

Beware of Becoming a CHRISTIAN ATHEIST

-John Bond-
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INTRODUCTION:

The term ***Christian atheist*** is a figure of speech called an oxymoron in which seemingly contradictory terms appear side by side. Here's some examples of oxymorons that perhaps you have used:

- It was ***pretty ugly***
- If you want my ***unbiased opinion***
- My response was a ***definite maybe***
- The numbers were ***growing smaller***
- I had to take the ***only choice***
- The ***silence*** was ***deafening***
- I was ***clearly confused***
- Why don't you ***act naturally***
- It was a ***genuine imitation***
- She took the ***larger half***
- We were ***alone together***
- It was ***amazingly awful***
- What a ***dark light***
- She was ***awfully nice***
- Talk about ***orderly confusion***

Can you think of any other oxymoron's? There are plenty!!

MESSAGE:

Definition - A **CHRISTIAN ATHEIST** is a person who believes in God but lives as though God doesn't exist or is largely irrelevant to the business of everyday living.

John highlighted: **Christian atheists and PRAYER, FINANCES, LIFE and LEADERSHIP**. Can you think of any other relevant areas?

Can you think of any areas in the Christian church today where we may be *"having a form of godliness but denying its power?"* 2 Timothy 3:5.

Jesus spoke of the religious leaders of His day that were in error because they did not *"know the scriptures or the power of God."* Matthew 22:29

Is this relevant to the church at large today? In what ways?

The Christian atheist reminds us that...

- we can speak out prayers from our minds but carry doubts in our hearts.
- it is possible to be a person of prayer and not be a person of faith.
- we can pray for certain things to happen but continue to live our lives with the expectation that nothing will change.

What are some other areas?

READ:

"Now unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20

Do you / we really believe this? What changes might you make in the light of this subject and teaching?

REFLECT:

- What did you hear? What point in this message was most impactful for you?
- What do you think? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
- What will you do? How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?

PRAY:

Spend time in prayer, praying into the things discussed, and for us as a group and wider church to love by faith.