Are You An Atheist?

Your Answer.

If the answer is 'yes', then the next question is 'why?' Perhaps you would say, I am an atheist because I am a reasonable man or woman and, frankly, looking at the state of the world, the misery and injustice, it affronts my reason to believe in God. I can't see God, no-one can prove there is a God, so I reject the whole idea. Only weak, escapist people, people who don't use their minds and reasoning faculties, believe in God. Intelligent, thinking people know better. Reason is the key!

There are, however, some significant problems with your approach. Let me just mention a few.

Are You Reasonable?

Your confidence in your own reason is unreasonable. You have no rational basis for assuming that human reason, not to say your own reason as an individual, is at all dependable. Your irrational assumption is a contradiction of the very content of that assumption.

Are You Neutral?

Behind your assumption about your reason lies another assumption; that Christianity is not true. Biblical Christianity gives a very clear explanation of the existence and present state of the world. It also gives a very sound explanation of why your reason is not neutral. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). This explains your desire to believe there is no God. The fact is that never for one moment have you approached Christianity as a neutral, objective seeker-after-truth. The Bible also teaches that you are guilty before this God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Your reason is not only that of a finite creature, but of a fallen and guilty creature, and a thoroughly prejudiced one as a result. The hatred and dread of God explains your irrational – indeed, may we not say, religious – assumption that Christianity is not true and that your reason is reliable as the final test of all things.

Are You Scientific?

Your explanation of the existence of the universe, behind the jargon, comes down to believing that everything came of nothing without a cause. Nothing very scientific about that, is there? The plain truth of the matter is, your atheism has nothing to do with objective reasoning or scientific neutrality and everything to do with the wishful-thinking of a sinner who longs to forget his Creator and Judge. You want to get on with your sins in peace, untroubled by thoughts of accountability to God.

Are You Consistent?

You use such terms as 'right' and 'wrong'. What do these words mean to an atheist? They presuppose universally applicable moral standards and therefore one universal
and unchangeable lawgiver. "There is one lawgiver" (James 4:12), God. On your view, Hitler was not wicked at all. He was merely a consistent evolutionist, following through the principle of ‘the survival of the fittest’ by destroying those of the human species deemed to be inferior. What his allegedly sub-human evolutionary forbears did by instinct, he did with greater consciousness. The problem is that, because you are made in God’s image, you have a conscience that makes it difficult for you to believe this. You have a conscience, in fact, because there is a God who sets fixed standards of right and wrong for man whom he created as a moral being.

**Are You Escapist?**

You are an atheist because you want to be. The Bible speaks of those "who did not like to retain God in their knowledge" (Romans 1:28). Your atheism has no more true science to it than when Adam and Eve, having sinned, "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8). You hide behind your atheistic smokescreen of bluff and bluster, congratulating yourself on your ‘logic’. Followers of false religion pursue the same course by inventing a false and imaginary idea of God, one they feel comfortable with. You have gone further, by saying there is no God at all. But the living and true God, far from treating you as well-intentioned, calls you a fool. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God" (Psalm 53:1). You are an atheist, not because you are reasonable, but because you are a sinner. You may use atheism to avoid facing the fact that you are a sinful creature, but it only demonstrates that you are one and increases your guilt before God.

**Back To Reality.**

Your attempts to hide from the all-seeing God are futile now, and will have an end in due time. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). "And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand" (Isaiah 28:18).

The situation, perhaps, exceeds your worst fears. Not only must you face the holy God you have striven so long to forget, but you are already in his hand, to dispose of as he pleases. While you deny him daily, he can cast you into hell at any moment. There is one way of deliverance, through faith in Jesus Christ, but even your will is under the sovereign power of God. "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy…Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth" (Romans 9: 16 & 18). As a sinner, you are, by nature, utterly unwilling to embrace the Gospel. God may justly leave you in your addiction to falsehood and love of darkness until the appointed hour of reckoning, when he will give you the only thing you ever deserved, eternal damnation. In this way you will be used to glorify God’s justice and power, for God will be glorified in all his creatures one way or another. This is God as he really is.

On the other hand, God, who delights in mercy, may change your proud heart to one willing to depend only on Jesus Christ to take away your guilt before him. The Bible calls this change being "born again" (John 3:3). It is a blessing God bestows as he pleases. (John 3:8).
Nevertheless, notwithstanding your natural unwillingness to do so, God commands you to turn from sin, including your sinful atheism in all that it entails in your thoughts, and come to the Lord Jesus Christ to seek from him cleansing from all your sins. The Lord Jesus bore the guilt of sin on the cross of Calvary, as the substitute of sinners. He satisfied the justice of God on their behalf. He is able to take away even the filth of prolonged atheistic wickedness and make you accepted with God. He is able to "save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him" (Hebrews 7:25). It is your duty and in your interests to seek this Saviour. God mercifully brings the warning and invitation of the gospel to you in this leaflet. Be wise. Consider your latter end.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:7-8).