

## Those who DO NOT IDENTIFY WITH A FAITH

Responses to: “Are there any other experiences, (beyond the survey questions you answered), which are major factors in preventing you from having a personal relationship with God, and with Jesus?”

Some are open to good dialogue and teaching:

- Family and friends would treat me differently and I'm not sure I'm ready for endless arguments.
- Most beliefs are manmade and humans lie over the truth in some form. But, yes, there's a creator of some sort
- I think the wording of this question, "personal relationship" with God and Jesus is problematic in itself. I believe there is no such thing as well.
- I don't feel most people who profess to be Christian have it in their heart
- No, not really. Mostly apathy. I do have a strong belief in God but don't feel I have a strong moral code.
- The evidential problem of suffering and divine hiddenness

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- Nothing is preventing me from having relationships with the higher power. I just believe that he is there but I don't lean on him whenever I need help. I know the only person that can help me is myself and I'm the only one that change the past I'm going. I think he just watches over us and sees all the bad and the good that we're doing here on earth and when the time comes to either go to heaven or hell, well that is determined on how we were on earth hope that makes some what sense I'm bad at describing how I feel with words.

Some feel hurt and confusion about church:

- Partner is nonbeliever; church I've found enjoyable have no one to go with (social anxiety)
- "Christians" I grew up with were very judgmental & hypocrites in their actions
- Individual religions have shown themselves to be constructs to bolster the power and weath of those leading the way.
- The churches that I have attended in the past try to teach that you need to go to church to be a good Christian and you need to be a good Christian to be a good person.

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- I was bullied by people considered to be Christians. And when I tried to speak up, their wonderful faith is what made others not believe me and let the behavior continue. Also, many Christians try to claim that their faith makes them wonderful moral people when in reality they are just nasty hateful bigots who try to crush anything that breaks their perfect picture.
- I am a Russian immigrant and I speak with an accent. I don't have many friends as it is. I feel if I talk about my beliefs, or non-beliefs, it will not win me any points. So I usually say I am Russian Orthodox eventhough I am not. I went to Bible Study to just fit in and find some friends. It is very sad that people have to pretend like that.
- I've tried multiple times. I just don't get it. I also can't get behind a religion that punishes believers (like my husband's Catholic faith that doesn't let him take communion because he married a divorced woman) It feels like everyone picks and chooses the parts of the teachings that they believe and is quick to throw those parts at people, while ignoring other parts. It is like smoking in front of a no smoking sign and yelling at people to wear their seatbelts.
- I have a relationship with Jesus. I'm presently not an active member of a church while the church remains a place that is not safe for the LGBTQAI community.

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Some look for scientific proof of God's existence:

- Hypocrisy in organized religion. Religion is at odds with scientific research and results. The damnation and oppression of non-believers.
- To me, scientific is more persuasive than spiritual realm
- Religion in general is nonsensical
- I find it ridiculous to believe in any sort of religion. There has never been a shred of evidence that God exists and sorry, the Bible does not qualify as evidence as it was written hundreds of years after the events. So no, I don't see the Bible as anything more than stories written by man, just like the fiction books we have now.
- Impossible to have a relationship with something that doesn't exist.
- None of these are factors because I'm not going to believe in something that doesn't exist. God/Jesus is nothing more than a fairy tale. The world makes much more sense when you shed the magical thinking of there being a god.

A few are overtly anti-belief (in US, only 7% of Religious Nones are atheist—"anti-God"):

- Religion will be the major factor for the extinction of the human race.
- *(Response of the leader of an atheist group →) "We are not interested in participating so you can learn how to further your manipulation of humans."*

## Those who DO NOT IDENTIFY WITH A FAITH

Responses to: “Any possible motivators (beyond the survey questions you answered) for you to be interested in communicating about the Gospel?”

Some are open to good dialogue and teaching:

- I've talked with many about faith openmindedly and all have decent points but I believe everything has some good and bad points; some faiths push their god and belief on others as right, which I find wrong
- If Christians around the world, but especially American Christians, start actually following Christ's teachings and be good people and that they stop trying to mix religion and politics
- Happy to discuss. Seems unlikely I'll hear anything new. Openness about their own fallibility.
- Attitude. All discussions would have to be open and respectful of the others' beliefs
- If there is a kind, smart believer that wants to talk about the flaws of the gospel, I would be more likely to listen. I don't want to debate when I can't possibly win.

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- It motivates me to see the teachings of the Bible evolve with our understanding of the modern world and scientific achievements. There are certain things that have been achieved by man that often masked as blessing from God. Miracles do happen but I believe to say every good thing that happens is blessing dilutes the very idea of a miracle. On the other side of that coin, every bad thing to happen is not a challenge from God. That idea dilutes the concept that man has free will and part of having free will is the ability to right or wrong your fellow man. I believe these concepts are often said instinctively in place of actually understanding why these events happened in the first place. These instinctual statements often give a construed understanding of what is happening to a person and leaves them out of touch with reality on how to responsibly act upon a situation. Ultimately what I am trying to say is that it would help if Christians were to explain situations in manner that is not consisted solely of these watchwords.
- Religions do not promote ethical behavior. If I am an ethical person so I don't go to hell, I am not really a good person. A good person is good because it is the right thing to do.
- Someone to discuss and explain the doubts and questions I have without judging me

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Some look for scientific proof of God's existence:

- **Evidentialist apologetics; Books/media along the lines of "The Case for Christ," "Cold Case Christianity," etc; not generally a topic I seek out**
- Actual scientific evidence that anything spiritual exists.
- **There is no evidence of any God.**
- Objective, testable evidence of a supernatural being of any sort. The more you study and understand religion, the more likely it is you will become an atheist. Enjoy the journey of discovery and enlightenment.

## Those WHO ARE OF OTHER RELIGIONS

Responses to: “Are there any other experiences, (beyond the survey questions you answered), that are major factors in preventing you from having a personal relationship with God, and with Jesus?”

- I'm Hindu and all my family members are Hindu. That's our religion but I went to church many times and I truly believe in Jesus
- I believe Buddhism, but believe God is a higher authority
- I believe that religious polarization causes differences and I am taught since childhood that true power lies in secularism (India is built on the principle of secularism) I therefore prefer believing in the good things taught by every religion and practices and whatever makes us think that our following is better than the rest, or is the only truth, I don't buy it.
- *(Native American who follows traditional Native spirituality)* Well I don't agree with how my grandmother was treated in the 40s when she attended boarding schools so I guess a lot of her experiences and stories she told us as kids caused us to believe in something other than God or Jesus

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- Yes it's just because I am Muslim and I don't believe what Christians do. I do believe in Jesus and love him but in another way that is different from that way that Christians have.
- I believe Allah the creator. I believe Jesus as prophet of Allah. I go to mosque and perform my worship; not church
- The fact that I practice Islam. I know and accept Jesus in the context of the Quran.

### Those who ARE OF OTHER RELIGIONS

Responses to: “Any possible motivators (beyond the survey questions you answered) for you to be interested in communicating about the Gospel?”

- It is always important to understand other religions
- When you see Christians helping others in His name
- Youtube channel and Facebook
- Honestly I never went to church or mosques