

# the Christian atheist

## The Christian Atheist

You say you believe in God. Do you really? Do you live your life as if God is in the room, or do you assume He's not paying attention? You call yourself a Christian. Are you who you say you are?

In this multiple week series, we will challenge each other to confront hypocrisy, challenge ourselves, and live a life that brings glory to Christ.

### Week 2 – The Christian Atheist

#### Believing in God, But You're Ashamed of Your Past

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##### The Reality of Shame

- We all carry something in our past that brings shame
  - Shame is not just embarrassment—it makes us want to hide from God
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##### Where Shame Began

Genesis 2:25 – Before sin, there was no shame

Genesis 3:8–10 – After sin, they hid from God

- Sin is the primary source of shame
- Shame leads us to hide, not draw near
- God's response is not rejection, but pursuit

**Key Truth:**

Your past might explain you, but it does not define you

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## The Problem We Face

- We believe in God, but still hide from Him
- The enemy uses shame to keep us distant
- Romans 3:23 – All have sinned and fall short

Question:

If God is pursuing us, what are we hiding from?

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## The Cycle of Shame

1. We experience a painful event
  2. We believe the lie that our pain is WHO WE ARE
  3. We think that we can never recover, or don't deserve to
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## A Story of Shame and Redemption

Genesis 38 – Judah and Tamar

- Broken people making broken decisions
- Shame led to deception, desperation, and sin
- God was still working through the mess

Key Truth:

God can redeem any story

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## Breaking the Cycle

- Tamar gave birth to Perez, which means “breakthrough”
- God brings breakthrough where we expect defeat

Key Truth:

You are not defined by your past—you can break free from it

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## From Shame to Restoration

2 Samuel 14:14 – God devises ways to bring us back

Psalms 51 – David's prayer of repentance

- We cannot change the past
- We can allow God to transform our future

Key Truth:

We don't need to be innocent—we need to be honest

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## **God Uses Broken People**

**Matthew 1 – Jesus’ lineage includes flawed people**

- Judah
  - Tamar
  - David
  - God does not erase broken stories—He redeems them
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## **Our Hope in Christ**

**Romans 8:28–30**

- God works all things together for good
- We are called, justified, and given new identity

**Key Truth:**

**When we reject what sin says about us, we can embrace what God says about us**

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## **Final Challenge**

- Jesus broke through so we can break free
- Shame says hide—God says come back

**Question:**

**What shame is keeping you from feeling forgiven?**