant in our culture, exaggeration misstatement, deflection, and deniability are as much a violation of the truth as a direct lie; perhaps even more insidious. It is not true that all atheists want to see the demise of Christianity and it is not true that atheists are destroying our culture. The only way the American culture, comprised of eighty percent Christians, can be destroyed is through the failure of Christians to maintain a moral culture. Nothing else makes any sense. That American Christians lay this blame on atheists as a tenet of their belief system is a perfect demonstration of our loss of cultural morality. It is an institutionalized lie which releases Christians of accountability.

As further demonstration of the abandonment of the morality of their core doctrine which is the cause of the fall of the American culture, American Christians fail the philosophy of their god in regards to atheists just as they do so many other categories of humans such as gays, in their judgment and condemnation as immoral. Their judgment is not only wrong in its abandonment of the principles of their theology, but it is wrong in its concept. There is no reason to believe that the atheist is any less moral that the theist.

The source document is fully capable of being read and understood on its own merits.

any conscience is ineffective when it becomes excessively elastic or when it ceases to have a consistent, definable foundation. Contradicting the source authority and document, American Christianity has reached the point where its substantial moral advantages have given way to self interest and indulgence. Symbolism, rhetoric, and ritual have replaced integrity and personal responsibility as its core values.

The divergence between Christianity as preached and practiced in America today and the philosophy of Jesus has two significant impacts:

- It leads to the deterioration of the overall morality of our culture.
- It provides proof to those in our society who question the existence of God.

The philosophy attributed to Jesus, the founding authority, as described in the gospels, the source document, clearly establishes a fundamental principle of social morality, details specific actions observing or violating this principle, and gives coherent examples of conformity. The source document is fully capable of being read and understood on its own merits.

When a hypothesis lacks definite, tangible, scientific proof, it is perfectly reasonable to accept instead, creditable witness. That is a bedrock principle of our legal system and one held with regard in the scientific communities. However, when the witness demonstratively lacks conviction in its testimony or acts in a manner that is inconsistent with that testimony, such witness cannot be considered credible and the hypothesis, otherwise unsupported by concrete evidence, must be deemed unsubstantiated. If Christians, the witnesses for the existence of their god, but whose nature is substantially less creditable, do not believe in the philosophy of that god or find it appropriate to make certain adjustments to his principles then the skeptic doesn't error in discounting the testimony of the witness. If Christians witness the divinity of their god and then live lives contrary to his divine guidance then, again, the non-Christian is perfectly logical in dismissing the theology.

These two concepts are related in that they are the result of the disparity between modern Christians and their core document but the first must be the incentive for a closer examination of the problem. America doesn't necessarily need another book on why an atheist disbelieves in

a god, but America does need someone to challenge Christianity's failure as America's conscience.

America also needs a frank discussion as to the virtual impossibility of the claim of many theists that atheists are the force behind the degradation of our culture.