

200 Quotations from ApatheticAgnostic.com Volume 1

"I hate quotations, tell me what you know." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

But some people do like quotations and think they can be useful in succinctly communicating an opinion. This is a selection of quotations published on the Apathetic Agnostic web site.

1. "In this "sacred" book of family scandals we find filth, sex orgies, cannibalism, atrocities, sex perversions, incest, bloody violence unparalleled in any other chronicle in all the literature of the world. Fortunately, not one-third of the human family has ever heard of the Christian Bible; not one-tenth of the Christians have ever read it, and no two who have read it agree as to its meaning. Won't you help get this book out of the hands of our children, out of decent homes, and out of hotel and motel rooms?" Frank C. Hughes
2. "Is god willing to prevent evil but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him god?" Epicurus
3. "My country is the world, and my religion is to do good" Thomas Paine
4. "Remember your humanity, and forget the rest." Bertrand Russell
5. "The difference between a moral man and a man of honor is that the latter regrets a discreditable act even when it has worked." H. L. Mencken
6. "Religion is for people who are afraid to go to hell. Spirituality is for people who have already been there." Anonymous
7. "An apology for the devil: it must be remembered that we have heard one side of the case. God has written all the books." Samuel Butler
8. "The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God." Tozer
9. "The invisible and the non-existent look very much alike." Delo McKown
10. Faith is a euphemism for prejudice and religion is a euphemism for superstition. Paul Keller
11. Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by rulers as useful. Lucius Amaeus Seneca

12. It is an incredible con job when you think of it, to believe something now in exchange for a life after death. Even corporations, with all their reward systems, don't try to make it posthumous. Gloria Steinem
13. I have found Christian dogma unintelligible. Early in life, I absented myself from Christian assemblies. Benjamin Franklin
14. In dark ages people are best guided by religion, as in pitch-black night a blind man is the best guide; he knows the roads and paths better than a man who can see. When daylight comes, however, it is foolish to use blind, old men as guides. Heinrich Heine
15. Those of us who believe in the right of any human being to belong to whatever church he sees fit, and to worship God in his own way, cannot be accused of prejudice when we do not want to see public education connected with religious control of the schools, which are paid for by taxpayers' money. Eleanor Roosevelt
16. Losing my faith was the most spiritual thing that ever happened to me. Julia Sweeney
17. I wish to propose for the reader's favourable consideration a doctrine which may, I fear, appear wildly paradoxical and subversive. The doctrine in question is this: that it is undesirable to believe a proposition when there is no ground whatever for supposing it true. Bertrand Russell
18. I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone equally. W. C. Fields
19. First, prove to me objectively that there is a god, any god. Only then do we need to discuss which particular theistic religion, cult, sect, or denomination happens to have the minor details correct. John Tyrrell
20. They say there's a heaven for those who will wait.
Some say it's better but I say it ain't.
I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints.
Sinners are much more fun...
And only the good die young.

Billy Joel, Only the Good Die Young
21. There is something feeble and a little contemptible about a man who cannot face the perils of life without the help of comfortable myths. Almost inevitably, some part of him is aware that they are myths, and that he believes them only because they are comforting. But he dares not face this thought! Moreover, since he is aware, however dimly, that his opinions are not rational, he becomes furious when they are disputed. Bertrand Russell
22. Man is certainly stark mad: he cannot make a worm, yet he will make gods by the dozen. Michel de Montaigne
23. The theory that you should always treat the religious convictions of other people with respect finds no support in the Gospels. Arnold Lunn
24. Why has a religious turn of mind always a tendency to narrow and harden the heart? Robert Burns
25. The Christian resolution to find the world ugly and bad has made the world ugly and bad. Nietzsche

26. If you talk to God, you're praying; if God talks to you, you have schizophrenia.
Thomas Szasz
27. Fundamentalism isn't about religion. It's about power. Salman Rushdie
28. History does not record anywhere at any time a religion that has any rational basis. Religion is a crutch for people not strong enough to stand up to the unknown without help. But, like dandruff, most people do have a religion and spend time and money on it and seem to derive considerable pleasure from fiddling with it. Lazarus Long (Robert A. Heinlein)
29. Man is a credulous animal, and must believe something; in the absence of good grounds for belief, he will be satisfied with bad ones.
Bertrand Russell
30. The savage bows down to idols of wood and stone: the civilized man to idols of flesh and blood. George Bernard Shaw
31. I judge a religion as being good or bad based on whether its adherents become better people as a result of practicing it. Joe Mullally
32. The Church says that the Earth is flat, but I know that it is round. For I have seen the shadow on the moon and I have more faith in the Shadow than in the Church. Ferdinand Magellan
33. I find the whole business of religion profoundly interesting. But it does mystify me that otherwise intelligent people take it seriously. Douglas Adams
34. I think every good Christian ought to kick Falwell's ass. Barry Goldwater
35. Civilization has come about by going to school more than to church.
Lemuel K. Washburn
36. I found one day in school a boy of medium size ill-treating a smaller boy. I expostulated, but he replied: 'The bigs hit me, so I hit the babies; that's fair.' In these words he epitomized the history of the human race. Bertrand Russell
37. As the days go by, we face the increasing inevitability that we are alone on a godless, uninhabited, hostile, and meaningless universe. Still... you've got to laugh, haven't you.
Holly (ship's computer on Red Dwarf)
38. Theology is never any help; it is searching in a dark cellar at midnight for a black cat that isn't there.
Robert A. Heinlein
39. Over 10, 000 different religions. Over 35,000 different Christian denominations. They all can't be right. But they all could be wrong. John Tyrrell
40. There is a God-shaped vacuum in every heart. Blaise Pascal
41. We are all looking for rational reasons for believing in the absurd.
Lawrence Durrell
42. Religion is what keeps the poor from murdering the rich. Napoleon
43. Which is it: is man one of God's blunders or is God one of man's?
Nietzsche
44. Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon. Susan Ertz
45. At first I wanted to be a missionary, then I met one. Dr. T. Barry Brazelton
46. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. Carl Sagan
47. It is easier to suppose that the universe has existed for all eternity than to conceive a being beyond its limits capable of creating it.
Percy Bysshe Shelley

48. We may define "faith" as the firm belief in something for which there is no evidence. Where there is evidence, no one speaks of "faith." We do not speak of faith that two and two are four or that the earth is round. We only speak of faith when we wish to substitute emotion for evidence. The substitution of emotion for evidence is apt to lead to strife, since different groups substitute different emotions. Bertrand Russell
49. The doctrine that the earth is neither the center of the universe nor immovable, but moves even with a daily rotation, is absurd, and both philosophically and theologically false, and at the least an error of faith. Catholic Church's decision against Galileo
50. Where prayer, amulets and incantations work, it is only a manifestation of the patient's belief. Hippocrates
51. He who begins by loving Christianity better than truth will proceed by loving his own sect better than Christianity and end in loving himself better than all. Samuel Taylor Coleridge
52. To put it as simply as possible: I am not a Muslim. I do not accept the charge of apostasy, because I have never in my adult life affirmed any belief, and what one has not affirmed one cannot be said to have apostatized from. The Islam I know states clearly that "there can be no coercion in matters of religion." The many Muslims I respect would be horrified by the idea that they belong to their faith purely by virtue of birth, and that a person who freely chose not to be a Muslim could therefore be put to death. Salman Rushdie
53. Man makes himself, and he only makes himself completely in proportion as he desacrilizes himself and the world. The sacred is the prime obstacle to his freedom. He will become himself only when he is totally demysticized. He will not be truly free until he has killed the last god. Mircea Eliade
54. If wisdom and diamonds grew on the same tree we could soon tell how much men loved wisdom. Lemuel K. Washburn
55. I had to set limits to knowledge in order to make place for faith. Immanuel Kant
56. Life in Lubbock, Texas, taught me two things: One is that God loves you and you're going to burn in hell. The other is that sex is the most awful, filthy thing on earth and you should save it for someone you love. Butch Hancock
57. If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. Meister Eckhart
58. It ain't the parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand. Mark Twain
59. I don't know if God exists, but it would be better for His reputation if He didn't. Jules Renard
60. The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness. Joseph Conrad
61. ...it is with God we must be most careful: for He makes such a powerful appeal to what is lowest in human nature -- our feeling of insufficiency, fear of the unknown, personal failings; above all our monstrous egotism which sees in the martyr's crown an athletic prize which is really hard to attain. Lawrence Durrell

62. I am constantly asked: "What can you, with your cold rationalism, offer to the seeker after salvation that is comparable to the cozy, home-like comfort of a fenced dogmatic creed?" To this the answer is many-sided. In the first place, I do not say that I can offer as much happiness as is to be obtained by the abdication of reason. I do not say that I can offer as much happiness as is to be obtained from drink or drugs or amassing great wealth by swindling widows and orphans. It is not the happiness of the individual convert that concerns me; it is the happiness of mankind. If you genuinely desire the happiness of mankind, certain forms of ignoble personal happiness are not open to you. If your child is ill, and you are a conscientious parent, you accept medical diagnosis, however doubtful and discouraging; if you accept the cheerful opinion of a quack and your child consequently dies, you are not excused by the pleasantness of belief in the quack while it lasted.
Bertrand Russell
63. It's unequivocally clear that life begins at birth and ends at death. And if most people on this planet understood that, they would lead their lives very differently. We always try to find religious or mysterious forces to fill in for our inadequacies, but heaven and hell are both here on earth every day, and we make our lives around them. J. Craig Venter
64. I got no religion in me. I could never see through it. Basically, I'm a facts man; if I can't see through it, I say it's not possible. J.R. Simplot
65. If religion cannot restrain evil, it cannot claim effective power for good.
Morris Cohen
66. What the world needs is not dogma but an attitude of scientific inquiry combined with a belief that the torture of millions is not desirable, whether inflicted by Stalin or by a Deity imagined in the likeness of the believer.
Bertrand Russell
67. Of the five most important things in life, health is first, education or knowledge is second, and wealth is third. I forget the other two. Chuck Berry
68. It is usually when men are at their most religious that they behave with the least sense and the greatest cruelty.
Ilka Chase
69. All progress depends on the unreasonable man.
George Bernard Shaw.
70. If the Bible and my brain are both the work of the same Infinite God, whose fault is it that the book and my brain do not agree? Robert G. Ingersoll
71. History has the relation to truth that theology has to religion - i.e. none to speak of. Lazarus Long (Robert Heinlein)
72. If anyone can show me, and prove to me, that I am wrong in thought or deed, I will gladly change. I seek the truth, which never yet hurt anybody. It is only persistence in self-delusion and ignorance which does harm.
Marcus Aurelius
73. Gods are fragile things; they may be killed by a whiff of science or a dose of common sense. Chapman Cohen
74. After coming in contact with a religious man, I always feel that I must wash my hands. Nietzsche

75. The world would be astonished if it knew how great a proportion of its brightest ornaments, of those most distinguished even in popular estimation for wisdom and virtue, are complete skeptics in religion.
John Stuart Mill
76. If devotion to truth is the hallmark of morality, then there is no greater, nobler, more heroic form of devotion than the act of a man who assumes the responsibility of thinking...the alleged short-cut to knowledge, which is faith, is only a short-circuit destroying the mind. Ayn Rand
77. What I have done is to show that it is possible for the way the universe began to be determined by the laws of science. In that case, it would not be necessary to appeal to God to decide how the universe began. This doesn't prove that there is no God, only that God is not necessary.
Stephen W. Hawking
78. What the Gospels actually said was: don't kill anyone until you are absolutely sure they aren't well connected. Kurt Vonnegut
79. Acceptance without proof is the fundamental characteristic of Western religion. Rejection without proof is the fundamental characteristic of Western science. Gary Zukav
80. The United States is not a Christian nation. It is a great nation with Christians, among others, in it. But our greatness is based on the fact that there is no official religion.
Senator Lowell Weicker
81. None of the great religions have done more than exclude; throw out a long range of prohibitions. But prohibitions create the urge they are intended to cure. Lawrence Durrell
82. The true fanatic is a theocrat, someone who sees himself as acting on behalf of some superpersonal force: the Race, the Party, History, the proletariat, the Poor, and so on. These absolve him from evil, hence he may safely do anything in their service.
Lloyd Billingsley,
83. Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind. Albert Einstein
84. The trouble with born again Christians is that they are an even bigger pain the second time around. Herb Caen
85. All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit. Thomas Paine
86. At present there is not a single credible established religion in the world.
George Bernard Shaw
87. Say what you will about the sweet miracle of unquestioning faith, I consider a capacity for it terrifying and absolutely vile. Kurt Vonnegut
88. I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own -- a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty. Neither can I believe that the individual survives the death of his body, although feeble souls harbor such thoughts through fear or ridiculous egotism. Albert Einstein

89. The masses have never thirsted after truth. They turn aside from evidence that is not to their taste, preferring to deify error if error seduces them. Whoever can supply them with illusions is easily their master.; whoever attempts to destroy their illusions is always their victim.
Gustave Le Bon
90. "God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnibenevolent--it says so right there on the label. If you have a mind capable of believing all three of these divine attributes simultaneously, I have a wonderful bargain for you. No checks, please. Cash and in small bills."
Lazarus Long (Robert A Heinlein)
91. For the skeptic there remains only one consolation: if there should be such a thing as superhuman law, it is administered with subhuman efficiency.
Eric Ambler
92. Mankind have banned the Divinity from their presence; they have relegated him to a sanctuary; the walls of the temple restrict his view; he does not exist outside of it. Denis Diderot
93. Religion is fundamentally opposed to everything I hold in veneration - courage, clear thinking, honesty, fairness, and above all, love of the truth. H.L. Mencken
94. If primitive religion could be explained away as an intellectual aberration, as a mirage induced by emotional stress, or by its social function, it was implied that the higher religions could be discredited and disposed of in the same way. E.E. Evans-Pritchard
95. Saints fly only in the eyes of their disciples. Hindu proverb
96. Take from the church the miraculous, the supernatural, the incomprehensible, the unreasonable, the impossible, the unknowable, the absurd, and nothing but a vacuum remains. Robert G. Ingersoll
97. Someone with a fresh mind, one not conditioned by upbringing and environment, would doubtless look at science and the powerful reductionism that it inspires as overwhelmingly the better mode of understanding the world, and would doubtless scorn religion as sentimental wishful thinking.
P.W. Atkins
98. America was founded by the refuse of the religious fanatics of England, these undesirable elements that came over on the Mayflower. Ignorant, religious fanatics who land here and abuse the Indians. Frank Zappa
99. The Theologian is an owl, sitting on an old dead branch in the tree of human knowledge, and hooting the same old hoots that have been hooted for hundreds and thousands of years, but he has never given a hoot for progress.
Emmet F. Fields
100. There was a time when religion ruled the world. It is known as the Dark Ages.
Ruth Hermence Green
101. A moral principle is not a command to act or to forbear acting in a given way: it is a tool for analyzing a special situation, the right or wrong being determined by the situation in its entirety, not by the rule as such.
John Dewey
102. There is no place in a fanatic's head where reason can enter. Napoleon Bonaparte

103. I don't have to know an answer. I don't feel frightened by not knowing things, by being lost in a mysterious universe without any purpose, which is the way it really is as far as I can tell. It doesn't frighten me. Richard Feynman
104. Man's best friend is his dogma.
Timothy Leary
105. Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. Frederick Douglass
106. Well, it's like I always said, 'There's nothing an agnostic can't do if he really doesn't know whether he believes in anything or not. Monty Python
107. Free speech is the whole thing, the whole ball game. Free speech is life itself. Salman Rushdie
108. Only fraud and falsehood dread examination . Truth invites it .
Thomas Cooper
109. God is a lonely place without steak.
Charles Bukowski
110. Sometimes too much to drink is barely enough. Mark Twain
111. I resist all established beliefs. My religion basically is to be immediate, to live in the now.
Jack Nicholson
112. Mostly, we are good when it makes sense. A good society is one that makes sense of being good. Ian McEwan
113. The world is not a prison house but a kind of spiritual kindergarten where millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell God with the wrong blocks.
Edwin Arlington Robinson
114. If there is a God, atheism must strike Him as less of an insult than religion.
Edmond and Jules de Goncourt
115. A Galileo could no more be elected president of the United States than he could be elected Pope of Rome. Both high posts are reserved for men favored by God with an extraordinary genius for swathing the bitter facts of life in bandages of self-illusion. H.L. Mencken
116. Credulity is not a crime for the individual - but it is clearly a crime as regards the race. Just look at the actual consequences of credulity. For years men believed in the foul superstition of witchcraft and many poor people suffered for this foolish belief. There was a general belief in angels and demons, flying familiarly, yet skittishly through the air, and that belief caused untold distress and pain and tragedy. The most holy Catholic church (and, after it, the various Protestant sects) enforced the dogma that heresy was terribly sinful and punishable by death. Imagine - but all you need do is to recount - the suffering entailed by that belief. When one surveys the causes and consequences of credulity, it is apparent that this easy believer in the impossible, this readiness toward false and fanatical notions, has been indeed a most serious and major crime against humanity. The social life in any age, it may be said, is about what its extent of credulity guarantees. In an extremely credulous age, social life will be cruel and dark and treacherous. In a skeptical age, social life will be more humane.
E. Haldeman-Julius
117. Nobody can have the consolations of religion or philosophy unless he has first experienced their desolations.
Aldous Huxley

118. Each religion, so dear to those whose life it sanctifies, and fulfilling so necessary a function in the society that has adopted it, necessarily contradicts every other religion, and probably contradicts itself. George Santayana
119. What has been the effect of religious coercion? To make half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites.
Thomas Jefferson
120. All religions must be tolerated... for... every man must get to heaven his own way Frederick the Great
121. Religion of every kind involves the promise that the misery and futility of existence can be overcome or even transfigured. One might suppose that the possession of such a magnificent formula, combined with the tremendous assurance of a benevolent God, would make a person happy. But such appears not to be the case.:
unease and insecurity and rage seem to keep up with blissful certainty, and even to outpace it. Christopher Hitchens
122. I'm not normally a religious man, but if you're up there, save me, Superman!
Homer Simpson
123. Religion is simply art bastardized out of all recognition. Lawrence Durrell
124. I do not envy people who think they have a complete explanation of the world, for the simple reason that they are obviously wrong. Salman Rushdie
125. Never underestimate the power of human stupidity.
Lazurus Long (Robert A Heinlein)
126. The simplest truths often meet the sternest resistance. Frederick Douglass
127. My head hurts, my feet stink and I don't love Jesus. Jimmy Buffett
128. Don't be afraid to face the facts, and never lose your ability to ask the questions: Why? and How? Immanuel Velikovsky
129. Think for yourself. Know what you're doing. Question authority. Timothy Leary
130. I face reality and admit that not only isn't there anyone home upstairs - there isn't even any upstairs. I have one life and I intend to make the most of it. Therefore it follows naturally that if I firmly believe this, why then I cannot deprive another person of their turn at existence. Only the very self assured political and religious zealots kill people in order to save them
.Jim DiGriz aka The Stainless Steel Rat (Harry Harrison)
131. God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh. Voltaire
132. A man without religion is like a fish without a bicycle. Vique
133. The third major characteristic of God - "infinite" - is the catchall, the universal modifier of Christian theology. God is not merely a being; he is infinite being. God is not merely good; he is infinite goodness. God is not merely wise; he is infinite wisdom. And so on down the list. God is exaggeration run amuck. George H. Smith
134. The faith in which I was brought up assured me that I was better than other people; I was saved, they were damned.... Our hymns were loaded with arrogance - self-congratulation on how cozy we were with the Almighty and what a high opinion he had of us, what hell everybody else would catch come Judgment Day. Robert Heinlein

135. By the age of fifteen, I had convinced myself that nobody could give a reasonable explanation of what he meant by the word 'God' and that it was therefore as meaningless to assert a belief as to assert a disbelief in God. Though this, in a general way, has remained my position ever since, I have always avoided unnecessarily to offend other people holding religious belief by displaying my lack of such belief, or even stating my lack of belief, if I was not challenged.

Friedrich August von Hayek

136. My reason taught me that I could not have made one of my own qualities - they were forced upon me by Nature; that my language, religion, and habits were forced upon me by Society; and that I was entirely the child of Nature and Society; that Nature gave the qualities and Society directed them. Thus was I forced, through seeing the error of their foundation, to abandon all belief in every religion which had been taught by man. Robert Owen

137. The greatest menace to our civilization today is the conflict between giant organized systems of self-righteousness - each system only too delighted to find that the other is wicked - each only too glad that the sins give it the pretext for still deeper hatred and animosity.

Sir Herbert Butterfield

138. In the long run nothing can withstand reason and experience, and the contradiction which religion offers to both is all too palpable. Sigmund Freud

139. The opposite of the religious fanatic is not the fanatical atheist but the gentle cynic who cares not whether there is a God or not. Eric Hoffer

140. Religious Displays, as distinct from religious beliefs, are submissive acts performed towards dominant individuals called gods. The acts themselves include various forms of body-lowering, such as kneeling, bowing, kowtowing, salaaming and prostrating; also chanting and rituals of debasement and sacrifice; the offering of gifts to the gods and the making of symbolic gestures of allegiance. The function of these actions is to appease the super-dominant beings and thereby obtains favours or avoid punishments. There is nothing unusual about this behaviour in itself. Subordinates throughout the animal world subject themselves to their most powerful companions in a similar way. But the strange feature of these human submissive actions, as we encounter them today, is that they are performed towards a dominant figure, or figures, who are never present in person. Instead they are represented by images and artifacts and operate entirely through agents called holy-men or priests. These middle-men enjoy a position of social influence and respect because some of the power of the gods rubs off on them. It is therefore extremely important to the holy-men to keep the worshippers permanently obedient to the super-dominant figures, and they do this in several ways. Desmond Morris.

141. Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more. Mark Twain

142. The least initial deviation from the truth is multiplied later a thousandfold.
Aristotle-
143. Science tells us what we can know but what we can know is little and if we forget how much we cannot know we become insensitive of many things of very great importance. Theology, on the other hand induces a dogmatic belief that we have knowledge where in fact we have ignorance and by doing so generates a kind of impertinent insolence towards the universe. Uncertainty in the presence of vivid hopes and fears is painful, but must be endured if we wish to live without the support of comforting fairy tales.
Bertrand Russell
144. You see, one thing is, I can live with doubt and uncertainty and not knowing. I think it's much more interesting to live not knowing than to have answers which might be wrong. I have approximate answers and possible beliefs and different degrees of certainty about different things, but I'm not absolutely sure of anything and there are many things I don't know anything about, such as whether it means anything to ask why we're here.
Richard Feynman
145. In politics, stupidity is not a handicap.
Napoleon Bonaparte
146. You never know what is enough unless you know what is more than enough.
William Blake
147. Against stupidity, the Gods themselves contend in vain. Friedrich von Schiller
148. It's very, very easy not to be offended by a book. You just have to shut it.
Salman Rushdie
149. You're only as young as the last time you changed your mind. Timothy Leary
150. To be conscious you are ignorant of the facts is a great step to knowledge.
Benjamin Disraeli
151. The many instances of forged miracles, and prophecies, and supernatural events, which, in all ages, have either been detected by contrary evidence, or which detect themselves by their absurdity, prove sufficiently the strong propensity of mankind to the extraordinary and marvellous, and ought reasonably to beget a suspicion against all relations of this kind.
David Hume
152. Do unto others: How much deeper into religion do we need to go? Jack Nicholson
153. Religion has not civilized man, man has civilized religion.
Robert Green Ingersoll
154. -Religion is a fashionable substitute for Belief. Oscar Wilde
155. Organized religion is like organized crime; it preys on people's weakness, generates huge profits for its operators, and is almost impossible to eradicate.
Mike Hermann
156. God has been replaced, as he has all over the West, with respectability and air conditioning. Imamu Amiri Baraka
157. Humanity has the stars in its future, and that future is too important to be lost under the burden of juvenile folly and ignorant superstition. Isaac Asimov
158. Beware of the man whose God is in the skies. George Bernard Shaw
159. Any system of religion that has anything in it that shocks the mind of a child cannot be a true system.
Thomas Paine

160. Generally speaking, the errors in religion are dangerous; those in philosophy only ridiculous. David Hume
161. Thought control is a copyright of totalitarianism, and we have no claim to it. It is not the function of government to keep the citizen from falling into error, it is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling into error. Robert H Jackson
162. The best way to keep one's word is not to give it. Napoleon Bonaparte
163. Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former. Albert Einstein
164. Always do right. This will astonish some people and gratify the rest. Mark Twain-
165. What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist
Salman Rushdie
166. Any priest or shaman must be presumed guilty until proven innocent.
Lazarus Long (Robert A. Heinlein)
167. The universe is an intelligence test.
Timothy Leary
168. It is better to know nothing than to know everything by halves. Friedrich Nietzsche
169. It is very much better to know something about everything than to know all about something. Blaise Pascal
170. If you are doing business with a religious son-of-a-bitch GET IT IN WRITING. His word isn't worth sh*t - not with the good Lord telling him how to f*ck you on the deal.
William F Burroughs
171. People find happiness both in wisdom and folly, virtue and vice. Contentment is no index of true worth. Vauvenargues
172. How comforting and encouraging the make-believe of religion can be for the common man. Kurt Vonnegut
173. If I knew for certain that a man was coming to my house with the conscious design of doing me good, I should run for my life. Henry David Thoreau
174. Religion has the power to induce so much evil. Lucretius
175. The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails. Ward, William Arthur
176. I enjoy life far too much to waste another minute listening to someone preaching belief in the unbelievable.
John Tyrrell
177. I want it so that every minister will be not a parrot, not an owl sitting upon a dead limb of the tree of knowledge and hooting the hoots that have been hooted for eighteen hundred years. But I want it so that each one can be an investigator, a thinker; and I want to make his congregation grand enough so that they will not only allow him to think, but will demand that he shall think, and give to them the honest truth of his thought. Robert Ingersoll
178. A faith of convenience is a hollow faith. Father Mulcahy (M*A*S*H)
179. Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs.
Leo Tolstoy
180. The beauty of religious mania is that it has the power to explain everything.

- Once God (or Satan) is accepted as the first cause of everything which happens in the mortal world, nothing is left to chance... logic can be happily tossed out the window. Stephen King
181. Religion is what the common people see as true, the wise people see as false, and the rulers see as useful.
Seneca
182. All religions, with their gods, demigods, prophets, messiahs and saints, are the product of the fancy and credulity of men who have not yet reached the full development and complete personality of their intellectual powers. Mikhail A. Bakunin
183. I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do because I notice it always coincides with their own desires. Susan B. Anthony
184. I contend that we are both atheists. I just believe in one fewer god than you do. When you understand why you dismiss all the other possible gods, you will understand why I dismiss yours.
Stephen Roberts
185. True religion is real living; living with all one's soul, with all one's goodness and righteousness. Albert Einstein
186. To insist on a spiritual practice that served you in the past is to carry the raft on your back after you have crossed the river. Buddha
187. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
Dave Barry
188. Faith in God necessarily implies a lack of faith in humanity. Barbara G. Walker
189. You can do some terrible things when you feel you have right on your side.
Brian Flanagan
190. I've begun worshipping the sun for a number of reasons. First of all, unlike some other gods I could mention, I can see the sun. It's there for me every day, and the things it brings me are quite apparent all the time: heat, light, food, a lovely day. There's no mystery, no one asks for money, I don't have to dress up, and there's no boring pageantry. And interestingly enough, I have found that the prayers I offer to the sun and the prayers I formerly offered to 'God' are all answered at about the same 50-percent rate. George Carlin
191. As far as I'm concerned, fundamentalism, whether in the name of Allah or Jesus, represents two heads of the same beast. Russell Scanlon
192. It is better to know nothing than to know what ain't so. Josh Billings
193. The more you know the less the better. Billy Connolly
194. The question before the human race is, whether the God of nature shall govern the world by his own laws, or whether priests and kings shall rule it by fictitious miracles?
John Adams
195. If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear. George Orwell
196. A clergyman is one who feels himself called upon to live without working at the expense of the rascals who work to live.
Voltaire
197. The only thing that makes a text sacred is the number of people that believe it to be so. Subtract that belief, and the Good Book becomes no different than any other book.
Rick Groen

198. The man who gets on his knees has not learned the right use of his legs.
Lemuel K. Washburn
199. To become a popular religion, it is only necessary for a superstition to enslave a philosophy. William Ralph Inge
200. God does not play dice with the universe; He plays an ineffable game of his own devising, which might be compared, from the perspective of any of the other players [i.e., everybody], to being involved in an obscure and complex version of poker in a pitch-dark room, with blank cards, for infinite stakes, with a Dealer who won't tell you the rules, and who smiles all the time.
Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman