

# 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.

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Here is your **2–3 page bulletin-style outline**, fully written, structured, and refined from your notes for clarity, flow, and use during livestream and throughout the week.

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## THE CHRISTIAN ATHEIST – WEEK 11

### *Believing in God, But Not Sharing Your Faith*

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### INTRODUCTION: THE MISSED MOMENT

Who doesn't appreciate a good—well, maybe bad—dad joke? Many of us can't resist slipping one in when the timing feels right. We look for opportunities to get a laugh.

But what would the church look like if we were just as intentional and opportunistic about sharing our faith as we are about telling a joke?

Recently, while standing in line at a restaurant on a rainy day, a simple conversation with a stranger created a natural opportunity. The man was friendly, open, and willing to talk. When he asked what we did for a living, the answer was right there—but for a moment, it didn't come out.

Even as a pastor, there was hesitation.

Not rejection. Not hostility. Just... silence.

**The question we must wrestle with:**

Why do we hesitate to share the most important truth we know?

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## **I. WHY WE HESITATE TO SHARE OUR FAITH**

### **It Happens to All of Us**

Even when the opportunity is clear, many believers experience a pause—a moment where the words don't come.

1 Peter 3:15 reminds us:

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have... with gentleness and respect.”

Yet many of us have experienced a “failure to launch.”

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### **Common Reasons for Hesitation**

#### **1. Fear of What Others Will Think**

- Fear of awkwardness
- Fear of rejection
- Fear of being labeled or misunderstood

#### **2. Concern About Relationships**

- Worry about pushing people away
- Not wanting to seem overly religious
- Fear of making others uncomfortable

#### **3. Spiritual Pressure or Guilt**

- Feeling like we must say it perfectly
- Thinking we must have all the answers

**4. Misplaced Sensitivity** Sometimes we hesitate not because of strangers—but because of those closest to us. We may fear overdoing it, even with friends we care about deeply.

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## Key Reflection

Many people we encounter are open, kind, and searching—even if they don't say it directly. The question is not always whether they're ready to hear, but whether we're ready to speak.

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## II. ARE YOU PREPARED?

### Personal Evaluation

Take an honest look at your readiness:

On a scale from 1–10:

- 1 = Not prepared at all
- 10 = Fully confident and ready

Where do you fall?

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### Misconceptions About Readiness

**“I just trust the Spirit.”**

- Trusting the Spirit is essential—but preparation still matters.

**“That’s the pastor’s job.”**

- Scripture makes it clear that every believer is called to share.

Romans 15:14 reminds us that believers are capable of instructing and encouraging one another.

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### Biblical Insight on Preparation

Revelation 12:11 highlights two powerful tools:

- The work of Christ
- The word of our testimony

You don't need a seminary degree to share your faith—you need a story of what God has done in your life.

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## Preparedness Means:

- Knowing what you believe
  - Understanding why you believe it
  - Being ready to express it simply and clearly
  - Trusting God to work through your obedience
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## III. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL?

Believing something does not always mean fully understanding it.

Many people make major financial decisions—like buying a home—without fully understanding every detail of the process. Yet they move forward because they understand enough to trust the outcome.

Faith works similarly.

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### The Mystery of Faith

Ephesians 3 reminds us that the gospel was once a mystery revealed by God. Even now, we do not fully comprehend all of its depth—but we trust its truth.

Psalms 68:19–20 reminds us: God daily carries our burdens and brings salvation.

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### Core Truths of the Gospel

Being a Christian means:

- **Admitting we are sinners** (Romans 3:23)
  - **Believing Jesus died and rose again for us** (Romans 5:8)
  - **Repenting and turning to Him** (Romans 6:23)
  - **Confessing and trusting Him as Lord** (Romans 10:9–10)
  - **Following Him daily** (Psalm 68:19–20)
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## Key Takeaway

You do not need to understand everything about God to share the gospel—you only need to understand the truth that changed your life.

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## IV. PRACTICAL WAYS TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

Sharing your faith is not limited to one method. It happens through everyday obedience and intentional living.

### Ways to Share Christ

#### 1. Share Your Personal Testimony

- What your life was like before Christ
  - How you came to know Him
  - How He has changed you
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#### 2. Invite Someone to Church

- A simple invitation can be life-changing
  - Many people are waiting to be asked
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#### 3. Serve Others with Christlike Love

- Actions open doors for conversations
  - Love creates credibility
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#### 4. Pray for People

- Pray for opportunities
  - Pray for boldness
  - Pray for hearts to be open
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#### 5. Engage in Spiritual Conversations

- Ask intentional questions
  - Listen well
  - Speak truth with grace
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#### 6. Share Scripture

- God's Word has power
  - Even a single verse can impact a life
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### **7. Live a Consistent Christian Life**

- Integrity supports your message
  - Your life should match your words
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### **8. Use Your Influence**

- Conversations
- Social media
- Daily interactions

God has placed you exactly where you are for a reason.

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## **V. IS THEIR ETERNITY WORTH MY DISCOMFORT?**

### **Key Teaching from Jesus (Matthew 7:12–14)**

- Treat others as you would want to be treated
  - The wide path leads to destruction
  - The narrow path leads to life
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### **A Challenging Question**

If your eternity were at stake—  
would you want someone to risk discomfort to tell you the truth?

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### **Reality Check**

- Silence can feel safe—but it costs opportunity
  - Discomfort is temporary—but eternity is not
  - Love speaks—even when it's difficult
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# FINAL CHALLENGE

Faith is not just something we believe—it's something we share.

God has not called us to be silent believers, but faithful witnesses.

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## APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK

### 1. Write Your Testimony

Reflect on and record:

- Your salvation story
  - Times God has healed or delivered you
  - Answered prayers
  - Key moments of transformation
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### 2. Pray for Boldness

Ask God:

- To show you who needs to hear
  - To give you courage
  - To give you the right words at the right time
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### 3. Identify Someone

Ask God to place one specific person on your heart.

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### 4. Take One Step of Faith

- Start a conversation
  - Invite them to church
  - Share your story
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## CLOSING ENCOURAGEMENT

You don't need perfect timing.

You don't need perfect words.

You don't need perfect knowledge.

You simply need a willing heart.

**This week—don't just believe in God.**

**Be ready, be bold, and share Him.**

## **SCRIPTURES & VERSIONS USED**

- **1 Peter 3:15** – NIV (New International Version)
- **Revelation 12:11** – NKJV (New King James Version)
- **2 Corinthians 13:10** – NLT (New Living Translation)
- **Romans 15:14–15** – NLT (New Living Translation)
- **Psalms 68:19–20** – NIV (New International Version)
- **Ephesians 3:1–6** – (Version not specified in notes; commonly ESV/NIV wording used)
- **Romans 3:23** – (Version not specified)
- **Romans 5:8** – (Version not specified)
- **Romans 6:23** – (Version not specified)
- **Romans 10:9–10** – (Version not specified)
- **Matthew 7:12–14** – NLT (New Living Translation)