

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.

Believing in God, but Living as if He Doesn't Exist

The Christian Atheist – Week 1

When You Believe in God but Don't Really Know Him

Key Thought

It's possible to believe in God... and still live like He doesn't exist.

Opening Tension

Carl Sagan rejected God completely.

But Scripture reveals a deeper challenge:

There are people who claim to believe in God—yet their lives show little evidence of knowing Him.

Belief Is Not the Same as Knowing

 James 2:19

“You believe that God is one. You do well; even the demons believe—and shudder.”

- Even demons believe in God’s existence
- They recognize His power
- But they do not know Him

Belief alone does not equal relationship

The Danger of Secondhand Faith

- Knowing about God is not the same as knowing God
- A borrowed or inherited faith leads to shallow living
- When belief never becomes personal, we default to living by our own rules

Secondhand faith keeps us from real transformation

Knowing God Changes How You Live

 1 John 2:3–4

“We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. Whoever says, ‘I know Him,’ but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.”

- Knowing God produces obedience
- Obedience reflects relationship, not perfection
- Right actions without a right heart fall short

If we truly know Him, our lives will show it

Religion vs. Relationship

- Religion focuses on outward behavior
- Relationship transforms the heart
- Religion says “follow the rules”
- Relationship says “follow the Savior”

God desires relationship, not routine

Heart Check

- What we believe about God shapes how we live
- Our expectations of God reveal our understanding of Him
- Many believe in God for what He can give, not for who He is

God is not just a part of life—He is meant to be the center of it

Moving from Belief to Knowing

- **Knowing God requires intentional pursuit**
- **It involves time in His Word, prayer, and obedience**
- **True faith is lived out daily, not just spoken occasionally**

God invites us into a real and personal relationship

Closing Challenge

**You can believe in God...
and still live like He doesn't exist.**

**But God calls us to more than belief—
He calls us to know Him.**

This Week

- **Pursue God personally, not just intellectually**
- **Spend intentional time in His Word**
- **Ask God to reveal where belief has not yet become relationship**