



## 1. Belief in God

A.

B.

C.

## 2. Defining God

A.

1)

2)

B.

1)

2)

## 3. Ignoring God

A.

1)

2)

**B.**

1)

2)

**C.**

1)

2)

**D.**

1)

2)

#### **4. Understand Motivations**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**



HOLY  
BIBLE

# Apologetics

Compass Night 2019

# 1. Belief in God

## A. Virtually Universal

- **Worldwide “Atheists” ~ 2% – 5%**
  - Higher stats include “non-religious”, etc.
- **American “Atheists” = 3%**
- **Modernity does not eradicate Belief in God**
  - Studies report an increase (Encycl. Brit.)



## ***In the United States...***

- ***“Atheism” is on the Rise as a Self-Identification***
- ***8% of ‘Atheists’ Believe in a God / Spirit***
- ***11% of ‘Atheists’/‘Agnostics’ Pray Weekly or Monthly***
- ***6% of ‘Atheists’/‘Agnostics’ Pray Daily***
- ***31% of ‘Atheists’ Regularly Feel Spiritual Peace***
- ***35% of ‘Atheists’ think often about the Meaning of Life***
- ***54% of ‘Atheists’ feel a deep sense of ‘Wonder’ about the Universe***



# 1. Belief in God

## A. Virtually Universal

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- **American “Atheists” = 3%**
- **Modernity does not eradicate Belief in God**
  - Studies report an increase (Encycl. Brit.)
- **There have always been some denial...**



***Psalm 14:1***

***The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”***

***Psalm 10:4***

***In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”***

***Psalm 94:7–9***

***and they say, “The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive.” Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?***

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# 1. Belief in God

## B. A Reasonable Assumption

- An “Ultimate Being” Explaining Reality

*The why there is something rather than nothing*

*Hebrews 3:4*

*“For every house is built by someone,  
but the builder of all things is God.”*



# 1. Belief in God

## C. Unpopular Alternatives

*(not assumed by most “evolutionists”)*

- 1) Unintended
- 2) Purposeless
- 3) Unplanned
- 4) Meaningless

*(most evolutionists describe the method this way, but not the “reason”)*

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## **2. Defining God**

### **A. Our Claim**

- 1) God Has Revealed Himself**
- 2) The Bible is the Record of that Revelation**



## **2. Defining God**

### **B. The Challenge**

- 1) Exposing the Bible Authority**
- 2) A Call to Submit to It's Message**



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **A. Militant Atheism (“New Atheists”)**

##### **1) Perspective**

- **Attacks Theism**
- **Targets Christianity**
- **Arrogant**
- **Hostile**



**“F [REDACTED] YOU,  
JESUS!”**

**The Amazing Atheist**

**Okay . . . He’s a douche.**

**FFRF.ORG**

**FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION**



**RELIGIOUS**



**BULL**

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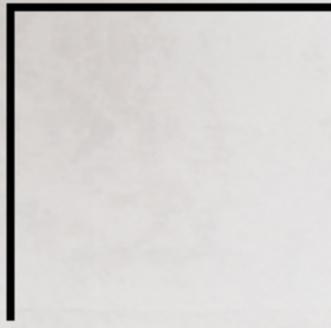
**The only church that illuminates**



**is a burning church**



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**IN THE BEGINNING,  
MAN CREATED GOD.**

**THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD.  
NOW STOP WORRYING AND ENJOY YOUR LIFE.**

[www.NoGOD.ORG.NZ](http://www.NoGOD.ORG.NZ)  
[www.HUMANIST.ORG.NZ](http://www.HUMANIST.ORG.NZ)  
[www.NZARH.ORG.NZ](http://www.NZARH.ORG.NZ)

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Thomas Paine Bertrand Russell George Orwell Rosalind Franklin Jack Nicholson John Lennon Michio Kaku Michael Shermer Neil deGrasse Tyson George Clooney Johnny Depp Ayaan Hirsi Ali Natalie Portman

**FEAR NOT HELL**



Charles Darwin Albert Einstein Ayn Rand Kurt Vonnegut George Carlin Frank Zappa Christopher Hitchens Bill Gates Kevin Bacon Ricky Gervais David Cross Matt Damon Keira Knightley

**FOR IF IT EXISTS**



Susan B. Anthony H. L. Mencken Alan Turing James Randi Morgan Freeman Richard Dawkins A. C. Grayling Pen Jillette Ira Glass Jodie Foster Sam Harris Alice Roberts Sasha Grey

**YOU SHALL FIND YOURSELF**



Mark Twain Virginia Woolf Richard Feynman William Shatner John Cleese Stephen Hawking Douglas Adams Jamie Hyneman Hugh Laurie Eddie Izzard Adam Savage Tim Minchin Daniel Radcliffe

**IN GOOD COMPANY**



Friedrich Nietzsche Ernest Hemingway Isaac Asimov Carl Sagan Ian McKellen Daniel Dennett John Malkovich Stephen Fry Bill Hicks Brad Pitt Patton Oswalt Angelina Jolie Miley Cyrus

**They're Right.**

**You're Wrong.**



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **A. Militant Atheism (“New Atheists”)**

##### **2) Response**

- Consider if You Should Respond**



***Proverbs 23:9***

***Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.***

***Proverbs 9:7***

***Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.***

***Acts 13:46***

***Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.***



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **A. Militant Atheism (“New Atheists”)**

##### **2) Response**

- **Always with “Gentleness & Respect”**
  - **Image-bearers**
- **Consider Moral Rebellion**



## ***Psalm 2:1–6***

***Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”***



## ***Romans 1:18–20***

***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.***



### **3. Ignoring God**

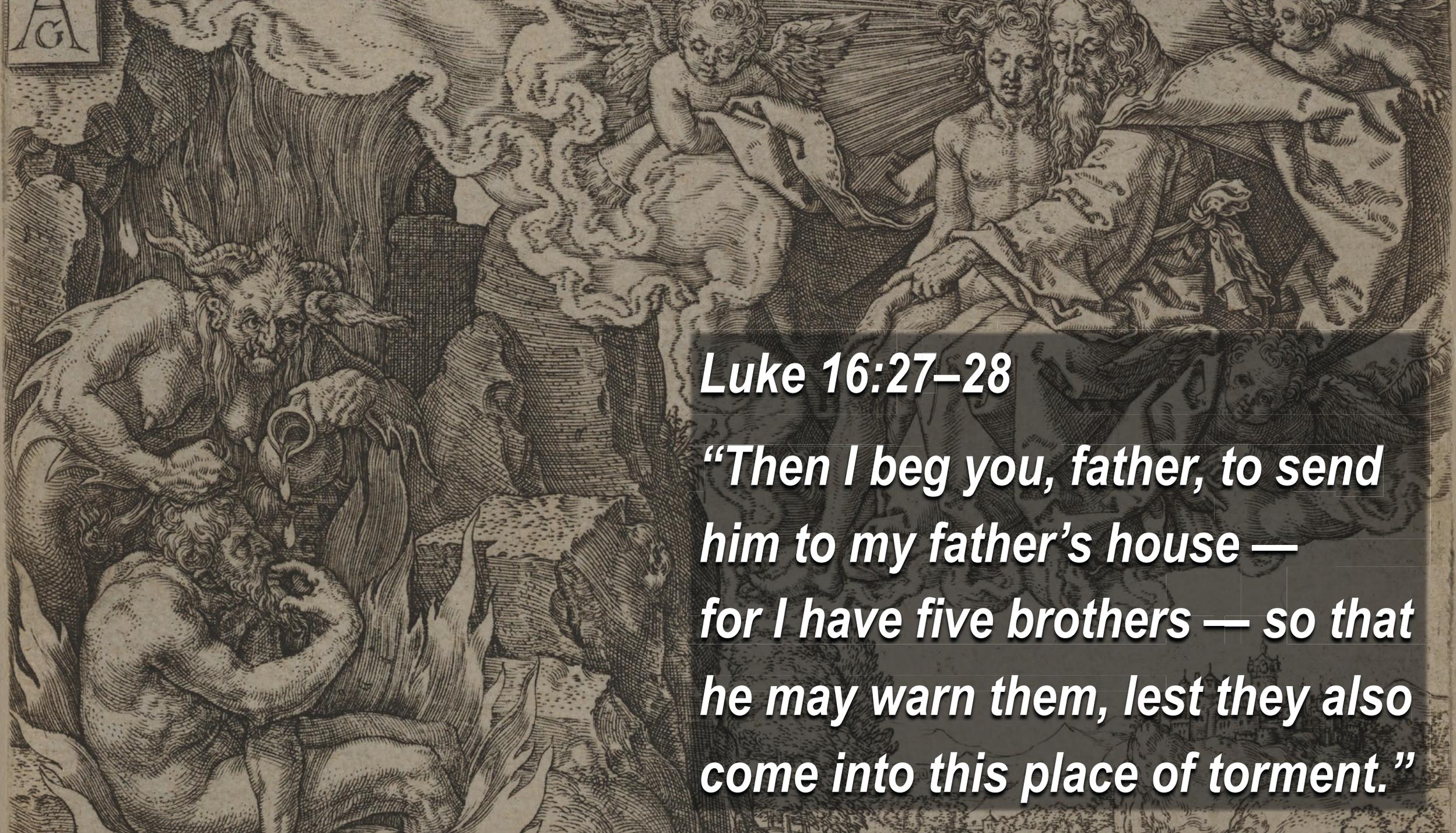
#### **A. Militant Atheism (“New Atheists”)**

##### **2) Response (when appropriate)**

- **Appeal to Creation**
  - **Cause/Effect**
  - **Design/Designer**
  - **Value/Virtue**
- **Respectful Warnings**
  - **These will be memorable conversations**

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***Luke 16:27–28***

***“Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.”***

## ***Romans 2:4–5***

***Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.***



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **B. Lazy Agnostics**

##### **1) Perspective**

- **Maybe / Maybe Not**
- **Not Sure**
- **Can't Really Know**



# 3. Ignoring God

## B. Lazy Agnostics

### 2) Response

- Distinguish Claim: “Don’t Know” or “Can’t Know”?
- Offer to Explore Evidence
  - Christ / Scripture (Revelation)
  - Creation
  - Conscience
- Stress Urgency



**James 4:14**

***yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.***

***What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.***

**Revelation 22:12–13**

***“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”***



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## ***Hebrews 9:27–28***

***And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.***



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### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **C. Apathetic Relativists**

##### **1) Perspective**

- **To Each His Own**
- **Everyone is Right**
- **Who are We to Judge**



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **C. Apathetic Relativists**

##### **2) Response**

- **Opinions Cannot Change Facts**
- **Cannot Define/Determine Someone Who Exists**



**PM**

Pastor Mike Won't Hire Another Pastor Who's Taller Than Him

Pastor Mike Hates Pink Gumballs

Pastor Mike Always Drinks More Than One Cup of Coffee Per Week

Pastor Mike Loves Jelly Bellies

Pastor Mike Thinks Water Bad Should be

Pastor Mike Would Never Buy a Korean-Made Car

Pastor Mike Does Not Trust Anyone Who's Taller Than 6' 2"

Pastor Mike Is Allergic to Peanut Butter

Pastor Mike Likes Food

Pastor Mike Has Never Had a Cavity

Pastor Mike Loves Playing Golf

Pastor Mike Likes Green Beans

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**GOD**

God Just Wants You to Be Happy

God is Not Against Abortion if the Baby isn't Really Wanted

Marriage is Okay Between Any Two People as Long as They Love Each Other

God is Whoever You Want Him to Be

God Wants You to Keep Your Faith a Private Matter

God Require People to Go to Church as Long as They are Seeking Him

God Loves People of Any Religion Go to Heaven

God is In Favor of Love, He Doesn't Care Who You Love

God Would Never Send People to Hell

God Doesn't Expect People to Not be True To Their Own Feelings



# ***Surveys Don't Get to Define God***





***People's Opinions  
Don't Get to Determine What is True***



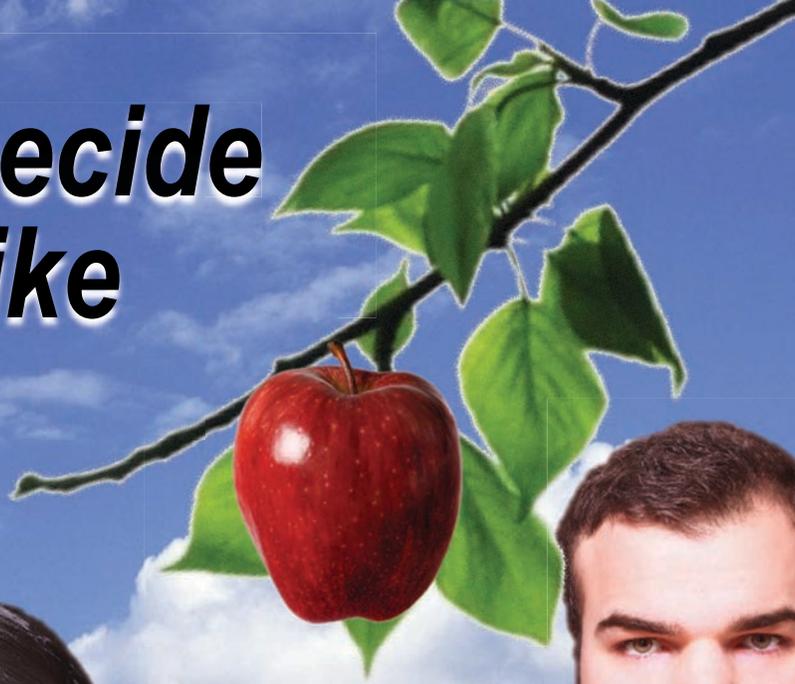
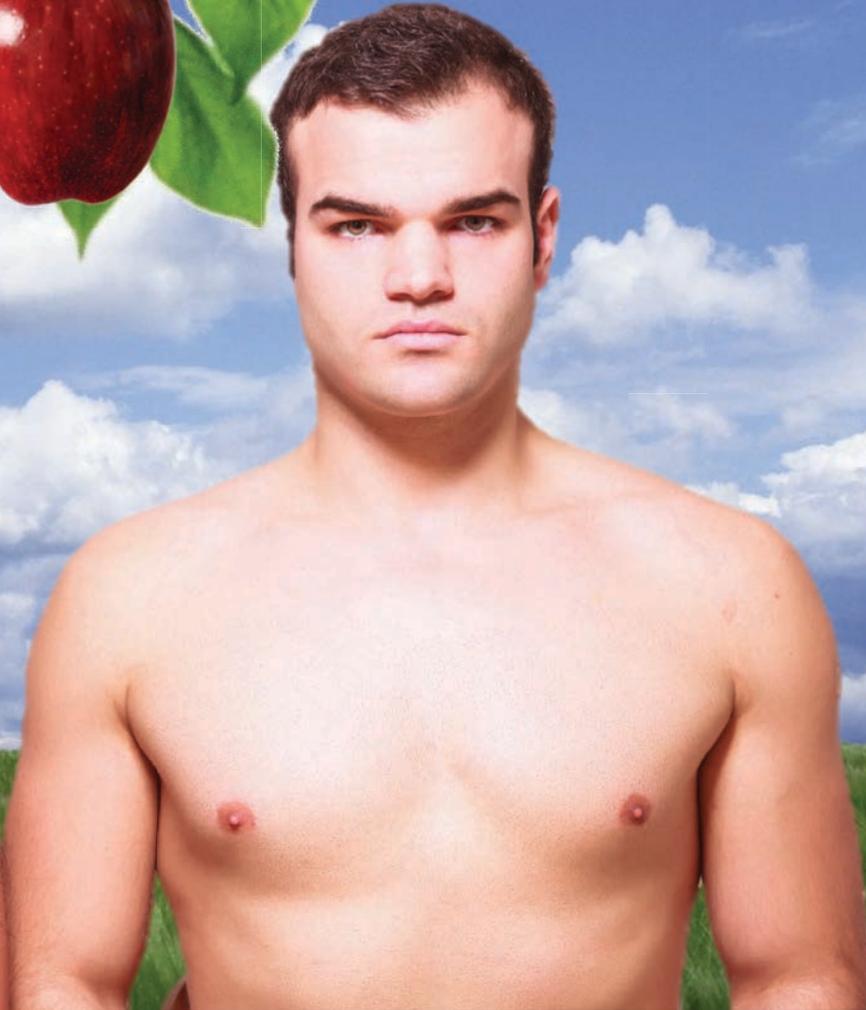
***The Supreme Court  
Doesn't Get to Decide What is Right***

***Your Feelings Don't Get to Decide  
What is Good***



# *No One Gets to Decide What God is Like*

**God is  
Not Like  
That**



# James 4:12

## There is only one lawgiver and judge



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### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **C. Apathetic Relativists**

##### **2) Response**

- **Expose the Inconsistency of Relativism**
  - **Your Doctor?**
  - **Your Accountant?**
  - **Your Pharmacist?**



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **D. Dodgy Naturalists**

##### **1) Perspective**

- **God is Checked Out / Not Involved**
- **Nothing (Now) is Beyond the Physical**
- **We will Not Face God**



### **3. Ignoring God**

#### **D. Dodgy Naturalists**

##### **2) Response**

- **Expose Selective use of Naturalism**
  - **“Most” Affirm God’s Involvement in Origins**
- **Highlight God’s Ongoing Work**
  - **Life, Guilt, Justice, Beauty, Order, Bible**
- **Point to God’s Revelation in Christ**



## 4. Understand Motivations

### A. People Don't Like Feeling Guilty

*Psalm 14:1*

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."*

*They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds*

*John 3:19–20*

*The light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light b/c their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*

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## 4. Understand Motivations

### B. People Like Being In Charge

***Luke 19:14***

***But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'***

***2 Corinthians 5:15***

***he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.***



## 4. Understand Motivations

### C. People Like to Fit In

*John 5:44–46*

*How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.*



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## 4. Understand Motivations

### D. People Like to be Lazy

*Titus 1:12–14*

*One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said,*

*“Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”*

*This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.*





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