

**Primary scripture:** Romans 1:18-32

**Purpose:** We want to be Christians who know God's truth and share it with grace.

*1 Peter 3:15-16*

Atheism: *a* = \_\_\_\_\_ + *theos* = \_\_\_\_\_

1. Atheist: believes there is \_\_\_\_\_
2. Agnostic: believes we \_\_\_\_\_
3. Functional atheist: \_\_\_\_\_

## **I. SUMMARY OF SECULARISM**

### **A. Origin and Background**

- The Renaissance (c. 1400—1600 A.D.)  
The invention of the \_\_\_\_\_  
The development of \_\_\_\_\_
- The Enlightenment (c. 1600—1800 A.D.)  
The discovery of \_\_\_\_\_  
Influential \_\_\_\_\_
- The Modern Age  
The emergence of \_\_\_\_\_

### **B. Common Secular Beliefs**

1. Denial of \_\_\_\_\_: Religion is man-made.
2. Denial of Miracles: Miracles are myths.
3. Fact of \_\_\_\_\_ Natural forces created the universe.
4. Mankind: Man is basically good and has unlimited potential.
5. Centrality of Science: Science is the only basis for truth.
6. Principle of \_\_\_\_\_: No absolute moral reference point.
7. Finality of Death: No heaven or afterlife of any kind.

### **C. The Backlash of Postmodernism**

1. Each person's reality/truth is in his or her own mind.
2. Every person's reality/truth is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You cannot judge (pronounce wrong) the thoughts, ideas, or actions of others.
4. No one can \_\_\_\_\_ anything using history, science, logic or any other set of facts.

## II. KNOW THE TRUTH OF GOD

### A. God reveals truth to all people through his creation. *Rom. 1:19-20*

Just by observing the world around us a person can understand that only an eternal, omnipotent God could...

- ...be the \_\_\_\_\_  
*Genesis 1:1*
- ...\_\_\_\_\_.  
*Genesis 2:7, Psalm 139:13-15*
- ...produce our perfectly \_\_\_\_\_  
*Psalm 19:1-3*

### B. Unbelievers ignore God's truth for love of sin. *Rom. 1:18-25*

- They suppress the truth with sin. Literally: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Romans 1:18*
- They lose their ability to \_\_\_\_\_ truth.  
*Romans 1:21*
- They exchange God for a false god. In reality it's \_\_\_\_\_  
*Romans 1:23-25*

## III. LIVE THE TRUTH OF GOD

**The American church lives without God, just like secularists. *Rom. 2:1-11***

### A. Our TIME is devoted to self instead of God

- We ignore the Sabbath by taking no rest and skipping worship.
- We consistently overbook our calendars leaving no margin.
- We invest hours in TV/ movies but read and pray a few minutes.

### B. Our RELATIONSHIPS are devoted to self instead of God

- We're selfish in marriage; our divorce rates match the world's.
- We don't discipline our children because it's hard
- We don't disciple them because we're too tired.
- We talk bad about others behind their backs
- We don't witness to unbelievers because we're afraid.
- We don't even know many unbelievers.
- We do know unbelievers but become like them instead of Christ.

### C. Our MONEY is devoted to self instead of God

- We buy things that harm us: smoking, gambling, entertainment.
- We indebt ourselves with credit cards and become slaves.
- We pour hundreds into hobbies/vacations but are unable to tithe.
- We investment for the futures but do not invest in the kingdom.