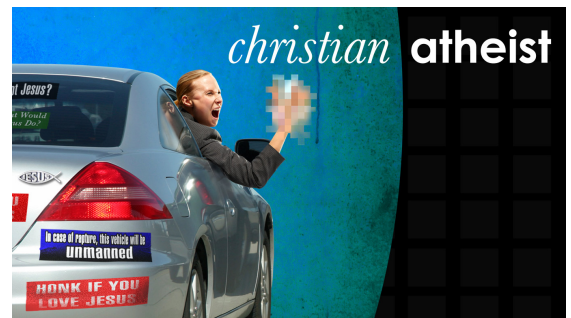


C¹ onechurch

bigIdea

A *Christian Atheist* is someone who believes in God but lives as if He does not exist. 94% of Americans say they believe in God. But 94% of Americans really don't know God. I mean, really know Him intimately. They know facts. They believe. But belief isn't the same as personal knowledge.

Maybe you're thinking, "I believe in God. Isn't that enough? I mean, a lot of people don't believe in God, but I do! Isn't that what He wants from me?" Those are fair questions. But believing in God isn't all He wants from us.



BIG IDEA: Knowing facts about God isn't the same as knowing God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Without being over the top embarrassing, share one random fact about your spouse or friend in this group that most people wouldn't know unless they knew then *really* well.
- What if your relationship with your spouse resembled your relationship with your God? How would your relationship look like?
 - Our relationship would be non-existent.
 - I would be divorced.
 - It would look like a passionate honeymoon.
 - It is growing and deepening every day.

94% of Americans say they believe in God. But 94% of Americans really don't know God. I mean, really know Him intimately. They know facts. They believe, but belief isn't the same as personal knowledge.

- How did you meet your mate? How did you get to know them when you were dating? When you got married? How can your experience knowing your mate relate to how you can know God? Is there any similarities? Any differences?
- Read James 2:19. How would you respond to someone who says, "I believe in God. Isn't that enough? I mean, a lot of people don't believe in God, but I do! Isn't that what He wants from me?"

These demons believe, yet their obviously separated from God. Obviously, there is more to this whole Christian thing than just believing in God. Because just knowing about someone and knowing facts about God—that's great, but it isn't enough. It doesn't equal a relationship with God. Because knowing facts about a person doesn't equal a relationship with that person.

- Read Matthew 7:13-23. What is Jesus talking about with the narrow gate and the narrow road? Why is that the road less traveled? In your opinion, what does the broad gate and the broad road represent?
- Read Matthew 7:21-23. If you didn't know the end of the story, would you have thought these people were in a relationship with God? Did they know the right talk? Did they do the right things? Then why didn't they get to heaven?

Believing in a God and knowing facts about God is different than knowing God!
You see, you can have all of the facts but not have a relationship.

- Chris said, "God wants a relationship with you, not an event with you." What do you think he meant by that? What events do people normally associate with religion? Becoming a Christian? Why is it dangerous to rely on an event instead of a relationship?

Weddings are important, but that just cements the relationship—that's NOT THE relationship. What if your relationship to your spouse began and ended with that altar? Most people would say that is a marriage of convenience. That you really don't have a real marriage; what you have is a marriage of convenience

- Do you have a relationship of convenience with God?

THINK ABOUT IT

Facts and events are all about religion. We're talking about having a relationship with God. So do you have a relationship with God that's growing?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:34