

WHO NEEDS GOD

PART 1: Atheist 2.0

INTRODUCTION

Americans are migrating away from religion at an unprecedented rate; Christianity in particular. But not because atheism is more appealing. People are leaving because religion has lost its appeal. Once upon a time Americans believed religion offered solutions. Today, religion is viewed by many as the problem.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you read books like, *The God Delusion*, *God Is Not Great*, and *The End of Faith*? Why or why not? If you have, what did you learn?
2. Do you agree that religion creates conflict and violence in the world? Explain.
3. *“Atheism and Christianity have this in common: people embrace both before they know what they’re getting into.”* Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
4. Do you agree that natural selection and the origin of life are different, and that natural selection is not incompatible with faith? Why or why not?
5. *“People who were nothing like Jesus, liked Jesus. If Christianity isn’t compelling, it’s because we have the wrong version.”* In what ways do you think Jesus would treat atheists differently than the way most modern American Christians treat atheists?
6. Have you ever found yourself asking the question, *“Who needs God?”* Are you asking that question now? If so, what prompted you to ask that question? What did you do or are you doing to seek an answer?

MOVING FORWARD

If you don’t believe in God or are on the verge of giving up on God, it’s probably not because of a thoroughly researched rational conclusion. It’s probably more personal than that. Atheism hasn’t become more appealing. Your version of theism has lost its appeal or doesn’t seem real. Stick around in the weeks to come as we continue to explore the question, *Who needs God?*

CHANGING YOUR MIND

I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

I have set my heart on your laws.

Psalm 119:30