
Subject: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 18:37:37 GMT
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Source

Quote: The last Catholic adoption agency in the UK to refuse to serve gay couples has won its High Court appeal.

Leeds-based Catholic Care was appealing against a Charity Commission ruling which said it could not discriminate against gay would-be parents.

Today, the High Court allowed its appeal. Mr Justice Briggs ordered the Charity Commission to reconsider the case.

A Charity Commission spokeswoman said this afternoon she could not yet comment on whether the commission would appeal against the decision.

The charity had pleaded with the commission for an exemption from the law, saying it would close rather than place children with gay couples.

Catholic Care had wanted to take advantage of a clause in the 2007 Sexual Orientation Regulations which allows charities to discriminate by amending their charitable objectives.

However it was barred from doing so by the Charity Commission.

All other Catholic adoption agencies have severed their ties with the church or closed down since the 2007 Sexual Orientation Regulations came into power.

They were given a two-year window in which to comply with the law.

Earlier this month, bishops for the three areas the agency serves said that children would "suffer" if Catholic Care was forced to close.

The agencies have typically worked to find homes for the children with the most troubled histories.

In a statement, the Bishop of Leeds Arthur Roche said that children would be "seriously disadvantaged" if the court had not agreed with the charity.

He said: "Catholic Care has been providing specialist adoption services for over 100 years.

"We have helped hundreds of children through the recruitment, assessment, training and support for prospective adoptive parents as well as offering ongoing and post-adoption support to families that give such security and love for some of the most vulnerable children in our society.

"The judgment today will help in our determination to continue to provide this invaluable service to benefit children, families and communities."

If anybody has ever made a good moral argument against homosexuality at all, I've never heard it.

But more to the point, I've also never heard a good argument as to why a gay couple would be thought of as riskier adoptive parents than a straight couple. Until that argument is made, I'm not sure why that kind of discrimination is considered just.

But if there is one organisation in the world who, above all others, ought not to have authority over the welfare of children, it is the Catholic church. It has an official policy of protecting child rapists from the law, set up by Joseph Ratzinger (before he became pope, but it's still there), and the threatened penalty for breaking it (i.e. for co-operating with a police investigation, for example) is the most horrific punishment of the lot: hell.

I'm going to say that again. It's worth saying twice; it's worth saying a hundred times a day until somebody fucking does something about it. The Catholic Church has an official policy of protecting child rapists from the law, and the penalty you're threatened with if you broke it is the worst punishment it can think of to threaten anybody with.

Sadly, this organisation does have an enormous amount of control over the welfare of children, doesn't it? I can sum this situation up in one word: emergency.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 18:57:34 GMT
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Utterly unfair - I know more homosexual couples than I do heterosexual ones that I would want children to be raised by.

Baseless, unfair discrimination, plain and simple.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [jnz](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 19:26:44 GMT
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Children in the care of any catholic people are seriously in danger to be honest. I don't care if I'm stereotyping but with how many children get abused by catholic priests and such. Also with religious brainwashing etc...

I'm not exactly saying they are selling the kids to catholic gays, that is not really what I'm on about. Just the thought of catholics looking after a bunch of kids in a re-homing center gives me the creeps.

flame me, whatever.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 19:53:57 GMT

Yeah, this shit is beyond stupid. Why the fuck can't society stop clinging to retarded, illogical religious beliefs?

Fuck, you'd think if anything, the religious types would be MORE accepting...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 20:30:10 GMT

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While there is really no existing argument that can soundly argue why homosexuality is wrong, there is more grounds to want to argue against having a child adopted into a homosexual family.

That's not to say that it's necessarily wrong to do that either. What I'm getting at is that it is obvious that, regardless of the lack of logical reasoning, there are many people in the world who hold homosexuals in contempt. People will go to extremes to express their beliefs and fight to the ends of the earth for a cause they don't fully understand themselves.

Therefore, it is a likely scenario that if you allow a child to be adopted into a homosexual family, there is a higher chance of risk or harm for the child. It really doesn't matter how capable the would-be parents are.

Again, it's not wrong to be homosexual nor is it right to deny a homosexual couple to adopt a kid. But it is something that should be considered appropriately.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 21:05:50 GMT

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R315r4z0r wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 14:30 While there is really no existing argument that can soundly argue why homosexuality is wrong, there is more grounds to want to argue against having a child adopted into a homosexual family.

That's not to say that it's necessarily wrong to do that either. What I'm getting at is that it is obvious that, regardless of the lack of logical reasoning, there are many people in the world who hold homosexuals in contempt. People will go to extremes to express their beliefs and fight to the ends of the earth for a cause they don't fully understand themselves.

Therefore, it is a likely scenario that if you allow a child to be adopted into a homosexual family, there is a higher chance of risk or harm for the child. It really doesn't matter how capable the would-be parents are.

Again, it's not wrong to be homosexual nor is it right to deny a homosexual couple to adopt a kid. But it is something that should be considered appropriately.

well, if this is the best argument against it... i.e. that there is a lot of anti-homosexual prejudice,

then this has two implications.

firstly this seems to entail that we should also "consider appropriately" every other group who has suffered comparable prejudice. judaism springs to mind, as well as various christian denominations, as well as atheists.

secondly, why has there been two thousand years of homophobic feeling even in the civilised world? i'll tell you: two thousand years of christianity. christianity's iron grip on society, especially education, has flooded the western world with propaganda against homosexuality, even though it utterly fails when the subject is actually debated. so the problem is, again, the fact that christianity and catholicism has enormous control over children, specifically education. why is this the case in the supposedly civilised world? this is what needs to be changed.

Quote:Children in the care of any catholic people are seriously in danger to be honest. I don't care if I'm stereotyping but with how many children get abused by catholic priests and such. Also with religious brainwashing etc...

There is no need to "stereotype" when we talk about sex offence against children by Catholic priests. And I request that you don't call it child "abuse". That's frankly a bit of a wishy-washy euphemism. Call it what it is: child rape. But I digress. No need to stereotype, because like I said, the Catholic Church has an official policy of protecting child rapists from the law, and threatens its employees with hell, the worst punishment it can think of, if they do something to break this policy, such as co-operate with a police investigation.

Need an illustration of how this policy works out? I give you Cardinal Bernard Law. He was the Arch-bishop of Boston, Massachussetts (forgive me if i'm spelling that wrong) for a couple of decades. It was conclusively proven that he was extensively involved with covering up sex offences carried out by priests/bishops under him, against thousands of children. Even after this all came out, he didn't resign and wasn't fired or even pressured to resign by the Pope. Eventually his resignation was demanded by virtually the entirety of the state, including many catholics. (ponder for yourself how many of these were genuinely outraged at these crimes, and how many simply decided it couldn't be covered up any more)

So he eventually did step down, and went to the Vatican, and was promoted, personally by the Pope. Given a whole list of new titles. I can't recite them and I wouldn't know what the hell most of them mean anyway, but one of his privileges was the fact that he was (i think he still is, actually) part of the council who elects the new pope when the old one dies.

That's right. This criminal, this fugitive from justice who actively participated in helping to cover up the rape (like i said, please don't call it abuse, call it rape) of thousands of children by his own staff, was promoted by the pope and was given a vote on who the next pope should be.

So, like I said, when you talk about the Catholic Church and sex offences against children, stereotyping is not required.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 21:33:55 GMT

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I think you misapplied my meaning.

I didn't mean to say "use caution when letting homosexuals adopt a kid because they put kids in harms way." I was saying that we need to observe the living conditions of the child's would-be home before anyone can be allowed to adopt, regardless of their race, beliefs or life style.

The child's safety and future should be the first priority.

The would-be parent's parenting abilities should be second priority.

The parent's race, beliefs or orientation shouldn't even be considered. (Their background, however, should be looked into in order to determine if they are the right type of person to raise a kid. You don't want to just simply let a convicted felon walk away with a child without as much as a second-guess.)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 21:40:17 GMT

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I also read your post and thought you was saying "Allot of people do not like Homo-sexuals, so kids might be in danger around them because of all the homo-phobes out there".

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 21:42:30 GMT

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R315r4z0r wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 15:33I think you misapplied my meaning.

I didn't mean to say "use caution when letting homosexuals adopt a kid because they put kids in harms way." I was saying that we need to observe the living conditions of the child's would-be home before anyone can be allowed to adopt, regardless of their race, beliefs or life style.

Your post didn't really make any sense at all, frankly.

Quote:The child's safety and future should be the first priority.

The would-be parent's parenting abilities should be second priority.

The parent's race, beliefs or orientation shouldn't even be considered.

You say beliefs shouldn't be considered... does that include if they were neo-nazis, for example?

Or, to take a more likely (and more relevant) case, if they are a member of an organisation with a policy and history of systematically protecting child rapists from the law and permitting them to continue raping the children in their care? Isn't membership of an organisation as evil as that worth consideration?

Quote:(Their background, however, should be looked into in order to determine if they are the right type of person to raise a kid. You don't want to just simply let a convicted felon walk away with a child without as much as a second-guess.)

You certainly don't. You protect children from these monsters.

The Catholic Church does the opposite; it protects the monsters and allows them to go on raping children, and it threatens its employees with the most horrific punishment imaginable if they co-operate with police investigations. Then, after demonstrating a moral standard on sexual matters that's about as bad as I can imagine, it has the fucking nerve to lecture the rest of us on morality. It rails against the real evils of the world... condoms, gay people being allowed to enjoy their lives without harrassment, etc etc etc.

I think it's a pity there isn't a hell for Ratzinger to go to.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Clark Kent](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 22:02:42 GMT

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GEORGE ZIMMER wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 13:53 Fuck, you'd think if anything, the religious types would be MORE accepting...

Yes and no...

Yes, some churches of many different beliefs have been openly accepting homosexuals with the idea we are all God's children or whatever else about forgiveness and not judging... Some say that The Bible is not actually against homosexuality.

No, some people feel very strongly that marriage should only be between a man and a woman, and the whole idea of what is "natural"... Of course we all know that a man and a man can not reproduce and the same for a woman and a woman, but that is not much of an argument to most people, while with others that is proof enough. I am sure most of you have heard the saying, "Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve"...

Going along with the "no" response is a thought about forgiveness that someone said to me a while back.

If you view something as a sin (E.g excessive drinking, gambling, fornication), but you slip up and do it anyways, are you forgiven?

Well the general idea is we are not perfect so we make mistakes, it just depends on how you feel afterwards, and if you just plan on doing it again the next day...

Excessive drinking, gambling, and fornication are pretty common "sins" that most everyone will experience at least once in their life. But if you get in a habit of doing these things consistently there are support groups and programs that are supposed to help you.

You may also have a homosexual experience once in your life, but to call it a "problem" or have support groups for this would make a lot of people very upset to say the least.

I think I may be going off track so I will just sum it up real fast...

If you are a homosexual and you plan on continuing that life style, but you view it as a "sin" yourself, I would not expect you to ask for forgiveness.

I don't want to argue if religion is right or wrong in this thread, I just wanted to state why I thought some religions/churches may or may not accept homosexuality

I hope I didn't say anything offensive, I was trying to be delicate but it is hard for me to tell sometimes what may or may not upset some people's feelings.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 22:29:14 GMT

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Clark Kent wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 16:02 Yes, some churches of many different beliefs have been openly accepting homosexuals with the idea we are all God's children or whatever else about forgiveness and not judging... Some say that The Bible is not actually against homosexuality.

the bible is rabidly homophobic, particularly the old testament. but it's also a pretty shitty moral guide in a lot of other areas too.

Quote: No, some people feel very strongly that marriage should only be between a man and a woman
ah, marriage.

firstly, the idea that marriage is between a man and a woman is actually quite recent. for a lot of history, it was more along the lines of one man and several women. indeed, this is mentioned in the bible, as well as in islamic tradition (the prophet mohammed had several wives, his favourite of whom - aisha - he married when she was six)

we did generally evolve past that thinking into the more recent idea of marriage being one man and one woman. but here's something that only became widespread VERY recently: the idea that marriage can be about love.

traditionally, marriage was always about wealth and power. form a bond with the right family, to protect your land and your money. the idea of marriage being about love is very new, and yet i think most people would agree that it's a good thing that we generally think of marriage this way now, just as they would probably agree that getting rid of polygamy is probably an improvement too.

Quote: and the whole idea of what is "natural"...

homosexuality is perfectly natural. it isn't a choice, some people simply are homosexual. it also occurs in other species. and yet another thing that must be challenged is the idea that "natural" is automatically a synonym for "desirable". rape, for example, is very common in nature, very common indeed. most of us condemn rape, even though the bible does not.

and if you instead believe that we're created by god, then perhaps you can explain why god would create so many people homosexual, if he disapproves of the lifestyle and has inspired his

followers to rail against it for two thousand years, resulting in a really miserable time for the people he created. what a prick.

Quote:Of course we all know that a man and a man can not reproduce and the same for a woman and a woman, but that is not much of an argument to most people, while with others that is proof enough.

if you ever come across someone who thinks a particular human right ought to be denied to a homosexual person on the grounds that they can't reproduce, then i will be the first to stand up and say that i don't want kids. i just don't, it's a personal choice and i've never hid it from anybody. shall i be denied the same human right in question? if so, will it also be denied people who for one reason or another are infertile?

Quote:I am sure most of you have heard the saying, "Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve"... sure, but it's complete crap.

firstly, there's no evidence at all to suggest that the adam and eve story is even slightly accurate.

secondly, even if it was, even if it was proven that a god did create us and has stern ideas about how we should behave, i'll still be in favour of democracy instead.

Quote:Going along with the "no" response is a thought about forgiveness that someone said to me a while back.

If you view something as a sin (E.g excessive drinking, gambling, fornication), but you slip up and do it anyways, are you forgiven?

how do you define "sin"? i generally hear that the word means something that offends a god. well, then...

- firstly it's a completely meaningless statement until you've proven that -a- the god exists at all, and -b- he does indeed disapprove of the action you're talking about.

- secondly, like i said, even if you proved -a- and -b-, i'll still be in favour of democracy over theocracy.

on the question of forgiveness, your question seems rather incomplete to me. what did you do, who was affected by it, what did you do to attempt to rectify the situation, and who do you think is the party to do the forgiving?

Quote:Well the general idea is we are not perfect so we make mistakes, it just depends on how you feel afterwards, and if you just plan on doing it again the next day... you tell me.

Quote:Excessive drinking, gambling, and fornication are pretty common "sins" that most everyone will experience at least once in their life.

see above re: definition of "sin". what is your argument against these three, just so i can be clear?

Quote:But if you get in a habit of doing these things consistently there are support groups and programs that are supposed to help you. sure.

Quote:You may also have a homosexual experience once in your life, but to call it a "problem" or have support groups for this would make a lot of people very upset to say the least. and if the homosexual experience was with a consenting adult, why would it be a problem and why would a support group be necessary?

Quote:If you are a homosexual and you plan on continuing that life style, but you view it as a "sin" yourself, I would not expect you to ask for forgiveness.

I, personally, would expect the Christian churches to ask for forgiveness for spending the last two thousand years brainwashing us that homosexuality is indeed a sin, as well as quite a lot of other things.

Quote:I hope I didn't say anything offensive, I was trying to be delicate but it is hard for me to tell sometimes what may or may not upset some people's feelings.

Just talk straight would be my advice, and don't dodge questions.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Clark Kent](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 00:06:00 GMT

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First off I would define "sin" as anything that The Bible says is wrong. Of course if you don't believe in The Bible or God for that matter, than none of that even matters. As I said I didn't want to debate truth in either.

I wasn't saying homosexuals should be denied the right to have kids because they could not make them themselves, I am sure there are many homosexual couples that are more than capable of raising kids to be functional and productive members of society (even better than some heterosexual couples).

That was more along with the "natural" part, as in nature doesn't allow for them to make kids together, so a lot of people would see it as they are not supposed to have kids...

I hope you don't think I am "dodging" questions here, but I don't see any point in discussing the truth in the religion part. I just wanted to say a couple reasons why I would expect some believers to be for or against homosexuality in response to Zimmer's comment.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 00:31:11 GMT

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Clark Kent wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 18:06First off I would define "sin" as anything that The Bible says is wrong.

That's all that is required to define a sin, then? You don't actually have to make a moral case against it, you only need to say that a book disapproves of it?

Well, the Bible disapproves of a great many things and outright prohibits many others, many of which many modern Christians do - various dietary laws, for example. More importantly, if there's anything which makes the biblical god angrier than anything else, it's disbelief in him, or worshipping gods other than himself.

Quote:Of course if you don't believe in The Bible or God for that matter, than none of that even matters.

It would be nice if that was the case. Sadly those who do believe in god and the bible tend to be very keen to insist that we all follow their rules.

Quote:As I said I didn't want to debate truth in either.
That's a shame, because I do.

Quote:I wasn't saying homosexuals should be denied the right to have kids because they could not make them themselves, I am sure there are many homosexual couples that are more than capable of raising kids to be functional and productive members of society (even better than some heterosexual couples).

Cool.

Quote:That was more along with the "natural" part, as in nature doesn't allow for them to make kids together, so a lot of people would see it as they are not supposed to have kids...
My earlier question re: infertile people seems to apply here.

You say "not supposed to". That implies somebody decided that the person would be homosexual and would not be able to biologically conceive a child (not quite true, but at least would not be inclined to enter a heterosexual relationship). If somebody is infertile, is it not the case that this person was "not supposed to have kids", decided by the same somebody who creates certain people homosexual?

Quote:I hope you don't think I am "dodging" questions here
It was advice for the future, not a reproach for the past.

Quote:but I don't see any point in discussing the truth in the religion part.
I'm afraid I do.

On the day the religious stop endlessly interfering with the lives of others, stop corrupting democratic processes, stop brainwashing children and stop asking for privileges they don't deserve, I'll have nothing to complain about and I won't care whether what they believe is true.

Sadly that day has not arrived yet, and until it does, their ideas are fair game for ridicule and contempt.

Quote:I just wanted to say a couple reasons why I would expect some believers to be for or against homosexuality in response to Zimmer's comment.
It might be a good idea to let people make their own objections.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [bunka](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 03:33:05 GMT
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like cornered cats fight better...old religious bullies do the same.

lol? these morons = have no clue.

FUN FACT: sky god concept to die out in next 150 years

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 04:22:40 GMT
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Spoony wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 18:31Clark Kent wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 18:06First off I would define "sin" as anything that The Bible says is wrong.
That's all that is required to define a sin, then? You don't actually have to make a moral case against it, you only need to say that a book disapproves of it?

Well, the Bible disapproves of a great many things and outright prohibits many others, many of which many modern Christians do - various dietary laws, for example. More importantly, if there's anything which makes the biblical god angrier than anything else, it's disbelief in him, or worshipping gods other than himself.

Quote:Of course if you don't believe in The Bible or God for that matter, than none of that even matters.

It would be nice if that was the case. Sadly those who do believe in god and the bible tend to be very keen to insist that we all follow their rules.

If I remember correctly, you mentioned in another thread that Christianity basically has a governmental seat in your country, right?

That kind of thing is against my belief as well - we are charged to spread his word but not shove it down their throats. If we did what we could and they still don't believe, we don't relentlessly pursue it.

Also, we are separate from Catholicism and Baptism and all the other splinter denominations... that's why stories about this and that church irritate me, because they get associated with Christianity as a whole.

As for the last part - would I force a nonbeliever to obey a Biblical rule? No. Would I fight against a governmental decree legally allowing something I consider a sin? Yes, because not doing so would be allowing it, thus being an accomplice to said sin.

Just my thoughts. Like I said, I just want to show that my - and my church's - position doesn't

match other denominations.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 08:43:25 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 22:22 If I remember correctly, you mentioned in another thread that Christianity basically has a governmental seat in your country, right? Christianity is automatically given a whole block of seats in Parliament. 20-something of them, I believe. (There's never ever been a vote about this - it was set up when the king ran the show and elections were never even thought of.) We the people can vote for one MP for our region, as opposed to Americans who can vote for a senator and a congress member.

That's not all. Christianity also has control over thousands and thousands of schools, as does the Catholic church. More recently, Judaism and Islam have been given control over schools too. I'm not sure if any other religions have, Sikhism might do, but the idea that a religion can have control over a school ought to be rather alarming. It's no different than the idea of a political ideology having control over a school. A "Catholic school" or a "Church of England school" or a "Protestant school" ought to be viewed the same as if someone said "a Labour school", a "Conservative school", a "Socialist school", "Communist school", "Neo-conservative school", "Nationalist school", etc.

And if you want to see just how well religiously segregating our children works out, just look at Northern Ireland.

And that's not all the privileges it has, though I'd say the automatic block of parliamentary seats and the control over thousands of schools are the important issues. Technically the monarch is the head of state. It isn't Gordon Brown, it wasn't Tony Blair. The monarch is also the head of the Church.

I will admit that our current Queen is a decent person, but the reason I can say this is precisely because the monarchy doesn't really meddle in politics anymore, which begs the question why we still have it.

What else? Blasphemy law. We only just got rid of that a couple of years ago. It used to be illegal to "blaspheme" Christianity. That's right. It has a huge block of seats in Parliament whether we like it or not, it has control over thousands of schools, its leader is the undemocratically elected head of state, but if we criticise it and its power, we're breaking the law, or at least we were until a couple of years ago.

Of course, like all other religions, it doesn't have to pay taxes. In the Church of England's case this is quite odd, because it's just about the biggest land-owner in the country, and it's very eager to invest in dodgy companies for its own profits. It's invested in arms dealers who supply countries like Indonesia, for example, an Islamic dictatorship who committed horrific crimes against humanity against the largely Christian society of East Timor, and used British and American weapons to do so. It's invested in the housing market and that all went tits up for the church, of course.

And despite all this, despite the fact it's got all this land (which it didn't buy... it was given it by the monarchy), despite the fact it doesn't pay taxes, despite its dodgy financial dealings, it's still financially fucked and it's still always begging the taxpayer to pull it out. Well, I'm sorry, but if a company is doing as badly as that, then going belly-up would be a mercy. I don't see the Archbishop of Canterbury offering to sell either of his two palaces, for example, and living somewhere a little more modest. And this is a man who loves, absolutely loves to lecture we Brits on the dangers of "materialism", which is the best knock at atheism he can think of. That's right - he's basically the CEO of a company which insists on not paying taxes, which has very shady investment practices, which is if not the biggest landowner in the country must come pretty close, and he himself has two palaces both funded by the taxpayer. By comparison, I don't aspire to great wealth or extravagant possessions - give me my basic human rights, the freedom to live my life unharrassed and the freedom to examine and question the world, and to write and play my music, and I'm happy. Who's the materialistic one here, I wonder?

Quote:That kind of thing is against my belief as well - we are charged to spread his word but not shove it down their throats. If we did what we could and they still don't believe, we don't relentlessly pursue it.

What about children, what do you tell them about Christianity?

As for the blasphemy law, well, as ridiculous and immoral as blasphemy laws are, it's in line with Christian teaching. Blasphemy is very sternly prohibited in the Bible, is it not?

Quote:Also, we are separte from Catholicism and Baptism and all the other splinter denominations... that's why stories about this and that church irritate me, because they get associated with Christianity as a whole.

I am perfectly happy to recognise the differences between the innumerable flavours of Christianity, so long as they don't deny the similarities (which tend to outnumber the differences)

Quote:As for the last part - would I force a nonbeliever to obey a Biblical rule? No. Would I fight against a governemtal decree legally allowing something I consider a sin? Yes, because not doing so would be allowing it, thus being an accomplice to said sin.

This seems a rather contradictory position.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 12:56:09 GMT

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There is zero research to support the arguement that there's a relationship between homosexual lifestyle and child molestation.

Infact, it is proven that a child molester is unlikely to be attracted to adult males at all.

That's a very 1970's attitude, and it was as ignorant back then as it is now. It's worse if you still think it now, as there has been some enlightenment in this area and people's eyes have opened to the matter more.

This is akin to calling Jewish people baby killers. Minority groups that are disliked or feared often have the worst stereo types applied to them, even if there is no grounds for it.

I think it's a pitiful arguement to suggest that children are in harms way from molestation if the adoptive parents are homosexual. Especially coming from the Catholic church, it's beyond belief they of all people would suggest this.

However, there is an arguement against homosexuals adopting children...

Quote:

American College of Pediatricians (ACP)

"Data on the long-term outcomes of children placed in homosexual households is sparse and gives reason for concern. This research has revealed that children reared in homosexual households are more likely to experience sexual confusion, engage in risky sexual experimentation, and later adopt a homosexual identity. This is concerning since adolescents and young adults who adopt the homosexual lifestyle, are at increased risk for mental health problems, including major depression, anxiety disorders, conduct disorder, substance dependence, and especially suicidal ideation and suicide attempts..."

Another reference

There are areguements against this too in all fairness, but there have been numerous studies that support the basic idea of children raised in a homosexual environment are more likely to be homosexual, or at least sexually confused.

Even if you accept this argument as fact, I suppose it depends on your view of whether it actually matters or not?

Lets assume that it is true (I know this is an assumption, but let's assume it is).

If the child has an increased chance of becoming homosexual because of being raised in a homosexual environment, is this a bad thing?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 13:54:17 GMT

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reborn wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 06:56 There is zero research to support the arguement that there's a relationship between homosexual lifestyle and child molestation.

Infact, it is proven that a child molester is unlikely to be attracted to adult males at all.

That's a very 1970's attitude, and it was as ignorant back then as it is now. It's worse if you still think it now, as there has been some enlightenment in this area and people's eyes have opened to the matter more.

This is akin to calling Jewish people baby killers. Minority groups that are disliked or feared often have the worst stereo types applied to them, even if there is no grounds for it.

I think it's a pitiful arguement to suggest that children are in harms way from molestation if the adoptive parents are homosexual. Especially coming from the Catholic church, it's beyond belief they of all people would suggest this.

the irony is, there actually are two good arguments to suggest that catholics are more likely to molest children than non-catholics.

the first is the knowledge that if you were a catholic priest and you did rape a child, your company would help you cover it up. of course, the fear of punishment is certainly not what stops most people raping children - basic moral concerns as well as simply not being attracted to kids does the job for most of us - but there you have one of the three reasons not to do it shattered.

the second is simply a product of extreme sexual repression. this is well known to have damaging effects on people's mental state. to give a simple example, prison. many people who enter into homosexual acts in prison aren't actually homosexual, they're just desperate. another example, closer to the point, is how common rape is in islamic countries. one reason for this is the fact that their governments do not recognise rape as a crime - indeed some of them recognise rape as a legally sanctioned punishment (i'm seriously not making that up), the other reason is a combination of dangerous sexual repression of men and the teaching that women are worth about halfway between men and cattle.

Quote:However, there is an arguement against homosexuals adopting children...

Quote:

American College of Pediatricians (ACP)

"Data on the long-term outcomes of children placed in homosexual households is sparse and gives reason for concern. This research has revealed that children reared in homosexual households are more likely to experience sexual confusion, engage in risky sexual experimentation, and later adopt a homosexual identity. This is concerning since adolescents and young adults who adopt the homosexual lifestyle, are at increased risk for mental health problems, including major depression, anxiety disorders, conduct disorder, substance dependence, and especially suicidal ideation and suicide attempts..."

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Even if you accept this argument as fact, I suppose it depends on your view of whether it actually matters or not?

Lets assume that it is true (I know this is an assumption, but let's assume it is).

If the child has an increased chance of becoming homosexual because of being raised in a homosexual environment, is this a bad thing?

No. The only reason for the supposed negative effects of being homosexual, the problems a homosexual person could suffer that a heterosexual person would not, is the result of the appalling prejudice they suffer, almost entirely thanks to religion.

Secondly, I don't accept the argument in the first place. If somebody is going to say that raising kids in a homosexual environment is going to make them homosexual, how on earth can we explain the existence of homosexuals in heterosexual environments, especially since the societies have always, always persecuted homosexuality?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 14:59:34 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 08:54

I don't accept the argument in the first place. If somebody is going to say that raising kids in a homosexual environment is going to make them homosexual, how on earth can we explain the existence of homosexuals in heterosexual environments, especially since the societies have always, always persecuted homosexuality?

You followed that through logically, but you have changed what I said. The findings suggest a greater chance, not a certainty.

You said "is going to make them homosexual", this implies an absolute; I never said that.

They are suggesting that there is simply a greater chance of the child being homosexual, not a certainty.

Use that same logic and think of it from this perspective:

A heterosexual couple's offspring have an increased chance of being heterosexual.

Therefore does it not seem logical that a homosexual environment would produce offspring that had an increased chance of being homosexual?

I don't know the figures, but it could prove that the child has a 15% chance of being homosexual if raised by homosexual parents, instead of 10% in a heterosexual environment. I'm not suggesting certainties, just an increased chance.

You must accept that children learn behaviour from parents? It doesn't seem impossible to me that homosexual parents influence the chance for their children being homosexual.

Can you really not accept that there is a chance of this?

I'm not saying it's a bad thing, it just seems obvious to me o.O

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 08:54

The only reason for the supposed negative effects of being homosexual, the problems a homosexual person could suffer that a heterosexual person would not, is the result of the appalling prejudice they suffer, almost entirely thanks to religion.

I have thought about this, and as I am about to be a father very soon, I took this discussion seriously. I have come to the conclusion that I would prefer my child to not be homosexual.

Not because I am a bigot or a homophobe, but because my Brother is homosexual and he has suffered all his life for this.

He was bullied at school, he has been ridiculed by people all his life, he is lonely and is often depressed. Using his words, not mine, "Being homosexual is a harder life, and not One many people would willingly choose."

He finds it harder to fit in, and his sexualality affects every part of his life.

I love my Brother dearly, and hate seeing him un-happy. It breaks my heart.

It's a cowardly thing for me to say, I concede that. But I do not want my child to suffer that same life of prejudice.

You could argue that I should teach my child if they was homosexual that these people are ignorant (and they are), but it would still hurt their feelings, and I want them to be as happy as possible.

Yes, the only reason for me to not want this life style is because of other people prejudice, but I don't care. I don't think people's views ar going to change any time soon, and I don't want my child to suffer the ignorance of others while the world catches up! Is that so wrong of me?

If I apply this to my own child, I would be a hypocrit to say I was fine with another child entering a homosexual environment.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 15:14:17 GMT

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reborn wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 08:59Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 08:54

I don't accept the argument in the first place. If somebody is going to say that raising kids in a homosexual environment is going to make them homosexual, how on earth can we explain the existence of homosexuals in heterosexual environments, especially since the societies have always, always persecuted homosexuality?

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Use that same logic and think of it from this perspective:

A hetrosexual couple's offspring have an increased chance of being hetrosexual.

Therefore does it not seem logical that a homosexual environment would produce offspring that had an increased chance of being homosexual?

I don't know the figures, but it could prove that the child has a 15% chance of being homosexual if raised by homosexual parents, instead of 10% in a heterosexual environment. I'm not suggesting certainties, just an increased chance.

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Can you really not accept that there is a chance of this?

I'm not saying it's a bad thing, it just seems obvious to me o.O

That is not the case. Kids brought up by SameSex Couples do not have a higher chance of becoming homosexual.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 15:25:49 GMT

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reborn wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 08:59 You followed that through logically, but you have changed what I said. The findings suggest a greater chance, not a certainty. You said "is going to make them homosexual", this implies an absolute; I never said that. They are suggesting that there is simply a greater chance of the child being homosexual, not a certainty.

Use that same logic and think of it from this perspective:

A heterosexual couple's offspring have an increased chance of being heterosexual.

Therefore does it not seem logical that a homosexual environment would produce offspring that had an increased chance of being homosexual?

I don't know the figures, but it could prove that the child has a 15% chance of being homosexual if raised by homosexual parents, instead of 10% in a heterosexual environment. I'm not suggesting certainties, just an increased chance.

Well, I don't think that can be conclusively stated.

Is it not much more likely that, instead, children who happen to be homosexual and have heterosexual parents are more likely to grow up in an environment that disapproves of them, and therefore they will feel that they have to keep their sexuality secret?

Quote: You must accept that children learn behaviour from parents? It doesn't seem impossible to me that homosexual parents influence the chance for their children being homosexual.

Well, if parents are:

- racist
- homophobic
- violent
- religious fanatics

then this will certainly affect the kids and probably make them more likely to grow up with these too. but there are two reasons why "homosexual" doesn't belong on the list.

1. nobody's explained why homosexuality is actually a bad thing
2. i am willing to grant that if a heterosexual child sees his homosexual parents at it, he might be inspired to try a homosexual relationship. i'll grant that. it sounds damn silly to me, but i'll grant it for the sake of your argument.
what i can't grant is the possibility that they might, as a result of trying that, "turn gay".

Quote:I have thought about this, and as I am about to be a father very soon, I took this discussion seriously. I have come to the conclusion that I would prefer my child to not be homosexual.

Not because I am a biggot or a homophobe, but because my Brother is homosexual and he has suffered all his life for this.

He was bullied at school, he has been ridiculed by people all his life, he is lonely and is often depressed. Using his words, not mine, "Being homosexual is a harder life, and not One many people would willingly choose."

He finds it harder to fit in, and his sexualality affects every part of his life.

I love my Brother dearly, and hate seeing him un-happy. It breaks my heart.

It's a cowardly thing for me to say, I concede that. But I do not want my child to suffer that same life of prejudice.

I completely understand; you make a good argument, but it still hinges on the case being proven that you could actually make someone more likely to become homosexual if the parents are, and it doesn't change the fact that the over-riding solution to the problem is simply to combat homophobia, and the best way of doing that is to protect children from religion until they're old enough to understand it critically. of course, that solves a multitude of other problems too.

and there is a point to be made in the opposite direction.

if a child is homosexual, who is most likely to treat them with the understanding they need? homosexual parents, or heterosexual parents? who's less likely to be homophobic?

Quote:You could argue that I should teach my child if they was homosexual that these people are ignorant (and they are), but it would still hurt their feelings, and I want them to be as happy as possible.

Yes, the only reason for me to not want this life style is because of other people prejudice, but I don't care. I don't think people's views ar going to change any time soon, and I don't want my child to suffer the ignorance of others while the world catches up! Is that so wrong of me?

If I apply this to my own child, I would be a hypocrit to say I was fine with another child entering a homosexual environment.

it's a good point you make, although see my response to the same stuff above.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [wubwub](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 15:40:56 GMT

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I beleive that homosexuals should choose not to have kids, but forcing them not to is wrong i

gusse.

They shouldn't really have kids because say two females adopt a male baby. Now that baby is going to have two women as parents. That male baby needs a father role model instead of two females.

Not to mention in school if other kids find out they will more then likely make of fun him.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 15:42:33 GMT

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WubWub wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 09:40I beleive that homosexuals should choose not to have kids, but forcing them not to is wrong i gusse.

They shouldn't really have kids because say two females adopt a male baby. Now that baby is going to have two women as parents. That male baby needs a father role model instead of two females.

Not to mention in school if other kids find out they will more then likely make of fun him.

MALE BABIES NEED FATHERS OR THEY WILL BECOME METROSEXUAL LOBSTERS

fucking idiot.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 16:22:35 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 10:25

It still hinges on the case being proven that you could actually make someone more likely to become homosexual if the parents are

Yeah, I agree. It does all pretty much ride on that. I do tend to think though that you might be putting the cart before the horse with this:

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 10:25

Is it not much more likely that, instead, children who happen to be homosexual and have heterosexual parents are more likely to grow up in an environment that disapproves of them, and therefore they will feel that they have to keep their sexuality secret?

Perhaps I'm over estimating the influence parents have, or perhaps you're under-estimating their affect.

I am a believer in "Monkey see, monkey do".

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 10:25
there is a point to be made in the opposite direction.

if a child is homosexual, who is most likely to treat them with the understanding they need?
homosexual parents, or heterosexual parents? who's less likely to be homophobic?

You're right, the homosexual parents might have a greater chance of being empathetic and understanding.

I'm going to throw the unconditional love you have for your child in there just not to write off heterosexual parents ability to support their child, but I concede that there are children too afraid to tell their parents through fear of judgement (arguable that in some cases this may be justifiable fear, and in other cases their own fear being un-justified).

However, in my mind, if they do have a greater chance of being homosexual because of their parents being homosexual too, then surely the need for this understanding would be reduced if they was in a heterosexual environment because there is less chance of them being homosexual? Hmm, kinda weak argument I suppose, and leaves a prejudice taste in my mouth actually, or at least an ignorant attitude (avoid the issue altogether then we dont need to understand it!1!!!1!!), but I can kinda see this point.

Meh, all I know is, I love my child already before it being born, and I only want the best, most happy life for them.

I think we can at least agree that the world would be happier if only the homophobes would grow up and learn some understanding. Then whether or not having homosexual parents means there is more chance of you being homosexual would be a mute, irrelevant point.

Homosexuals are just people. My Brother has never hurt anyone. I love him with all my heart, I hate seeing the suffering he endures.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 16:40:43 GMT

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Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 10:25

Is it not much more likely that, instead, children who happen to be homosexual and have heterosexual parents are more likely to grow up in an environment that disapproves of them, and therefore they will feel that they have to keep their sexuality secret?

Perhaps I'm over estimating the influence parents have, or perhaps you're under-estimating their affect.

I am a believer in "Monkey see, monkey do".

well, if you see some people kissing and you feel like trying it, aren't you more likely to want to try

it with someone you're actually attracted to...?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 10:25 You're right, the homosexual parents might have a greater chance of being empathetic and understanding.

i think there's no "might" about it. i'm pretty confident that a far greater proportion of heterosexual adults are overly homophobic than homosexual adults.

Quote:I'm going to throw the unconditional love you have for your child in there just not to write off heterosexual parents ability to support their child

i'd like to think that all parents had unconditional love for their children, but i suspect it isn't always the case.

Quote:but I concede that there are children too afraid to tell their parents through fear of judgement (arguable that in some cases this may be justifiable fear, and in other cases their own fear being un-justified).

and i think it's a much higher number than you probably think.

as for whether it's justified, well, it would be difficult to know in advance for sure how your parents would react if you told them you were gay. i wonder how much thought your brother put into it before telling you and your parents?

Quote:However, in my mind, if they do have a greater chance of being homosexual because of their parents being homosexual too, then surely the need for this understanding would be reduced if they was in a heterosexual environment because there is less chance of them being homosexual?

Hmm, kinda weak argument I suppose

i must admit i think i should be having an easier time refuting it.

Quote:I think we can at least agree that the world would be happier if only the homophobes would grow up and learn some understanding. Then whether or not having homosexual parents means there is more chance of you being homosexual would be a mute, irrelevant point.
of course.

Quote:Homosexuals are just people. My Brother has never hurt anyone. I love him with all my heart, I hate seeing the suffering he endures.

i'll be honest, if you had tried to make the point without giving a touching example of someone close to you, i probably wouldn't have thought the argument was worth much.

that is probably more my fault than anything else.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 18:41:15 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

i think there's no "might" about it. i'm pretty confident that a far greater proportion of heterosexual

adults are overly homophobic than homosexual adults.

Yeah, you're probably right. There could be some special cases, but pretty much across the board, I would imagine you're right.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

i'd like to think that all parents had unconditional love for their children, but i suspect it isn't always the case.

Yeah, it's a sad truth. But having said that, I would guess there is a proportionate amount of homosexual parents lacking this same instinct, too.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

and i think it's a much higher number than you probably think.

Hmm, I would aim pretty high. Some friends of the family are in their 60's and they never told their parents. It's very sad, his mother actually passed in January, and he never found the courage to let her know about that side of him.

Two friends of the family in their late Forties do not tell people at work, and at work functions they have a friend to take as their partner. They live a lie, for whatever reasons, this is sad.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

as for whether it's justified, well, it would be difficult to know in advance for sure how your parents would react if you told them you were gay. i wonder how much thought your brother put into it before telling you and your parents?

My parents made a point of letting us both know they would love us no matter what we chose.

This I believe was in part because they knew (or suspected) my Brother was homosexual from a young age, and felt it would make it easier for him.

However, my Brother still felt he could only tell my Mum, and asked her to let me and my Dad know, he didn't want to talk about it because he was embarrassed. I however felt it was important to tell him I loved him and broke the ice immediately. I think it was the right thing to do.

This only further strengthens your argument about just how many people tell their parents. My brother and I was fortunate to be raised in such a loving environment, and he still struggled with it. Although, I kinda pretty much knew much much earlier than when he let me know through my Mum.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

i must admit i think i should be having an easier time refuting it.

Well, I suppose it's logical in terms of maths, statistics or whatever. But emotionally and in terms of depth of character it's a pretty dumb argument. Avoiding enlightenment purposefully? lol...

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

i'll be honest, if you had tried to make the point without giving a touching example of someone close to you, i probably wouldn't have thought the argument was worth much.

that is probably more my fault than anything else.

I too am guilty of assuming the worst in people. I often think people hide behind arguments that actually hold no stock in themselves, just to avoid saying what they really feel.

I'm glad you can see that I am speaking truthfully, and not just giving possible reasons for the sake of arguing.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 18:44:06 GMT

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As to whether homosexuality may beget more homosexuality:

In my experience, which when it comes to people who've been abused, which is regrettably extensive, as well as with people who've had happier lives, I've found that sexuality cannot be "learned", enforced, or changed. It is most definately innate.

@WubWub:

As to being made fun of for having same-sex parents, children at school are made fun of for any reason whatsoever. That's a sad fact of life. My repsonse (to bullies in general) often used to relate to how my parents were still in a happy marriage. School includes a pointless game of one-up-manship, it's nothing new.

Are you sure all children need a male rolemodel? I know someone whose father was a drug-taking psychopath who murdered someone in front of her... I wouldn't want her following his lead... (Oh, BTW, she's heterosexual, despite having this negative male influence in her life...)

General point:

Good parents (of either sexuality) should not be concerned for which gender their children (adopted or not) express a preference for (or indeed either gender), but should be concerned with their children being happy in whatever relationship(s) they find.

I'm not homosexual (despite what JohnDoe (probably) thinks) but I could easily tell my parents I was, and there wouldn't be a problem. I guess I'm lucky. I remember when my cousin "came out" as being a lesbian, and my Mum said "What bothers us is that you felt you couldn't tell us."

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 18:50:27 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 17:42You say beliefs shouldn't be considered... does that

include if they were neo-nazis, for example? Or, to take a more likely (and more relevant) case, if they are a member of an organisation with a policy and history of systematically protecting child rapists from the law and permitting them to continue raping the children in their care? Isn't membership of an organisation as evil as that worth consideration?

No, their beliefs still should not be considered. If you start disallowing services to people of certain groups or beliefs, then you are:

1. Doing the exact same thing that Christians are doing against homosexuals.
2. Giving Christians ammunition for arguments concerning why their way of thinking is correct.

It does not matter what group or party or orientation the would-be parents are. If you take another look at the list of priorities I made, you will notice that I said that the child's safety and future should be made first priority. If said organization is indeed into such heinous acts against children, then it stands to reason that they won't meet the qualifications for the first priority that I laid out.

No one should be disallowed a service based on some superficial appearance. They have to be physically proven to actually be either a bad influence or just a bad parent living in poor conditions. And even after a child has been adopted, there should be like a weekly or monthly visit from a child-service agent to check up on the child for at least the first year.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 21:34:18 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 02:43 Christianity is automatically given a whole block of seats in Parliament. 20-something of them, I believe. (There's never ever been a vote about this - it was set up when the king ran the show and elections were never even thought of.) We the people can vote for one MP for our region, as opposed to Americans who can vote for a senator and a congress member...

And despite all this, despite the fact it's got all this land (which it didn't buy... it was given it by the monarchy), despite the fact it doesn't pay taxes, despite its dodgy financial dealings, it's still financially fucked and it's still always begging the taxpayer to pull it out. Well, I'm sorry, but if a company is doing as badly as that, then going belly-up would be a mercy. I don't see the Archbishop of Canterbury offering to sell either of his two palaces, for example, and living somewhere a little more modest. And this is a man who loves, absolutely loves to lecture we Brits on the dangers of "materialism", which is the best knock at atheism he can think of. That's right - he's basically the CEO of a company which insists on not paying taxes, which has very shady investment practices, which is if not the biggest landowner in the country must come pretty close, and he himself has two palaces both funded by the taxpayer. By comparison, I don't aspire to great wealth or extravagant possessions - give me my basic human rights, the freedom to live my life unharrassed and the freedom to examine and question the world, and to write and play my music, and I'm happy. Who's the materialistic one here, I wonder?

Nicely written summary... I think that's way too much involvement in government. I wish you didn't have to put up with that every day.

I don't really have any other comment here, unless you want one.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 02:43 What about children, what do you tell them about Christianity?

As for the blasphemy law, well, as ridiculous and immoral as blasphemy laws are, it's in line with Christian teaching. Blasphemy is very sternly prohibited in the Bible, is it not?

We teach our Children the faith, yes - that's how I was taught - but we don't go overboard with it, although I suppose the term is open to interpretation. That Jesus camp video posted awhile ago - We'd never do anything like that. My parents took me to church and taught me the religion and that's basically it. I could stop going right now if I wanted to and they probably wouldn't put up much of a fight, maybe a discussion at most.

What do you mean by blasphemy being prohibited? If I'm reading you right, then I see no problem if someone mouths off about Christianity - I can't make them believe, and I wouldn't badmouth atheism or other back at the person.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 02:43 I am perfectly happy to recognise the differences between the innumerable flavours of Christianity, so long as they don't deny the similarities (which tend to outnumber the differences)

True. As far as I know, there are only a few differences separating Church of Christ and Baptists, mainly the "no-baptism" and "faith-only" beliefs they have (which is why they're a larger group, I suspect).

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 02:43 This seems a rather contradictory position.

It's hard to explain. Abortion might be a good example... when abortion was legalized in some states of the US, we fought the passage of the law because we don't believe abortion is right. But I would not physically attempt to stop someone from getting an abortion, neither would I attack the clinic, as I've heard some do before.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 22:53:53 GMT

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reborn wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 13:41 Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40 as for whether it's justified, well, it would be difficult to know in advance for sure how your parents would react if you told them you were gay. i wonder how much thought your brother put into it before telling you and your parents?

My parents made a point of letting us both know they would love us no matter what we chose. This I believe was in part because they knew (or suspected) my Brother was homosexual from a young age, and felt it would make it easier for him. However, my Brother still felt he could only tell my Mum, and asked her to let me and my Dad know, he didn't want to talk about it because he was embarrassed. I however felt it was important

to tell him I loved him and broke the ice immediately. I think it was the right thing to do. This only further strengthens your argument about just how many people tell their parents. My brother and I was fortunate to be raised in such a loving environment, and he still struggled with it. yeah, exactly. he was fortunate to have understanding parents and a great brother. you say he suffered a lot over his sexuality - imagine how much worse it would have been for him if his family, the only people in the world who you ought to be able to expect to love you for who you are, had been less tolerant of homosexuality.

i'm sure a lot of people aren't so lucky.

there are a distressing number of parents, particularly christians in the US (though it happens here too) who think that homosexuality ought to be and can be cured through counselling, and send their kids there. i think that this is the worst thing a parent can do in the situation. the kid knows he's gay and isn't going to magically become straight, and in response to all the bullying he may have suffered from ignorant kids at school, he's basically getting the message that: you're tempted to an immoral lifestyle, you're the one here who needs to change your ways, not the pricks who pick on you.

sure, the parents probably have good intentions but i still think it's the last thing the child needs to hear.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 11:40

i must admit i think i should be having an easier time refuting it.

Well, I suppose it's logical in terms of maths, statistics or whatever. But emotionally and in terms of depth of character it's a pretty dumb argument. Avoiding enlightenment purposefully? lol...

just saying that your argument wasn't really any different than the one put forward earlier, i.e. the only real objection is that the kid is more likely to be picked on.

my initial reaction to it was basically that we just need to combat homophobia (and you don't do that by taking the child aside and saying these bullies are basically justified in having a go at you every day), and that kids bully each other for all sorts of reasons. it wasn't until you gave a very moving example that it gave me pause.

CarrierII wroteAs to whether homosexuality may beget more homosexuality:

In my experience, which when it comes to people who've been abused, which is regrettably extensive, as well as with people who've had happier lives, I've found that sexuality cannot be "learned", enforced, or changed. It is most definately innate.

no shit. the quickest response to anybody who is confused as to whether sexuality is a choice or not is to tell them simply to ask a gay person, preferably one who's your friend already so you don't come across as hostile.

Quote:@WubWub:

As to being made fun of for having same-sex parents, children at school are made fun of for any reason whatsoever. That's a sad fact of life. My response (to bullies in general) often used to relate to how my parents were still in a happy marriage. School includes a pointless game of one-up-manship, it's nothing new.

Good one. Quite cheap, but it's a good response.

R315r4z0r wrote

No, their beliefs still should not be considered. If you start disallowing services to people of certain groups or beliefs, then you are:

1. Doing the exact same thing that Christians are doing against homosexuals.
2. Giving Christians ammunition for arguments concerning why their way of thinking is correct.

It does not matter what group or party or orientation the would-be parents are. If you take another look at the list of priorities I made, you will notice that I said that the child's safety and future should be made first priority. If said organization is indeed into such heinous acts against children, then it stands to reason that they won't meet the qualifications for the first priority that I laid out. It was basically a rhetorical answer. The real issue is that this condemnation of homosexuality in regards to the welfare of children is coming from an organisation whose policy and track record of the children in its care is about as bad as it gets. I wasn't really talking about a catholic couple being about to adopt a kid; that should be fine. I'm talking about the fact that a catholic group (an adoption agency, a school) ought to be given authority over kids' welfare at all should be quite alarming, and yet it has enormous control.

Altzan wrote Nicely written summary... I think that's way too much involvement in government. I wish you didn't have to put up with that every day.

I don't really have any other comment here, unless you want one.

I'm curious to hear your response to what I said about religions having control over schools.

Quote: We teach our Children the faith, yes - that's how I was taught - but we don't go overboard with it, although I suppose the term is open to interpretation. That Jesus camp video posted awhile ago - We'd never do anything like that. My parents took me to church and taught me the religion and that's basically it. I could stop going right now if I wanted to and they probably wouldn't put up much of a fight, maybe a discussion at most.

That's what I thought. How objectively did they "teach you the faith"? For example, did they teach it as though it were revealed truth? Did they tell you right from the start that there's no evidence at all that the judeo-christian/islamic god even exists, let alone that this book and this religion is a reflection on what he expects of us? Did they point out to you that the book itself can't even get its own story straight? Did they tell you right from the start that there are all these other religions, as well as the possibility of living your life without one? (They probably had to say that two particular religions - Islam and Mormonism - are specifically untrue, because if they were true then you can't really avoid converting to them away from Christianity). Did they tell you the absolutely incalculable damage that the various flavours of Christianity have caused? Just off the top of my head... persecution of other religions every time it thought it could get away with it, two thousand years of horrific anti-semitism and anti-gay people, violently standing in the way of scientific progress, the crusades, the inquisition, willing tool of imperialism and of a huge list of dictators throughout the ages, enthusiastic ally of fascism in Europe, and the enormous death toll it's helped to rack up by assisting the spread of AIDS by absurd rules on condoms, especially in Africa?

If they didn't tell you all that, then you weren't taught fairly.

And here's something that you may have been taught: were you at any point told that "faith" is a good thing?

Quote: What do you mean by blasphemy being prohibited? If I'm reading you right, then I see no

problem if someone mouths off about Christianity - I can't make them believe, and I wouldn't badmouth atheism or other back at the person.

when I say blasphemy is prohibited, i refer to the stern warnings in the bible that your god isn't going to put up with it. the death penalty is mentioned a few times. this would appear to be a "sin", then (as is worshipping a different god, or having doubts about your god)

Quote:It's hard to explain. Abortion might be a good example... when abortion was legalized in some states of the US, we fought the passage of the law because we don't believe abortion is right. But I would not physically attempt to stop someone from getting an abortion, neither would I attack the clinic, as I've heard some do before.

actually, abortion isn't a good example of what i meant, because there are genuine arguments against abortion. when i say genuine argument i mean something better than "god doesn't want this happening", which is a totally meaningless statement until you've proven that -a- your god exists, -b- he does indeed feel that way, and then you still have to make the case that what he wants is more important than democracy.

no, i'm talking about things like homosexuality, blasphemy, dietary requirements etc, for which the genuine secular case against them has yet to be made. if these are things that your religion doesn't like, then you avoid doing them yourself, leave the rest of us alone and the town is big enough for the both of us, hmmm?

sadly that's not the case with so many religious people, and your statement implied that it's the same sort of thing with you... i.e. if it's a "sin" then you ought to fight to keep it banned.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 23:57:12 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53i'm curious to hear your response to what i said about religions having control over schools.

I don't think religious schools work well, or at all - a school implies they are teaching fact, whereas religion is a belief that another may not share. So school and religion don't really mix. If anything, everyone should have a choice as to whether or not they want to attend.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53That's what I thought. How objectively did they "teach you the faith"? For example, did they teach it as though it were revealed truth? Did they tell you right from the start that there's no evidence at all that the judeo-christian/islamic god even exists, let alone that this book and this religion is a reflection on what he expects of us? Did they point out to you that the book itself can't even get its own story straight? Did they tell you right from the start that there are all these other religions, as well as the possibility of living your life without one? (They probably had to say that two particular religions - Islam and Mormonism - are specifically untrue, because if they were true then you can't really avoid converting to them away from Christianity). Did they tell you the absolutely incalculable damage that the various flavours of Christianity have caused? Just off the top of my head... persecution of other religions every time it thought it could get away with it, two thousand years of horrific anti-semitism and anti-gay people, violently standing in the way of scientific progress, the crusades, the inquisition, willing tool of

imperialism and of a huge list of dictators throughout the ages, enthusiastic ally of fascism in europe, and the enormous death toll it's helped to rack up by assisting the spread of AIDS by absurd rules on condoms, especially in africa?

if they didn't tell you all that, then you weren't taught fairly.

If I had to learn all that first, I'd be too overwhelmed to make an informed decision.

The only time it can be taught 'fair' is if you learn it all for yourself, because it's obvious that if anyone teaches you, they'll present their own biased view along with it.

Also, I have to point out that all that horrible occurrences you mentioned are committed by men.

It's unfair to blame it all on the religion when it's the people's fault, who want to pin all of it on their religion and saying they were commanded to do so, when they often weren't.

If I were present at any of the above listed persecution or tyranny, I'd be actively against it as well.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53 and here's something that you may have been taught: were you at any point told that "faith" is a good thing?

Seeing as how most, if not all, religions are based on faith, then yes.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53 when I say blasphemy is prohibited, i refer to the stern warnings in the bible that your god isn't going to put up with it. the death penalty is mentioned a few times. this would appear to be a "sin", then (as is worshipping a different god, or having doubts about your god)

Blasphemy = sin, then? We don't act against sinners. We believe God will, so I'm guessing that's where the problem lies. There are apparently a lot of people in Christianity who want to take God's judgment and wield it themselves against others.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53 actually, abortion isn't a good example of what i meant, because there are genuine arguments against abortion. when i say genuine argument i mean something better than "god doesn't want this happening", which is a totally meaningless statement until you've proven that -a- your god exists, -b- he does indeed feel that way, and then you still have to make the case that what he wants is more important than democracy.

no, i'm talking about things like homosexuality, blasphemy, dietary requirements etc, for which the genuine secular case against them has yet to be made. if these are things that your religion doesn't like, then you avoid doing them yourself, leave the rest of us alone and the town is big enough for the both of us, hmmm?

sadly that's not the case with so many religious people, and your statement implied that it's the same sort of thing with you... i.e. if it's a "sin" then you ought to fight to keep it banned.

I'd be against it just as much as a non-believer who is also against homosexuality would be. I'm talking in terms of letting our voices be heard. If I don't believe homosexuality is right, I'll stand up and say so, same as those who don't think a religion is right will stand up and say so.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 00:55:30 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 17:57I don't think religious schools work well, or at all - a school implies they are teaching fact, whereas religion is a belief that another may not share. So school and religion don't really mix.

If anything, everyone should have a choice as to whether or not they want to attend.

and should this not apply to parents too? would it not also make sense for parents not to fill the head of a child with religion before they're old enough to think critically about it?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53If I had to learn all that first, I'd be too overwhelmed to make an informed decision.

but you can't make an informed decision without it, can you?

furthermore, is belief really a "decision"? most christian sects say that you will suffer the most horrific punishment imaginable if you believe the wrong thing, or to phrase it differently, if you don't believe the right thing. well, i could make an outward display of christianity. i could pretend i believed all this, i could probably fool anyone who took the time to wonder what my religious beliefs were, but if this god of yours can see and know everything including the contents of our minds, then i wouldn't be fooling god and i wouldn't be avoiding hell. what i can't do is flick a switch and make myself believe any of this, it's not the way the mind works, or at least not the way my mind works.

Quote:The only time it can be taught 'fair' is if you learn it all for yourself, because it's obvious that if anyone teaches you, they'll present their own biased view along with it.

then see above re: protecting kids from it.

i'm an adult. you preach to me as much as you like, you present your case for believing what you believe and why you think it would be a good idea for me to believe it too, i would never tell you to shut up and i don't want anyone else telling you on my behalf. but i'm old enough to think critically, to hear a thing from someone and recognise that it might not be true, they might be mistaken or they might be plain lying, it might not be exactly as they say it is, it's worth asking why they think it or how they think they know it, etc etc etc, as well as what the implications are.

it's not the same for children. they're taught to take in what their parents and teachers say. without that idea, education falls apart.

Quote:Also, I have to point out that all that horrible occurrences you mentioned are committed by men. It's unfair to blame it all on the religion when it's the people's fault, who want to pin all of it on their religion and saying they were commanded to do so, when they often weren't.

If I were present at any of the above listed persecution or tyranny, I'd be actively against it as well. firstly, i did not include events done by people who simply happened to be christian. that would be unfair. only when christianity had a real part in influencing the actions.

if you'd like to hear a justification for any of the examples i mentioned, feel free to challenge any of these and i'll defend them. here are all the ones i cited off the top of my head:

- two thousand years of horrific anti-semitism and anti-gay people

- violently standing in the way of scientific progress
- the crusades
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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53Quote:and here's something that you may have been taught: were you at any point told that "faith" is a good thing?

Seeing as how most, if not all, religions are based on faith, then yes.
So what's "faith" (i'm just checking that your definition is the same as mine), and why is it a good thing?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53Blasphemy = sin, then?
i'm sorry, but you speak as someone who is not familiar with your bible. the depiction of god is as a ruthless maniac at the best of times, but the things that really, really piss him off the most are worshipping other gods, having doubts about him, and blaspheming him.

Quote:We don't act against sinners. We believe God will, so I'm guessing that's where the problem lies.
Two questions, then.

1. Why oppose other things that are "sins" being made legal, if you believe God's going to sort it out? That's what you said earlier.
2. Are you OK with the belief that God will act against it? Myself, for example? If your religion is true then I've got a bit of trouble ahead; you've alluded to it yourself. Do you approve of that?

Quote:There are apparently a lot of people in Christianity who want to take God's judgment and wield it themselves against others.
And how exactly can you fault them? My case against them is pretty straightforward - i don't think the god's real, i think that even if the god is real it would not mean that this book is anything to do with him, and i think a lot of the rules are bullshit anyway. I'm curious to hear what your objection to that is if you do believe in god, if you do believe that the bible is a good reflection of what he expects of us.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 16:53I'd be against it just as much as a non-believer who is also against homosexuality would be.
Really? Most non-believers who are against homosexuality generally just don't want to do it themselves. They don't want to restrict the rights of those who are homosexual, and they don't insist on filling the minds of children with homophobia in schools, and those are the real problems.

Quote:I'm talking in terms of letting our voices be heard. If I don't believe homosexuality is right, I'll stand up and say so, same as those who don't think a religion is right will stand up and say so. and i absolutely defend your right to say that.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 05:02:26 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 and should this not apply to parents too? would it not also make sense for parents not to fill the head of a child with religion before they're old enough to think critically about it?

It makes sense, yes. Unfortunately, I don't think the chances of that will rise anytime soon.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 but you can't make an informed decision without it, can you?

Nope. But I have yet to meet or hear of a parent who will give all this info before asking their child to make a decision.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 furthermore, is belief really a "decision"? most christian sects say that you will suffer the most horrific punishment imaginable if you believe the wrong thing, or to phrase it differently, if you don't believe the right thing. well, i could make an outward display of christianity. i could pretend i believed all this, i could probably fool anyone who took the time to wonder what my religious beliefs were, but if this god of yours can see and know everything including the contents of our minds, then i wouldn't be fooling god and i wouldn't be avoiding hell. what i can't do is flick a switch and make myself believe any of this, it's not the way the mind works, or at least not the way my mind works.

Why would it not be a decision? You've seen arguments on both sides and you've decided what you want to believe. That's a decision on your part, and you can't 'flip a switch' because it's considered an important decision, therefore you won't change your mind without heavy consideration.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 then see above re: protecting kids from it.

i'm an adult. you preach to me as much as you like, you present your case for believing what you believe and why you think it would be a good idea for me to believe it too, i would never tell you to shut up and i don't want anyone else telling you on my behalf. but i'm old enough to think critically, to hear a thing from someone and recognise that it might not be true, they might be mistaken or they might be plain lying, it might not be exactly as they say it is, it's worth asking why they think it or how they think they know it, etc etc etc, as well as what the implications are.

it's not the same for children. they're taught to take in what their parents and teachers say. without that idea, education falls apart.

Very true.

I'm curious - if you were to have a child of your own, what method would you use to teach him what theories there are about the origin of man and Earth while being neutral?

I'm not asking for a huge explanation. But you support the idea of letting a child become old enough to understand that there are many ideas and theories out there, and allow them to decide for themselves.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 firstly, i did not include events done by people who simply happened to be christian. that would be unfair. only when christianity had a real part in influencing the actions.

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- enthusiastic ally of fascism in europe
- the enormous death toll it's helped to rack up by assisting the spread of AIDS by absurd rules on condoms, especially in africa

I can tell by the list that you know your history. I do not possess such knowledge (yet). If you want to defend a few, go ahead, but I won't pick and choose myself.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 So what's "faith" (i'm just checking that your definition is the same as mine), and why is it a good thing?

Hebrews 1:11

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (KJV)

I know that you don't consider faith to be good enough, that you want proof before belief. I respect that decision.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 i'm sorry, but you speak as someone who is not familiar with your bible. the depiction of god is as a ruthless maniac at the best of times, but the things that really, really piss him off the most are worshipping other gods, having doubts about him, and blaspheming him.

In the Old Testament, he was active against those who didn't believe. This was mainly because he was giving them proof he existed. For example, he threw 12 plagues at Pharaoh to convince him to let the Israelites go. Not too long later, Moses goes up Mt. Sinai to talk with God, and they build and start worshipping a golden cow. They knew for a fact he existed, but were against him just the same.

(Note that I speak in context of the Bible, in token with your examples being pulled from the Bible as well.)

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 1. Why oppose other things that are "sins" being made legal, if you believe God's going to sort it out? That's what you said earlier.

2. Are you OK with the belief that God will act against it? Myself, for example? If your religion is true then I've got a bit of trouble ahead; you've alluded to it yourself. Do you approve of that?

1. Because I don't think they're morally right. We've seen many cases where a person hears what we have to say and genuinely is interested to learn about it - but they shy away later, because

they have this one 'pet sin' (homosexuality, drinking, fornication, etc) that they are too attached to and would rather take the easy road.

2. I don't see why a God should pander to those who refuse to believe in him. If you decide he doesn't exist, I won't bang my head on the wall trying to change your mind (I'd make some effort, but not an overbearing one). But why should he cater to those who disregard him?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 And how exactly can you fault them? My case against them is pretty straightforward - i don't think the god's real, i think that even if the god is real it would not mean that this book is anything to do with him, and i think a lot of the rules are bullshit anyway. I'm curious to hear what your objection to that is if you do believe in god, if you do believe that the bible is a good reflection of what he expects of us.

I don't have an objection to your belief. Unlike others, I won't persecute you because you don't believe in God, even if I had the power to.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 Really? Most non-believers who are against homosexuality generally just don't want to do it themselves. They don't want to restrict the rights of those who are homosexual, and they don't insist on filling the minds of children with homophobia in schools, and those are the real problems.

Bad wording on my part, then. Look to my earlier comment on 'pet sins'.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 and i absolutely defend your right to say that.

Good to know

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 05:57:39 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:02 Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 and should this not apply to parents too? would it not also make sense for parents not to fill the head of a child with religion before they're old enough to think critically about it?

It makes sense, yes. Unfortunately, I don't think the chances of that will rise anytime soon. it's good to hear a religious person who agrees with this view.

Quote: Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55 but you can't make an informed decision without it, can you?

Nope. But I have yet to meet or hear of a parent who will give all this info before asking their child to make a decision.
says it all, really, doesn't it?

Quote: Why would it not be a decision? You've seen arguments on both sides and you've decided what you want to believe. That's a decision on your part, and you can't 'flip a switch' because it's considered an important decision, therefore you won't change your mind without heavy

consideration.

see above re: not how the mind works. finding something believable or finding something incredible really isn't a 'decision'.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55Very true.

I'm curious - if you were to have a child of your own, what method would you use to teach him what theories there are about the origin of man and Earth while being neutral?

I'm not asking for a huge explanation. But you support the idea of letting a child become old enough to understand that there are many ideas and theories out there, and allow them to decide for themselves.

well, i don't want kids of my own but i'll answer anyway. this would also apply to educational policies.

nothing religious, nothing that is dependent on 'faith' belongs in a science class. certainly you can tell people that a lot of people believe the genesis story, for example, just so long as you point out that we don't know who even wrote it, when, why, and how they knew what to write. and on that basis, and the fact there's no evidence at all to support the writing, it does not qualify as a "theory", as for example the big bang and evolution do.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55I can tell by the list that you know your history. I do not possess such knowledge (yet). If you want to defend a few, go ahead, but I won't pick and choose myself.

there's no need so long as you acknowledge that christianity does have a bad side. i expect that even if you aren't convinced of everything on my list, you're probably nodding at a couple of them. and if you're really teaching someone about the religion, it's only fair to include the bad bits as well as the good, the way the religion behaved when it really had power.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55So what's "faith" (i'm just checking that your definition is the same as mine), and why is it a good thing?

Hebrews 1:11

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (KJV)

I thought you'd say that. I have no idea why people can't see what a really, really stupid sentence it is.

Evidence simply means seen, something observable to support a claim. It's a completely nonsensical statement.

I generally hear faith to mean the willingness to believe something without proof, and I've never, ever, ever heard why that would be a good thing. Especially since it's usually applied to propositions that, if they were true, would have enormous consequences - things like heaven and hell. So someone says: he'd make a good president because he's a person of faith. You're telling me he's willing to believe extremely important things without having a good reason to believe them? I can't imagine why anyone considers faith a good thing other than the fact they've been told it is. But I'm about to take this in a different direction... read on.

Quote:I know that you don't consider faith to be good enough, that you want proof before belief. I respect that decision.

It's not that simple. Someone trustworthy tells me they went to the supermarket yesterday, no proof is required.

Here's a claim.

The one true god has actually provided an update since Christianity, through a series of revelations involving a prophet in the 7th/8th century. The holy books arising from this revelation make it clear that the only way to heaven now is to follow the new religion, and those people who stay Christian are going to end up in hell with all the other infidels.

I assume you don't believe that this is true, that you are not convinced that the Prophet Mohammed actually was the real deal. So I'm not the only one who wants proof before believing certain things. Have a good think about why it is you don't believe this.

Quote: In the Old Testament, he was active against those who didn't believe. This was mainly because he was giving them proof he existed. For example, he threw 12 plagues at Pharaoh to convince him to let the Israelites go. Not too long later, Moses goes up Mt. Sinai to talk with God, and they build and start worshipping a golden calf. They knew for a fact he existed, but were against him just the same.

He also instructed his followers that if they find a city containing people who worship other gods, that everyone in the city ought to be slaughtered. Everyone in the city.

The same objection can be made to the two examples you mention. Pharaoh and the plagues. Specifically the death of the first-born.

The slaughter of innocent children as punishment for the crime of their dictator. Well, why not just kill Pharaoh? Why kill innocent people? Same could probably be said for the golden calf; Moses instructs every man to kill his brother, etc etc etc. They were all worshipping the golden calf, were they? And is it really just to have half the men slaughtered and the other half turned into executioners?

But hey, I don't regard the Bible as being a good source of morals, nor do I have any particular reason to think that any of the stories are true, so these aren't problems from my perspective.

(Note that I speak in context of the Bible, in token with your examples being pulled from the Bible as well.)

Quote: 1. Because I don't think they're morally right. We've seen many cases where a person hears what we have to say and genuinely is interested to learn about it - but they shy away later, because they have this one 'pet sin' (homosexuality, drinking, fornication, etc) that they are too attached to and would rather take the easy road.

Well, I don't think there is anything wrong with homosexuality. I'm not attached to that, but I see the right of gay people to live their lives unharrassed under the same laws as the rest of us as a basic human right, as is free speech (see blasphemy laws). I'm not attached to a homosexual lifestyle, I'm attached to basic human rights. As for taking the easy road, I personally think turning over all moral decisions to a book would count as an easy road instead of using our brains to actually think about actions, which are wrong, and why they're wrong, such as whether they actually cause suffering or not.

Quote:2. I don't see why a God should pander to those who refuse to believe in him. If you decide he doesn't exist, I won't bang my head on the wall trying to change your mind (I'd make some effort, but not an overbearing one). But why should he cater to those who disregard him? Firstly, it's not a case of God "not doing you any favours then". We're told that he will visit appalling punishments upon us. That's not simply god deciding he's not going to give me any more pocket money.

Secondly, if disregarding him and thinking he doesn't exist makes him angry, he should have taken the time to come up with a less ridiculously incompetent revelation.

Thirdly, what kind of moral system is this? You said religions depend on faith (and you probably didn't realise what a deathblow you dealt when you said that). Here's an extraordinary claim, we aren't going to show you any evidence, you've got to decide it's true and you'll be horribly punished if you've got your doubts? What the fuck?

Quote:I don't have an objection to your belief. Unlike others, I won't persecute you because you don't believe in God, even if I had the power to.

Yeah, but my question was how are you going to say that these other people are doing anything wrong if they did try that?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [raven](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 06:02:45 GMT

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I find it absolutely appalling that the Churches have this much influence over governments. Religion has no place in the lawmaking and decision-making bodies of today's governments.

I also see this as not a step backwards from acceptance of homosexuality, but a step towards homosexuality becoming illegal again. I'm gay. Does that mean I can't do things as well as someone who is straight? Does it mean that I can't raise a child with all the love and support it needs? Does it mean I can't be a role model for the child? Quite frankly, I could probably do a better job than a lot of straight couples could. Would this mean a child might grow up to be a homosexual because his/her parents are? Probably not. I am a firm believer that homosexuality is something that you are born with, it's NOT a choice. I didn't choose this lifestyle.. who would? It's hard to live as a homosexual. Although more people are open minded nowadays, it's still seen as taboo in a lot of places.

I could go on for pages on this subject so I'll stop there. Just giving my view on this :>

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Kimb](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 07:40:07 GMT

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raven wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 00:02:I'm gay.
You're gay?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [raven](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 07:46:05 GMT

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Kimb wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 01:40: raven wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 00:02: I'm gay.
You're gay?

I do believe that's what I said. Does it matter?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Kimb](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 08:34:25 GMT

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raven wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 01:46: Kimb wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 01:40: raven wrote on
Fri, 19 March 2010 00:02: I'm gay.
You're gay?

I do believe that's what I said. Does it matter?
nope, just checking

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 08:58:48 GMT

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Kimb wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 03:34
I do believe that's what I said. Does it matter?
nope, just checking[/quote]

LOL, you have a book of who's gay and who isn't or something?

Raven, as a gay man, do you believe that you're either born homosexual, or not, and that's the
only possibility?
Or is there any room to become homosexual due to environment?

I believe you already answered that quite clearly already, but I just want to make sure.

I have always believed that people can be born homosexual, and this probably makes up for most
of all homosexuals, no doubt. However, I also am inclined to think that people can become
homosexual due to environment. Is this at least plausible, or in fact insulting to even suggest?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 09:31:11 GMT

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reborn wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 02:58LOL, you have a book of who's gay and who isn't or something? Razz

Raven, as a gay man, do you believe that you're either born homosexual, or not, and that's the only possibility?

Or is there any room to become homosexual due to environment?

I believe you already answered that quite clearly already, but I just want to make sure.

I have always believed that people can be born homosexual, and this probably makes up for most of all homosexuals, no doubt. However, I also am inclined to think that people can become homosexual due to environment. Is this at least plausible, or infact insulting to even suggest?the thing is, IT DOESNT FUCKING MATTER EITHER WAY.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 09:33:02 GMT

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I'll pre-empt the response, by quoting myself:

Quote:

Sexuality is innate.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 11:34:13 GMT

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raven wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 00:02I find it absolutely appalling that the Churches have this much influence over governments. Religion has no place in the lawmaking and decision-making bodies of todays governments.

I also see this as not a step backwards from acceptance of homosexuality, but a step towards homosexuality becoming illegal again. I'm gay. Does that mean I can't do things as well as someone who is straight? Does it mean that I can't raise a child with all the love and support it needs? Does it mean I can't be a role model for the child? Quite frankly, I could probably do a better job than a lot of straight couples could. Would this mean a child might grow up to be a homosexual because his/her parents are? Probably not. I am a firm believer that homosexuality is something that you are born with, it's NOT a choice. I didn't choose this lifestyle.. who would? It's hard to live as a homosexual. Although more people are open minded nowadays, its still seen as taboo in a lot of places.

I could go on for pages on this subject so I'll stop there. Just giving my view on this :>
mmhmm ^^

i think that not only is there little reason to think that a homosexual adult would be a worse parent than a heterosexual, there's one particular quality in which a homosexual parent is probably going to do better.

take the chance that the child is homosexual. not at all a small chance, i'm not sure what the figures are. everyone ought to read reborn's posts earlier on, for a real story about real suffering homosexual people often put up with, but reborn's brother was very lucky in that he had understanding parents and brother. well, a lot of people are actively homophobic, and let's be honest, homosexuals are not going to give someone grief for being gay, are they? heterosexuals might well do that, even to their kids, especially if they're religious.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Kimb](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 11:36:29 GMT

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rebornKimb wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 09:58Raven wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 03:34

I do believe thats what I said. Does it matter?

nope, just checking

LOL, you have a book of who's gay and who isn't or something?

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@your fail quote, what i ment, is that i was just cheking if he ment it, or if it was an example

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 14:08:48 GMT

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Kimb wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 06:36@your fail quote, what i ment, is that i was just cheking if he ment it, or if it was an example

I put a pokey out tongue at the end of the sentence to make light of the comment.
I wasn't really trying to suggest you are busy catalogueing everyones sexual preference on renegade forums. It was just humour.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [raven](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 19:17:09 GMT

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reborn wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 02:58Kimb wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 03:34
nope, just checking

LOL, you have a book of who's gay and who isn't or something?

Raven, as a gay man, do you believe that you're either born homosexual, or not, and that's the only possibility?

Or is there any room to become homosexual due to environment?

I believe you already answered that quite clearly already, but I just want to make sure.

I have always believed that people can be born homosexual, and this probably makes up for most of all homosexuals, no doubt. However, I also am inclined to think that people can become homosexual due to environment. Is this at least plausible, or infact insulting to even suggest?

I believe that you are born as either gay or straight (or both) and that is indeed the only possibility.

Environment may influence a choice one makes, to try and experiment in different types of relationships, but at the end of the day you are born as you are born and nothing can change that.

It's not insulting to suggest; solid scientific evidence or research hasn't been done in this area that I am aware of so its perfectly fine for people to hypothesize

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 19:26:16 GMT

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I don't really buy into the "you're born homosexual" thing, but obviously they're not pretending either.

I think of it being like discovering you have a new sexual fetish- you weren't necessarily "born" with it, but you're hardly faking it when you enjoy it.

That being said, if anything, an environment makes you LESS likely to be homosexual- considering how overly homophobic society is, and all.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [reborn](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 20:43:15 GMT

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I suppose to suggest that if a heterosexual can become homosexual due to environment, then it would also suggest that a homosexual can become heterosexual due to environment also. I don't think the latter is possible, so therefore the former must not be possible either.

Then again, look at religion and how parents affect children in this regard. Islam anyone?

I am using this example because it demonstrates so clearly the affect parents have on their children, please understand I am not trying to suggest that homosexuals go around trying to brainwash young children.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 21:53:39 GMT

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Don't mention Islam in a thread that Spoonly is likely to read, let alone one he started... lol

Yes, but sexuality cannot be "learned", enforced or changed.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2010 02:37:53 GMT

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Spoonly wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57there's no need so long as you acknowledge that christianity does have a bad side. i expect that even if you aren't convinced of everything on my list, you're probably nodding at a couple of them. and if you're really teaching someone about the religion, it's only fair to include the bad bits as well as the good, the way the religion behaved when it really had power.

But I still want to know why it's Christianity's fault for most of these - take a look at what happened, what these people did, and I'll see if there's anyplace in the Bible where they were commanded to do them. And I'm talking New Testament here, not the fools who think the Old Testament is still in power and sacrifices are still demanded and whatnot.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 I thought you'd say that. I have no idea why people can't see what a really, really stupid sentence it is.

Evidence simply means seen, something observable to support a claim. It's a completely nonsensical statement.

I generally hear faith to mean the willingness to believe something without proof, and I've never, ever, ever heard why that would be a good thing. Especially since it's usually applied to propositions that, if they were true, would have enormous consequences - things like heaven and hell. So someone says: he'd make a good president because he's a person of faith. You're telling me he's willing to believe extremely important things without having a good reason to believe them? I can't imagine why anyone considers faith a good thing other than the fact they've been told it is.

The religion isn't bound to pure blind faith. The problem is that our faith is founded on several factors you consider to be theories. (And honestly, theories probably is a good word for them because I can't provide explicit certain proof that, say, the Bible was written by the will of God.)

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 It's not that simple. Someone trustworthy tells me they went to the supermarket yesterday, no proof is required.

Here's a claim.

The one true god has actually provided an update since Christianity, through a series of revelations involving a prophet in the 7th/8th century. The holy books arising from this revelation make it clear that the only way to heaven now is to follow the new religion, and those people who stay Christian are going to end up in hell with all the other infidels.

I assume you don't believe that this is true, that you are not convinced that the Prophet Mohammed actually was the real deal. So I'm not the only one who wants proof before believing certain things. Have a good think about why it is you don't believe this.

Quick answer? The Bible we follow was paved with examples, demonstrations. From Old Testament to Christ. The final version of the Bible that we follow today was finalized shortly after Jesus' death, if I recall correctly. And all up to that point, there were involvements by God and Jesus, and miracles by the apostles.

Mohammed offered nothing like that at all.

But the problem - I didn't see God's message to Mohammed. I also didn't see Jesus himself or the apostles. Our faith, essentially, is built on our ancestor's experiences.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 He also instructed his followers that if they find a city containing people who worship other gods, that everyone in the city ought to be slaughtered. Everyone in the city.

The slaughter of innocent children as punishment for the crime of their dictator. Well, why not just kill Pharaoh? Why kill innocent people? Same could probably be said for the golden calf; Moses instructs every man to kill his brother, etc etc etc. They were all worshipping the golden calf, were

they? And is it really just to have half the men slaughtered and the other half turned into executioners?

They weren't wiped out by God purely for nonbelief. They weren't wiped out by God just because they worshipped false gods, either. They were doing far worse things, such as sacrificing their children to their gods.

As for the children dying - they didn't go to hell. Since they weren't old enough to understand, they went to heaven. If they had lived, though, it would be far worse - they'd have a warped view of what happened that day, and probably rebelled against those people by instinct. Only other option is to let all the people live, and continue their false worship and human sacrifice. Good idea.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 Firstly, it's not a case of God "not doing you any favours then". We're told that he will visit appalling punishments upon us. That's not simply god deciding he's not going to give me any more pocket money.

Okay, but still, why shouldn't he act the way he has promised he will? Are you saying the punishment should be less severe?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 Secondly, if disregarding him and thinking he doesn't exist makes him angry, he should have taken the time to come up with a less ridiculously incompetent revelation.

How is it incompetent?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 Thirdly, what kind of moral system is this? You said religions depend on faith (and you probably didn't realise what a deathblow you dealt when you said that). Here's an extraordinary claim, we aren't going to show you any evidence, you've got to decide it's true and you'll be horribly punished if you've got your doubts? What the fuck?

re: not just faith alone.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57 Yeah, but my question was how are you going to say that these other people are doing anything wrong if they did try that?

Sorry, you lost me...

EDIT: Can I get your opinion on this passage I found?

Quote: Our pre-suppositions can be self-destructive! One is at risk of having built a house on sand. When the rains of existence come down, the house may not stand. We argue that you may have claimed the right to judge the rationality and morality of things. But consider that apart from God you cannot make any of your claims stick beyond your own subjective state. This is so because you cannot explain rationality itself. Why do the laws of logic seem to work? Who says so? Why do we all have moral ideas about right and wrong and the desire to impose them? Why do we expect nature to act uniformly? The skeptic cannot provide a satisfactory explanation for the "why" of the most basic "laws," the very criteria he wants to impose. He has to admit that either he made

them up or that he accepts them on the authority of other finite creatures.

<http://tinyurl.com/yjp4vrX>

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2010 04:46:27 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 20:37 But I still want to know why it's Christianity's fault for most of these - take a look at what happened, what these people did, and I'll see if there's anyplace in the Bible where they were commanded to do them. And I'm talking New Testament here, not the fools who think the Old Testament is still in power and sacrifices are still demanded and whatnot.

firstly, the old testament is no longer in effect, is it? well, Jesus said that every jot and tittle of the old laws must be carried out. the closest I can think of to a repudiation of old testament law is he without sin cast the first stone, which essentially means the law's still there but you can't enforce it.

secondly, I suppose I do have to justify the examples I cited, to explain how Christianity played a credible role in causing such appalling behaviour.

here's the list.

- two thousand years of horrific anti-semitism and anti-gay people

well, the worst anti-semitism throughout history has always come directly from Christianity. in modern times, Islam is catching up fast, but Christianity still takes the gold. Christianity's sole basis for anti-semitism is one line in one of the gospels which says that, at the trial, the Jewish religious authorities actually called for the blood of Christ to be on their heads and on the heads of all successive generations.

any atheist will regard this as immoral bullshit. even if the whole story is true, it's a stupid thing to say. I could claim responsibility for a crime, whether I was guilty of it or not. what I can't do is say "and my children, who haven't been born yet, are guilty of it too, as will be their children, and their children..."

and yet this one line is the root cause of unbelievable anti-semitism throughout the ages in every society where Christianity has ever had power. killing Jesus seems like quite a big crime for a Christian, and according to the Bible, all Jews have that guilt, not just the ones who were involved in the trial and crucifixion.

you probably weren't taught in schools how dangerous it used to be to be Jewish around Easter time most years, including in America. like I said, you never get taught the bad side of religion. when you do, you're told that it was somehow a corruption of religion, of an unscrupulous person deciding that he wanted to do something evil and tried to find a religious passage to help him get away with it...

- violently standing in the way of scientific progress

well, if you take the Christian view that you must believe the right things about God and Jesus otherwise you'll go to hell, and if you really, really believe in hell, you'll do a great deal to stamp out anything that might make people question the religion.

imagine it. imagine you have a child. someone like me who speaks critically of religion, or someone involved in scientific research on the origins of the earth and of the human species... what they say could make your child turn away from christianity. they can make your child liable to suffer the most horrific punishment ever imagined! would this not make us the very worst of criminals, even worse than someone who tried to murder the child, or tried to rape them? would you not do anything to stamp this out? if not, then you probably don't really believe in hell.

- the crusades

see the particular old testament law i cited earlier, about if a city contains people who worship a different god, you must put the entire city and everyone in it to slaughter. keeping that in mind, the bloodshed of the crusades looks rather tame. it must be pointed out that the christians were not the original aggressors - islam had conquered about half the christian world by the time the crusades finally started - but that's hardly a problem for my side of the argument.

- the inquisition

see my above commentary on scientific research.

if believing the wrong thing sends you to hell, then a little torture to set people straight is basically doing them a favour. if you really, really buy the concept of hell, this is the sort of thing you'll do to protect people from it. blasphemy laws are only the beginning.

- willing tool of imperialism and of a huge list of dictators throughout the ages

whenever you read about the great historical european empires, you'll find them to be christian monarchies, or successors to them, in every single case. again, if you really believe in heaven and hell, then taking over some foreign country and converting them to christianity, by force if necessary, would be the kindest thing you could do to them.

- enthusiastic ally of fascism in europe

in every single fascist country in europe leading up to the second world war, and there were a hell of a lot more than just germany and italy, in every single case the fascist powers were either set up directly in collusion with the vatican or the vatican became enthusiastic collaborators with them after they'd taken power. fascism was essentially an exact synonym for "catholic right wing". the very first major treaty hitler signed upon taking power was with the vatican, giving the catholic church all sorts of powers in germany, and that was one of the few treaties hitler didn't break. mussolini did the same in italy, croatia was a catholic puppet state of hitler, salazar was in holy orders, etc etc etc. the last time the catholic church supported a "just war" was when hitler and mussolini helped franco overthrow the spanish republic. the catholic church's relationship with every single fascist country was far stronger than its ties with any non-fascist country. the church even ordered hitler's birthday to be celebrated in churches all over, right up until the very end of nazi germany. even after germany was defeated, the vatican helped numerous nazi war criminals escape to south america.

what about hitler himself? well, when he was rising to power, he said over and over and over again that the reason he hated jews so much was because he was a christian. the bible readily accommodates this, as i've outlined above. he said he was doing god's work in combating the jew, and that resonated with a huge number of christians in germany. hitler didn't just flick a switch and made everyone in germany suddenly hate jews... anti-semitism had been bubbling away under

the surface for two thousand years, thanks to europe's christian history.

- the enormous death toll it's helped to rack up by assisting the spread of AIDS by absurd rules on condoms, especially in africa
well, i'd really love to know the christian justification for spreading lies about the effectiveness of condoms, when millions of africans die of aids every year. in other words, you tell me. i can't figure it out, it doesn't make sense to an atheist, especially since christians generally call themselves pro-life.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 20:37The religion isn't bound to pure blind faith. The problem is that our faith is founded on several factors you consider to be theories. (And honestly, theories probably is a good word for them because I can't provide explicit certain proof that, say, the Bible was written by the will of God.)

Quote:Quick answer? The Bible we follow was paved with examples, demonstrations. From Old Testament to Christ. The final version of the Bible that we follow today was finalized shortly after Jesus' death, If I recall correctly. And all up to that point, there were involvements by God and Jesus, and mmiracles by the apostles.

Mohammed offered nothing like that at all.

But the problem - I didn't see God's message to Mohammed. I also didn't see Jesus himself or the apostles. Our faith, essentially, is built on our ancestor's experiences.
So it's not faith at all, then, is it? It's just you're considering things to be evidence when they're either dubious or outright untrue.

For starters, the bible you have today was by no means finalised shortly after Jesus' death. the gospels themselves were written decades after the crucifixion is supposed to have happened, and i'd like you to tell me exactly who by, please, and how they knew what to write, and why they contradict each other so often.

and they aren't even all the gospels. quite a lot more than just the new testament four existed... it was a council of men, politicians, who decided which bits went into the bible, and this was centuries after the time jesus was supposed to have lived.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57They weren't wiped out by God purely for nonbelief. They weren;t wiped out by God just because they worshipped false gods, either. They were doing far worse things, such as sacrificing their children to their gods.
Firstly how do you know? All you have is an account supposedly written by their slaughterers.

Secondly, do you quarrel with the idea of sacrificing a child to your god? The bible appears to be in favour of that. Or is it only if it's the right god?

Quote:As for the children dying - they didn't go to hell. Since they weren't old enough to understand, they went to heaven. If they had lived, though, it would be far worse - they'd have a warped view of what happened that day, and probably rebelled against those people by instinct. Firstly, we're still talking about the old testament here, and there is no mention of hell in the old testament. Either god hadn't made it yet, or he hadn't thought it worth telling anybody about it - which seems implausible, given his general enthusiasm for extravagant punishments in the old testament, and his quickness in threatening them.

Secondly, I just want to quote the fact that you just attempted to justify the slaughter of innocent children. A rebuttal isn't really necessary - simply quoting the statement for all to see will probably do.

Quote:Only other option is to let all the people live, and continue their false worship and human sacrifice. Good idea.

There's no small print about human sacrifice in the instructions for genocide on religious grounds. So that just leaves: "the only other option is to let all the people live and continue their false worship, and we can't have that". Oh dear. Bit of a departure from your position on the previous page.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57Okay, but still, why shouldn't he act the way he has promised he will? Are you saying the punishment should be less severe?

I'm saying that there should not be a punishment at all. Disagreeing with him or his rules, or having doubts in his existence, or having doubts that the books which claim to reflect his mind or that the people who claim to speak for him actually do so, is not a crime at all by any sane definition.

Quote:How is it incompetent?

For starters, it took place in bronze-age Palestine. Not in China, where people could read and write. That was by far the greatest civilisation in the world at the time, and yet it took hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years for the message of Christianity to reach China, at which point the Chinese asked the pretty good question of what took you so long.

To continue, the fact it's so garbled and inconsistent, and to cut a long story short, ridiculous. A huge number of people are not trying not to believe it, as you've put it, but simply find it too stupid to believe. Furthermore, many people think it would be quite horrible if it was true... the greatest dictatorship ever imagined.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57Thirdly, what kind of moral system is this? You said religions depend on faith (and you probably didn't realise what a deathblow you dealt when you said that). Here's an extraordinary claim, we aren't going to show you any evidence, you've got to decide it's true and you'll be horribly punished if you've got your doubts? What the fuck?

re: not just faith alone.

ah, yes. faith based on evidence. well, any time the evidence wants to present itself, there's no rush. it's only been two thousand years.

but the important part of that statement was the second half.

"Here's an extraordinary claim, we aren't going to show you any evidence, you've got to decide it's true and you'll be horribly punished if you've got your doubts"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 23:57Yeah, but my question was how are you going to say that these other people are doing anything wrong if they did try that?

Sorry, you lost me...
it's simple.

we were talking about whether christians should impose their rules on non-believers. you said that many christians don't. well, can you find any fault with the christians that do?

Quote:EDIT: Can I get your opinion on this passage I found?
k.

Quote:Our pre-suppositions can be self-destructive! One is at risk of having built a house on sand. When the rains of existence come down, the house may not stand.
sure, that's a rather poetic way of describing the decline of religion, though i don't think that's what the author is talking about. still, it's a nice image... "the rains of existence", we're learning more and more about the world and the universe and ourselves, and "the house" of religion is crumbling more and more by the day.

Quote:We argue that you may have claimed the right to judge the rationality and morality of things. But consider that apart from God you cannot make any of your claims stick beyond your own subjective state.
Why apart from God?

Quote:This is so because you cannot explain rationality itself. Why do the laws of logic seem to work? Who says so?
We're doing our best to understand them. It doesn't help that faith gets in the way.

Quote:Why do we all have moral ideas about right and wrong and the desire to impose them?
Because most of us care about ourselves, our families, and humanity in general.

Quote:Why do we expect nature to act uniformly?
Who expects that?

Quote:The skeptic cannot provide a satisfactory explanation for the "why" of the most basic "laws," the very criteria he wants to impose.
Uh? Science is basically the attempt to find out why things happen. As for "wants to impose", he really has lost me there.

Quote:He has to admit that either he made them up or that he accepts them on the authority of other finite creatures.
Made what up, sorry? As for accepting on authority of people who have no sensible claim to knowledge, well, that's religion in a nutshell.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2010 06:39:40 GMT
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Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46
firstly, the old testament is no longer in effect, is it?
well, jesus said that every jot and tittle of the old laws must be carried out.

No. Otherwise we'd still be doing sacrifices and basically operating under Moses' statutes.

Not every single law in the OT is supposed to be disregarded, but certainly not all of it is still applicable.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46- two thousand years of horrific anti-semitism and anti-gay people

well, the worst anti-semitism throughout history has always come directly from christianity. in modern times, islam is catching up fast, but christianity still takes the gold. christianity's sole basis for anti-semitism is one line in one of the gospels which says that, at the trial, the jewish religious authorities actually called for the blood of christ to be on their heads and on the heads of all successive generations.

any atheist will regard this as immoral bullshit. even if the whole story is true, it's a stupid thing to say. i could claim responsibility for a crime, whether i was guilty of it or not. what i can't do is say "and my children, who haven't been born yet, are guilty of it too, as will be their children, and their children..."

and yet this one line is the root cause of unbelievable anti-semitism throughout the ages in every society where christianity has ever had power. killing jesus seems like quite a big crime for a christian, and according to the bible, all jews have that guilt, not just the ones who were involved in the trial and crucifixion.

They called for it to be on their heads, huh? So why does that make it the Bible's fault for relaying that information? I don't recall any passage demanding anti-semitism to be carried out - sounds more like man's stupid actions.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46- violently standing in the way of scientific progress well, if you take the christian view that you must believe the right things about god and jesus otherwise you'll go to hell, and if you really, really believe in hell, you'll do a great deal to stamp out anything that might make people question the religion.

imagine it. imagine you have a child. someone like me who speaks critically of religion, or someone involved in scientific research on the origins of the earth and of the human species... what they say could make your child turn away from christianity. they can make your child liable to suffer the most horrific punishment ever imagined! would this not make us the very worst of criminals, even worse than someone who tried to murder the child, or tried to rape them? would you not do anything to stamp this out? if not, then you probably don't really believe in hell.

I'm not against legit scientific progress, myself.

So far, all the scientific theories that contradict the Bible have no more evidence than it does.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46- the crusades

see the particular old testament law i cited earlier, about if a city contains people who worship a different god, you must put the entire city and everyone in it to slaughter.

As soon as you quote it. All you've said so far is that God destroyed SOME cities... not every single one they came across.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46if believing the wrong thing sends you to hell, then a little torture to set people straight is basically doing them a favour. if you really, really buy the concept of hell, this is the sort of thing you'll do to protect people from it. blasphemy laws are only

the beginning.

No... I wouldn't be doing them a favor at all. As I said before, If you don't want to believe after I've given my case, I won't persist.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46- willing tool of imperialism and of a huge list of dictators throughout the ages
whenever you read about the great historical european empires, you'll find them to be christian monarchies, or successors to them, in every single case. again, if you really believe in heaven and hell, then taking over some foreign country and converting them to christianity, by force if necessary, would be the kindest thing you could do to them.

See above.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46- enthusiastic ally of fascism in europe
in every single fascist country in europe leading up to the second world war, and there were a hell of a lot more than just germany and italy, in every single case the fascist powers were either set up directly in collusion with the vatican or the vatican became enthusiastic collaborators with them after they'd taken power. fascism was essentially an exact synonym for "catholic right wing". the very first major treaty hitler signed upon taking power was with the vatican, giving the catholic church all sorts of powers in germany, and that was one of the few treaties hitler didn't break. mussolini did the same in italy, croatia was a catholic puppet state of hitler, salazar was in holy orders, etc etc etc. the last time the catholic church supported a "just war" was when hitler and mussolini helped franco overthrow the spanish republic. the catholic church's relationship with every single fascist country was far stronger than its ties with any non-fascist country. the church even ordered hitler's birthday to be celebrated in churches all over, right up until the very end of nazi germany. even after germany was defeated, the vatican helped numerous nazi war criminals escape to south america.

what about hitler himself? well, when he was rising to power, he said over and over and over again that the reason he hated jews so much was because he was a christian. the bible readily accommodates this, as i've outlined above. he said he was doing god's work in combating the jew, and that resonated with a huge number of christians in germany. hitler didn't just flick a switch and made everyone in germany suddenly hate jews... anti-semitism had been bubbling away under the surface for two thousand years, thanks to europe's christian history.

Thank God I don't belong to that Vatican/Catholic splinter-group.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46- the enormous death toll it's helped to rack up by assisting the spread of AIDS by absurd rules on condoms, especially in africa
well, i'd really love to know the christian justification for spreading lies about the effectiveness of condoms, when millions of africans die of aids every year. in other words, you tell me. i can't figure it out, it doesn't make sense to an atheist, especially since christians generally call themselves pro-life.

I can't tell you - I don't know either, myself. Were they saying condoms were bad and shouldn't be used?

...

Most of your above quotes signify events caused by - as you label them - Christianity in general or specific denominations. My denomination doesn't believe in this stuff:

Anti-semitism - I see no reason to persecute a race for one historical act.

Forced acceptance of religion - No. I DO NOT support that at all.

Fascism - Nope, don't care for that either.

I'm not defending every denomination, just my own and that which is common to all of them. I'm not trying to disregard these events you describe - I'm trying to say that we're just as against their happening as you are.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 So it's not faith at all, then, is it? It's just you're considering things to be evidence when they're either dubious or outright untrue.

How'd you come to that conclusion?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 For starters, the bible you have today was by no means finalised shortly after Jesus' death.

Okay.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 the gospels themselves were written decades after the crucifixion is supposed to have happened, and i'd like you to tell me exactly who by, please, and how they knew what to write, and why they contradict each other so often.

1. Each book in the Bible states who wrote it near the beginning or end.
2. God inspired them to write what they did. They didn't write it by their own intuition alone.
3. Why the gospels contradict? Why four seperate people's own written logs of 30 years do not perfectly match up?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 and they aren't even all the gospels. quite a lot more than just the new testament four existed... it was a council of men, politicians, who decided which bits went into the bible, and this was centuries after the time jesus was supposed to have lived.

Where'd you learn that from?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 Firstly how do you know? All you have is an account supposedly written by their slaughterers.

The same account that says there were slaughters int he first place?

If you can say "God did this" and point to a Bible scripture, I can do the same.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 Secondly, do you quarrel with the idea of sacrificing a child to your god? The bible appears to be in favour of that. Or is it only if it's the right god?

Since when is the Bible in favor of it? Only mention I know of is the test that was given to Abram.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 Firstly, we're still talking about the old testament here, and there is no mention of hell in the old testament. Either god hadn't made it yet, or he hadn't thought it worth telling anybody about it - which seems implausible, given his general enthusiasm for extravagant punishments in the old testament, and his quickness in threatening them.

Hell existed regardless. There's no separate place for OT-based people to go. They also had a different set of laws to live under.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 There's no small print about human sacrifice in the instructions for genocide on religious grounds. So that just leaves: "the only other option is to let all the people live and continue their false worship, and we can't have that". Oh dear. Bit of a departure from your position on the previous page.

My position? I thought we were discussing what God did and why.
Also, what are you trying to say here - that they didn't do sacrifices?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 I'm saying that there should not be a punishment at all. Disagreeing with him or his rules, or having doubts in his existence, or having doubts that the books which claim to reflect his mind or that the people who claim to speak for him actually do so, is not a crime at all by any sane definition.

I have yet to see parents raise a child, be subject to all of his/her complaints/disobedience/rudeness/etc, and not punish the child in any way.
Man was given a paradise with only one rule to obey... one rule. And he broke it. It's all gone downhill from there, what with those taken under God's care constantly complaining and demanding more.
Or would you rather God not make any rules at all and let humans do as we please, and abolish Heaven and Hell?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 For starters, it took place in bronze-age Palestine. Not in China, where people could read and write. That was by far the greatest civilisation in the world at the time, and yet it took hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years for the message of Christianity to reach China, at which point the Chinese asked the pretty good question of what took you so long.

To continue, the fact it's so garbled and inconsistent, and to cut a long story short, ridiculous. A huge number of people are not trying not to believe it, as you've put it, but simply find it too stupid to believe. Furthermore, many people think it would be quite horrible if it was true... the greatest dictatorship ever imagined.
Or the greatest paradise. It all depends on how you look at it, and what facts you bring forth and what facts you bury.
I also see the implication that the possibility of any being having greater stature than man is horrible to consider.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46 ah, yes. faith based on evidence. well, any time the evidence wants to present itself, there's no rush. it's only been two thousand years.

but the important part of that statement was the second half.

"Here's an extraordinary claim, we aren't going to show you any evidence, you've got to decide it's true and you'll be horribly punished if you've got your doubts"

There are Bible statements that consist with Astronomy, Paleontology, Meteorology, Biology, Anthropology, Hydrology, Geology, and Physics. Also with Prophecy, Textual Evidence, and Historians.

So yeah, there's evidence.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46we were talking about whether christians should impose their rules on non-believers. you said that many christians don't. well, can you find any fault with the christians that do?

Yes, because they shouldn't impose their rules on non-believers. Standing up for what you think is right is one thing, but trying to force someone else to think your way is another.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46Quote:This is so because you cannot explain rationality itself. Why do the laws of logic seem to work? Who says so?

We're doing our best to understand them. It doesn't help that faith gets in the way.

"Get the answer book out of my face and let me solve it myself."

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46Quote:Why do we all have moral ideas about right and wrong and the desire to impose them?

Because most of us care about ourselves, our families, and humanity in general.

Why are we born with that caring attitude? Or are you still trying to figure that out as well?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2010 07:22:25 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 00:39Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46firstly, the old testament is no longer in effect, is it? well, jesus said that every jot and tittle of the old laws must be carried out.

No. Otherwise we'd still be doing sacrifices and basically operating under Moses' statutes.

Not every single law in the OT is supposed to be disregarded, but certainly not all of it is still applicable.

So you're deciding which ones are not applicable now? How do you decide that? And how do you reconcile that with Deuteronomy 13:1;

Whatever I am now commanding you, you must keep and observe, adding nothing to it, taking nothing away.

Quote:They called for it to be on their heads, huh? So why does that make it the Bible's fault for relaying that information? I don't recall any passage demanding anti-semitism to be carried out -

sounds more like man's stupid actions.

Because the Bible is absolutely full of cases where innocent people are punished for the crimes committed by others. If you don't object to these, saying that the bible is a source of morals, and if you're further told that all Jews are guilty of the murder of Jesus...

Quote:I'm not against legit scientific progress, myself.

So far, all the scientific theories that contradict the Bible have no more evidence than it does. lol... where's the evidence supporting every assertion made by the bible, please?

Quote:As soon as you quote it. All you've said so far is that God destroyed SOME cities... not every single one they came across.

eh? do you even know what i was talking about? anyone who's read the bible carefully will know which one i mean. along the lines of "if you hear of a town where there are people therein who worship a different god, you must put the entire town to the sword".

this is not a case of "god destroying SOME cities"... it's a moral commandment in your holy book.

and that's by no means the only example of genocide mentioned in the bible. the slaughter of the egyptian firstborn, sodom and gomorrah, the israelites (numerous occasions), noah's ark...

Quote:No... I wouldn't be doing them a favor at all. As I said before, If you don't want to believe after I've given my case, I won't persist.

so you're quite content to allow others to go to hell, when you could save them?

Quote:Thank God I don't belong to that Vatican/Catholic splinter-group. they're the splinter group, are they?

Quote:I can't tell you - I don't know either, myself. Were they saying condoms were bad and shouldn't be used?

they outright lie about the properties of condoms, saying they not only don't help prevent aids (of course they help) but actually can increase the chances of aids. not only that, but they declare that aids are sinful.

when millions of people are dying in africa every year and we could easily prevent this through a simple campaign of education, just how evil do you have to be to effectively collaborate with the virus?

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Anti-semitism - I see no reason to persecute a race for one historical act.

Your god seems to. Like I said, there are plenty of occasions in the bible where he innocent people are punished for the crimes of others. This is no surprise to me, nor does it present a problem for atheists, of course - it was written at a time when humanity's grasp of morality was pretty feeble, so no wonder it's such a shitty source of morals.

Quote:Forced acceptance of religion - No. I DO NOT support that at all.

but you can't deny the logic that if someone genuinely did believe in heaven and hell, it would make perfect sense to convert people by force if necessary, and they would be doing their victims

the highest of favours.

Quote:Fascism - Nope, don't care for that either.
cool, but you don't seem to mind dictatorships per se.

Quote:I'm not defending every denomination, just my own and that which is common to all of them. I'm not trying to disregard these events you describe - I'm trying to say that we're just as against their happening as you are.
You're not just as against the slaughter of innocent children...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46So it's not faith at all, then, is it? It's just you're considering things to be evidence when they're either dubious or outright untrue.

How'd you come to that conclusion?
you said it's based on evidence (giving extremely shaky examples) and then basically said "faith" is required to fill in the gaps. how hopeful you must be that you've filled in the gaps correctly...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46the gospels themselves were written decades after the crucifixion is supposed to have happened, and i'd like you to tell me exactly who by, please, and how they knew what to write, and why they contradict each other so often.

1. Each book in the Bible states who wrote it near the beginning or end.
"exactly who"

Quote:2. God inspired them to write what they did. They didn't write it by their own intuition alone. How do you know that, and how do you know this was not the case for the numerous gospels that were rejected from your bible because a group of politicians decided they should be rejected?

Quote:3. Why the gospels contradict? Why four seperate people's own written logs of 30 years do not perfectly match up?

Not even vaguely, in some cases.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46and they aren't even all the gospels. quite a lot more than just the new testament four existed... it was a council of men, politicians, who decided which bits went into the bible, and this was centuries after the time jesus was supposed to have lived.

Where'd you learn that from?

Council of Nicaea, quite common knowledge... perhaps you could explain from where you "learned" that the bible was compiled "very soon after jesus' death"?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46Firstly how do you know? All you have is an account supposedly written by their slaughterers.

The same account that says there were slaughters int he first place?

If you can say "God did this" and point to a Bible scripture, I can do the same.

Yes, you can point at a scripture. Then the next step would be to demonstrate its truth.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46Secondly, do you quarrel with the idea of sacrificing a child to your god? The bible appears to be in favour of that. Or is it only if it's the right

god?

Since when is the Bible in favor of it? Only mention I know of is the test that was given to Abram. And the general who asked for victory and in return he'd sacrifice whatever he saw when he got home, which turned out to be his daughter.

And numerous commands to the israelites.

Quote:Hell existed regardless. There's no seperate place for OT-based people to go. They also had a different set of laws to live under.

You didn't answer the question. If Hell was there, why didn't god say anything about it in the old testament? He's very keen on making creatively vicious threats to back up his commandments, so if he's got this fiery torture chamber you'll go to if you aren't careful, why not mention it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46There's no small print about human sacrifice in the instructions for genocide on religious grounds. So that just leaves: "the only other option is to let all the people live and continue their false worship, and we can't have that". Oh dear. Bit of a departure from your position on the previous page.

My position? I thought we were discussing what God did and why.

Also, what are you trying to say here - that they didn't do sacrifices?

You're justifying the murder of innocent children. I think it's up to you to prove their adults carried out sacrifices, and then explain why punishing innocent children is justified even if their parents are criminals.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46I have yet to see parents raise a child, be subject too all of his/her complaints/disobedience/rudeness/etc, and not punish the child in any way. How is that an analogy?

This god of yours gives us no reason at all to think he exists, and his followers tell us we're rude for asking for evidence (you said "hopeless case", remember) and then we're told we'll suffer horrific punishments if we have doubts. You doubt some religious claims too, remember... basically all the ones except your own version of Christianity, so you know what it's like not to believe somebody's religion.

Quote:Man was given a paradise with only one rule to obey... one rule. And he broke it. i assume you're talking about adam and eve. even if that was true, what's that got to do with anyone other than adam and eve?

Quote:It's all gone downhill from there, what with those taken under God's care constantly complaining and demanding more. complaining?

your bible is full of genocide, slavery, the punishment of innocents... and you're condemning complaining? as for "demanding more", i wouldn't ask for anything from a character i thought was fictional.

Quote:Or would you rather God not make any rules at all and let humans do as we please, and

abolish Heaven and Hell?

yes, because his rules are absolutely shit. like i said, this is only to be expected... the men who wrote the bible did so two thousand years ago, and their moral standards were pretty crappy by today's standards.

yes, i do want religion to let humans do as we please, some of us do actually like the idea of democracy.

Quote:Or the greatest paradise. It all depends on how you look at it, and what facts you bring forth and what facts you bury.

Facts?

When are they going to turn up?

As for whether i like it or not, this is essentially based upon the depiction of your god in the bible... a cruel, merciless, unjust, bloodthirsty tyrant. it probably does depend how you look at it... if you like freedom and democracy and morality, it sucks. if you don't care about those, you might think it's paradise.

Quote:I also see the implication that the possibility of any being having greater stature than man is horrible to consider.

No, it's not.

Quote:There are Bible statements that consist with Astronomy, Paleontology, Meteorology, Biology, Anthropology, Hydrology, Geology, and Physics. Also with Prophecy, Textual Evidence, and Historians.

So yeah, there's evidence.

Go on?

Quote:Yes, because they shouldn't impose their rules on non-belivers. Standing up for what you think is right is one thing, but trying to force someone else to think your way is another. And yet you defend the threatened punishment for thinking the wrong way.

Quote:"Get the answer book out of my face and let me solve it myself."

Huh?

Quote:Why are we born with that caring attitude? Or are you still trying to figure that out as well? I wouldn't necessarily say we were born with it, but the concept of human solidarity, of caring for one's family, has certainly helped us last this long.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sun, 21 Mar 2010 21:00:01 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:but certainly not all of it is still applicable. So you're deciding which ones are not applicable now? How do you decide that? And how do you

reconcile that with Deuteronomy 13:1;

Whatever I am now commanding you, you must keep and observe, adding nothing to it, taking nothing away.

There's also verses saying why the Old Testament was replaced by the New Testament. Several mention the "new covenant" God was planning on/did make with the people. Another mentioned something like, "If the old system was perfect, it wouldn't need to be replaced." It was an update, per se, since the way of life since then has changed.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22if you're further told that all Jews are guilty of the murder of Jesus...

Where is that said?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22lol... where's the evidence supporting every assertion made by the bible, please?

You thus imply that every scientific theory has supporting evidence, which of course is not true.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22eh? do you even know what i was talking about? anyone who's read the bible carefully will know which one i mean. along the lines of "if you hear of a town where there are people therein who worship a different god, you must put the entire town to the sword".

"The primary reason was punishment for wrongdoing. The populations of the destroyed cities had long histories of grievous sins (Gen 15:16, Dt 25:17-19), which often included sacrificing their children to false gods (Dt 12:29-31). Their consciences should have told these people they were doing wrong. Had they listened and changed their ways, they would not have been destroyed. God has said that if any nation is about to be destroyed as punishment but repents, he will forgive them and not destroy them (Jer 18:7-8). In fact, this occurred in the city of Ninevah (Jonah 3:4-10).

In the cities that were given to the Israelites as their inheritance, there was a secondary reason: totally depraved cultures were destroyed so that they would not corrupt the Israelites into committing the same evil acts (Dt 7:1-4, 20:16-18). This did in fact occur: when the Israelites didn't obey God and destroy cities, they too began practicing child sacrifice (Ps 106:34-40).

Additionally, the destruction of wicked nations served as an instructive warning to contemporaries (Josh 2:1-11) and future generations (1 Cor 10:1-11)."

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22so you're quite content to allow others to go to hell, when you could save them?

You misunderstood me, so let me try again. I will try to teach the word to others because I don't want them to go to Hell. If, however, they hear and then choose not to believe, I will not relentlessly press the issue.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22they're the splinter group, are they?

They're a splinter group, yes.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22they outright lie about the properties of condoms, saying they not only don't help prevent aids (of course they help) but actually can increase the chances of aids. not only that, but they declare that aids are sinful.

Man, that sucks. I don't see how a disease (if that's the right word) is sinful. Certain methods of contacting it are, but not just having it.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22when millions of people are dying in africa every year and we could easily prevent this through a simple campaign of education, just how evil do you have to be to effectively collaborate with the virus?

How do you know that they were aware that condoms did work, or that they really didn't believe condoms were sinful?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:Anti-semitism - I see no reason to persecute a race for one historical act. Your god seems to. Like I said, there are plenty of occasions in the bible where he innocent people are punished for the crimes of others. This is no surprise to me, nor does it present a problem for atheists, of course - it was written at a time when humanity's grasp of morality was pretty feeble, so no wonder it's such a shitty source of morals.

You still haven't mentioned where the Bible says to persecute an entire race for one sole act.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22but you can't deny the logic that if someone genuinely did believe in heaven and hell, it would make perfect sense to convert people by force if necessary, and they would be doing their victims the highest of favours.

Yes, I can. Converting is a choice, it can't be forced. If I forced you to be baptized and orally declare that you believe the Bible, it wouldn't do jack. You have to mean it.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22cool, but you don't seem to mind dictatorships per se.

If God exists and has all that power that he does, why should we be equal with him?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:How'd you come to that conclusion? you said it's based on evidence (giving extremely shaky examples) and then basically said "faith" is required to fill in the gaps. how hopeful you must be that you've filled in the gaps correctly...

It'd be hard NOT to.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:1. Each book in the Bible states who wrote it near the beginning or end.
"exactly who"

"God used men to write down His thoughts much as a businessman uses a secretary. He allowed them to put these thoughts in their own words. But the men themselves said they were inspired.

(2 Peter 1:20-21) 20 For YOU know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. 21 For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit.

Again Paul's words:

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) 16 All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

Approximately 40 men, from Moses to the Apostle John were Bible writers from 1513 BCE to 98 CE. Many may claim otherwise but an internal study of the Bible will show that it is of Divine origin."

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:2. God inspired them to write what they did. They didn't write it by their own intuition alone.
How do you know that, and how do you know this was not the case for the numerous gospels that were rejected from your bible because a group of politicians decided they should be rejected?

See above.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:3. Why the gospels contradict? Why four seperate people's own written logs of 30 years do not perfectly match up?
Not even vaguely, in some cases.

...Mmkay.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22perhaps you could explain from where you "learned" that the bible was compiled "very soon after jesus' death"?

It wasn't something I learned, it was a very poorly placed educated guess. I did some researching into it, which also resulted in the quote above.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22You didn't answer the question. If Hell was there, why didn't god say anything about it in the old testament? He's very keen on making creatively vicious threats to back up his commandments, so if he's got this fiery torture chamber you'll go to if you aren't careful, why not mention it?

It's mentioned. I'm not familiar with the verses myself, yet. Here's one:

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46I have yet to see parents raise a child, be subject too all of his/her complaints/disobedience/rudeness/etc, and not punish the child in any way.
How is that an analogy?

It's an analogy because God took care of the growing nation of Israel, and they constantly complained. Example (one of many), God gave the Israelites manna for food. It was easy, all they had to do was pick it up, no planting or harvesting. It fed them and gave them the nourishment they needed. Yet they complained about it. hey even went as far as to say, "Why'd you bring us out of Egypt to die? I'd rather be a slave than die out here!"

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22This god of yours gives us no reason at all to think he exists, and his followers tell us we're rude for asking for evidence (you said "hopeless case", remember) and then we're told we'll suffer horrific punishments if we have doubts.

Wow, that whole sentence is wrong.

"This god of yours gives us no reason at all to think he exists" - he gives a plethora of reasons. If a person doesn't want to believe, OK then...

"and his followers tell us we're rude for asking for evidence" - I bet you've never met someone from my denomination. Asking for evidence here doesn't beget rudeness, rather an invitation to study it.

"and then we're told we'll suffer horrific punishments if we have doubts." - Not doubts, no. Refusal, yes. Doubt's a middle ground, it means you haven't thrown your lot one way or another.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22You doubt some religious claims too, remember...

True.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22i assume you're talking about adam and eve. even if that was true, what's that got to do with anyone other than adam and eve?

Because Adam and Eve weren't alone. All throughout the Old Testament are numerous examples of people disobeying one of God's commandments, which were given by God's presence.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22your bible is full of genocide, slavery, the punishment of innocents... and you're condemning complaining?

Right, so when God provides me with my physical needs, asking little in return, then complaining about what I've got is totally okay.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22as for "demanding more", i wouldn't ask for anything from a character i thought was fictional.

You could watch all twelve plagues hit Egypt consecutively and still be doubtful?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22yes, i do want religion to let humans do as we please, some of us do actually like the idea of democracy.

I'd be okay with democracy too - y'know, if we were all gods as well...

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:I also see the implication that the possibility of any being having greater stature than man is horrible to consider.

No, it's not.

well, you keep mentioning how it's bad to be governed by a higher power... so, why?

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So yeah, there's evidence.

Go on?

Going On.

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And yet you defend the threatened punishment for thinking the wrong way.

Yes. I said I won't force you to believe what I believe, but that isn't because of a lack of the "right way".

Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:Why are we born with that caring attitude? Or are you still trying to figure that out as well?

I wouldn't necessarily say we were born with it, but the concept of human solidarity, of caring for one's family, has certainly helped us last this long.

Those concepts had to have come from somewhere, right?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 22 Mar 2010 01:37:24 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 15:00There's also verses saying why the Old Testament was replaced by the New Testament. Several mention the "new covenant" God was planning on/did make with the people. Another mentioned something like, "If the old system was perfect, it wouldn't need to be replaced." It was an update, per se, since the way of life since then has changed.

pity not all of the barbarism of the old testament has been "replaced", then, eh? no condemnation of slavery, for example. another example: the story of let he without sin cast the first stone. jesus doesn't say that the old law has been removed, he just says that none of you guys here are capable of enforcing it since you're all sinful. well, that surely means that we can't enforce laws at all, doesn't it? we can't punish adultery?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22if you're further told that all Jews are guilty of the murder of Jesus...Where is that said?

one of the gospels has the jews at the crucifixion calling for the responsibility of the murder of jesus to fall upon themselves and on all their descendants.

any atheist can see that this is ridiculous - it is immoral to hold one person responsible for a crime

committed by another - but the bible is absolutely full of this moral bankruptcy. god does it all the time, in the story.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22lol... where's the evidence supporting every assertion made by the bible, please?

You thus imply that every scientific theory has supporting evidence, which of course is not true. i said no such thing.

you said this:

"So far, all the scientific theories that contradict the Bible have no more evidence than it does." that's plainly nonsense. the age of the earth, for example... there's an extraordinary amount of evidence supporting the old-earth theory (about four and a half billion years). the bible would put it more like 6-10 thousand, for which there is no evidence at all.

another would be evolution. darwin didn't just make it up, he studied the evidence and created his theories accordingly. we're finding new fossils all the time. where's the evidence supporting the account given in genesis?

Quote:"The primary reason was punishment for wrongdoing. The populations of the destroyed cities had long histories of grievous sins (Gen 15:16, Dt 25:17-19), which often included sacrificing their children to false gods (Dt 12:29-31). Their consciences should have told these people they were doing wrong. Had they listened and changed their ways, they would not have been destroyed. God has said that if any nation is about to be destroyed as punishment but repents, he will forgive them and not destroy them (Jer 18:7-8). In fact, this occurred in the city of Ninevah (Jonah 3:4-10).

perhaps you didn't read my statement very carefully. i was not referring to a specific story of god flattening a city; i was citing the instruction given by god to his followers of what to do if you encounter a city where they worship a different god. firstly it doesn't say that they have to be carrying out human sacrifices to qualify for the punishment, just says they need to be worshipping a different god. that's all it takes. secondly the punishment is the total extermination of the city, including children.

Quote:In the cities that were given to the Israelites as their inheritance, there was a secondary reason: totally depraved cultures were destroyed so that they would not corrupt the Israelites into committing the same evil acts (Dt 7:1-4, 20:16-18). This did in fact occur: when the Israelites didn't obey God and destroy cities, they too began practicing child sacrifice (Ps 106:34-40). according to the story, the israelities carried out quite a lot of evil acts, usually at the command of god or moses.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22so you're quite content to allow others to go to hell, when you could save them?

You misunderstood me, so let me try again. I will try to teach the word to others because I don't want them to go to Hell. If, however, they hear and then choose not to believe, I will not relentlessly press the issue.

so you don't mind all that much, is what i was getting at? and you don't actually object to the fact that they will go to hell?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22they're the splinter group, are they?

They're a splinter group, yes.

you misunderstood the question. i was asking: so you're the real christian, and they're the splinter group? on what basis do you say that this is the case, as opposed to them being real christians and you being quite mistaken, or as opposed to both of you being wrong?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22they outright lie about the properties of condoms, saying they not only don't help prevent aids (of course they help) but actually can increase the chances of aids. not only that, but they declare that aids are sinful.

Man, that sucks. I don't see how a disease (if that's the right word) is sinful. Certain methods of contacting it are, but not just having it.

that's a typo, i meant to say condoms are sinful.

Quote:How do you know that they were aware that condoms did work, or that they really didn't believe condoms were sinful?

Who cares?

Quote:You still haven't mentioned where the Bible says to persecute an entire race for one sole act.

race? no. religion? yes.

Quote:Yes, I can. Converting is a choice, it can't be forced. If I forced you to be baptized and orally declare that you believe the Bible, it wouldn't do jack. You have to mean it.

and what about those of us who simply can't bring ourselves to mean it, who've listened to the arguments for christianity's truth and simply don't believe them, or those who find the morality of the religion objectionable by modern standards?

Quote:If God exists and has all that power that he does, why should we be equal with him? Might makes right, then?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:1. Each book in the Bible states who wrote it near the beginning or end.
"exactly who"

"God used men to write down His thoughts much as a businessman uses a secretary. He allowed them to put these thoughts in their own words. But the men themselves said they were inspired.

(2 Peter 1:20-21) 20 For YOU know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. 21 For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit.

Again Paul's words:

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) 16 All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be fully

competent, completely equipped for every good work.

Approximately 40 men, from Moses to the Apostle John were Bible writers from 1513 BCE to 98 CE. Many may claim otherwise but an internal study of the Bible will show that it is of Divine origin."

This doesn't answer my question. Who exactly wrote each portion of the bible?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:2. God inspired them to write what they did. They didn't write it by their own intuition alone.

How do you know that, and how do you know this was not the case for the numerous gospels that were rejected from your bible because a group of politicians decided they should be rejected?

See above.

see above re: not answering the question

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22You didn't answer the question. If Hell was there, why didn't god say anything about it in the old testament? He's very keen on making creatively vicious threats to back up his commandments, so if he's got this fiery torture chamber you'll go to if you aren't careful, why not mention it?

It's mentioned. I'm not familiar with the verses myself, yet. Here's one:

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

That's rather vague, isn't it? Doesn't say: hell's a place where all evil people will go after death to be eternally tortured in fire. There's no mention of why someone would go to one or the other, either as a result of good or bad works or by believing the right thing.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Spoony wrote on Fri, 19 March 2010 22:46I have yet to see parents raise a child, be subject too all of his/her complaints/disobedience/rudeness/etc, and not punish the child in any way. How is that an analogy?

It's an analogy because God took care of the growing nation of Israel, and they constantly complained. Example (one of many), God gave the Israelites manna for food. It was easy, all they had to do was pick it up, no planting or harvesting. It fed them and gave them the nourishment they needed. Yet they complained about it. hey even went as far as to say, "Why'd you bring us out of Egypt to die? I'd rather be a slave than die out here!"

Here was my original quote.

"I'm saying that there should not be a punishment at all. Disagreeing with him or his rules, or having doubts in his existence, or having doubts that the books which claim to reflect his mind or that the people who claim to speak for him actually do so, is not a crime at all by any sane definition."

You still haven't refuted that.

Quote:Wow, that whole sentence is wrong.

"This god of yours gives us no reason at all to think he exists" - he gives a plethora of reasons. If a

person doesn't want to believe, OK then...
Where are these reasons?

And why can't you pull yourself away from this "doesn't want to believe" bullshit? It's simply a case that many people find your assertions unbelievable. This does not imply a choice on our part; it simply means that your assertions are dodgy.

Quote:"and his followers tell us we're rude for asking for evidence" - I bet you've never met someone from my denomination. Asking for evidence here doesn't beget rudeness, rather an invitation to study it.
then your denomination is in the extreme minority of those who claim to be Christians.

Quote:"and then we're told we'll suffer horrific punishments if we have doubts." - Not doubts, no. Refusal, yes. Doubt's a middle ground, it means you haven't thrown your lot one way or another. again, you're breathtakingly ignorant.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22You doubt some religious claims too, remember...

True.
and what if you're wrong, for example, about the islamic claim that you need to be a muslim otherwise you'll end up in hell?

Quote:Because Adam and Eve weren't alone. All throughout the Old Testament are numerous examples of people disobeying one of God's commandments, which were given by God's presence.
and all throughout the old testament are numerous examples of god punishing innocent people for the crimes of others... and here you are defending it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22your bible is full of genocide, slavery, the punishment of innocents... and you're condemning complaining?

Right, so when God provides me with my physical needs, asking little in return, then complaining about what I've got is totally okay.
did you read the statement of mine you just quoted?

the one where i talked about the genocide and slavery in your horrific holy book?

and you think the problem is someone complaining about your religion?

holy shit.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22as for "demanding more", i wouldn't ask for anything from a character i thought was fictional.

You could watch all twelve plagues hit Egypt consecutively and still be doubtful?
i said *i* wouldn't demand more. i wouldn't demand anything from god, since i've never been shown a convincing reason to think he exists at all, let alone cares about me.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22yes, i do want religion to let humans do as we please, some of us do actually like the idea of democracy.

I'd be okay with democracy too - y'know, if we were all gods as well...
so you're saying you do reject the idea of humans determining the way our societies work by means of voting? just want to make sure i'm getting that right.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:I also see the implication that the possibility of any being having greater stature than man is horrible to consider.

No, it's not.

well, you keep mentioning how it's bad to be governed by a higher power... so, why?
excuse me, but the people who have spent thousands and thousands of years trying to tell us what to do are not higher powers. they just say they work for one.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Go on?

Going On.

is that the best you can do?

One Type—The Messianic Prophecies

Of these prophecies, the most striking examples are the predictions about an "anointed one" ("Messiah" in Hebrew) who was to arrive in the future. About 4 BC, a miraculous event occurred—a boy named Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary.
How do you know Jesus' mother was a virgin?

And what would that prove even if it was true? if you and i are arguing, can i just say "you lose this argument". you: "why's that?" me: "because my mother didn't have sex with a man". a few animals can reproduce this way, so it's not totally unthinkable that a human might as a result of some mutation or something... why would it prove that the child had any divine power, and why would it vindicate everything they said?

His fulfillment of these prophecies was very spectacular: Jesus gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, cured those who had leprosy, gave the deaf hearing, and raised people from the dead! These miracles and others were done many times in front of thousands of witnesses for three years. About 30 AD, Jesus was crucified (a prophecy) and died (a prophecy). Three days later he rose from the dead (another prophecy), after which He was seen by over 500 witnesses.
How do you know he did any of these things?

Secular history supports the Bible. For example, in The Antiquities of the Jews, book 18, chapter 3, paragraph 3 the famous historian Flavius Josephus writes:

"Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him;

and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day."

Josephus was not a contemporary of Jesus. So the very best you can say about him is that he was repeating what he'd heard. That's evidence, is it?

here's the only other "secular history supports the bible" statement i see.

In 115 AD, P. Cornelius Tacitus wrote the following passage that refers to Jesus (called "Christus," which means "The Messiah") in book 15, chapter 44 of The Annals:

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired."

the only part referring in the bible here is "christus suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of tiberius at the hands of pontius pilatus" - well, so what? there was someone who'd been called the christ (doesn't even name him as Jesus) who was executed?

so what?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:Yes, because they shouldn't impose their rules on non-belivers. Standing up for what you think is right is one thing, but trying to force someone else to think your way is another.

And yet you defend the threatened punishment for thinking the wrong way.

Yes. I said I won't force you to believe what I believe, but that isn't because of a lack of the "right way".

How many people are in your "denomination?"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22Quote:Why are we born with that caring attitude? Or are you still trying to figure that out as well?

I wouldn't necessarily say we were born with it, but the concept of human solidarity, of caring for one's family, has certainly helped us last this long.

Those concepts had to have come from somewhere, right?

Evolution? We've gradually become more and more intelligent, and most of us have figured out that being good towards the people around us, or at least leaving them alone, is generally more beneficial than being twats towards us.

The idea of protecting your family being a good idea is hardly difficult to understand.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Tunaman](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 04:08:26 GMT

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That's pretty awful. It's kind of worrying that those are the people that are caring for children.

Honestly, I'm pretty terrified at the amount of the power that religious institutions hold all over the world. It is pretty ridiculous, even here..

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 04:25:23 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37pity not all of the barbarism of the old testament has been "replaced", then, eh? no condemnation of slavery, for example. another example: the story of let he without sin cast the first stone. jesus doesn't say that the old law has been removed, he just says that none of you guys here are capable of enforcing it since you're all sinful. well, that surely means that we can't enforce laws at all, doesn't it? we can't punish adultery?

I have no idea what you mean.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22if you're further told that all Jews are guilty of the murder of Jesus...Where is that said? one of the gospels has the jews at the crucifixion calling for the responsibility of the murder of jesus to fall upon themselves and on all their descendants.

OK, so how does that translate into a Biblical command to kill Jews?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37you said this:

"So far, all the scientific theories that contradict the Bible have no more evidence than it does." that's plainly nonsense. the age of the earth, for example... there's an extraordinary amount of evidence supporting the old-earth theory (about four and a half billion years). the bible would put it more like 6-10 thousand, for which there is no evidence at all.

I wouldn't call it 'extraordinary'. 'Speculative', more like.

For example, what about Carbon-14 or helium present in rocks? If they've been around as long as billions of years, they would have disappeared. Yet they still remain.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37another would be evolution. darwin didn't just make it up, he studied the evidence and created his theories accordingly. we're finding new fossils all the time. where's the evidence supporting the account given in genesis?

What about the Second Law of Thermodynamics, or Entropy?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37perhaps you didn't read my statement very carefully. i was not referring to a specific story of god flattening a city; i was citing the instruction given by god to his followers of what to do if you encounter a city where they worship a different god. firstly it

doesn't say that they have to be carrying out human sacrifices to qualify for the punishment, just says they need to be worshipping a different god. that's all it takes. secondly the punishment is the total extermination of the city, including children.

Can you cite the specific verse, since you seem so familiar with it?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37so you don't mind all that much, is what i was getting at? and you don't actually object to the fact that they will go to hell?

Yes, I mind. But if someone doesn't want to "hear, believe, and repent", then what am I supposed to do, eh? Pressing the issue won't help, forcing it won't help.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37you misunderstood the question. i was asking: so you're the real christian, and they're the splinter group? on what basis do you say that this is the case, as opposed to them being real christians and you being quite mistaken, or as opposed to both of you being wrong?

I suppose all Christian denominations are splinter groups now, since it would be extremely difficult to prove which particular one was the stem.

The main basis of our belief is the Bible, whereas other groups like Baptists and Catholics aren't following Bible scripture.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:How do you know that they were aware that condoms did work, or that they really didn't believe condoms were sinful?

Who cares?

Apparently you do... If you're going to say that they were spreading lies about condoms, it would be a good idea to know the intention behind the act, right?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:You still haven't mentioned where the Bible says to persecute an entire race for one sole act.

race? no. religion? yes.

Go on...

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:If God exists and has all that power that he does, why should we be equal with him?

Might makes right, then?

You didn't answer the question.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37This doesn't answer my question. Who exactly wrote each portion of the bible?

"Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy = Moses - 1400 B.C.

Joshua = Joshua - 1350 B.C.

Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel = Samuel/Nathan/Gad - 1000 - 900 B.C.

1 Kings, 2 Kings = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.

1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah = Ezra - 450 B.C.

Esther = Mordecai - 400 B.C.

Job = Moses - 1400 B.C.
 Psalms = several different authors, mostly David - 1000 - 400 B.C.
 Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon = Solomon - 900 B.C.
 Isaiah = Isaiah - 700 B.C.
 Jeremiah, Lamentations = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.
 Ezekiel = Ezekiel - 550 B.C.
 Daniel = Daniel - 550 B.C.
 Hosea = Hosea - 750 B.C.
 Joel = Joel - 850 B.C.
 Amos = Amos - 750 B.C.
 Obadiah = Obadiah - 600 B.C.
 Jonah = Jonah - 700 B.C.
 Micah = Micah - 700 B.C.
 Nahum = Nahum - 650 B.C.
 Habakkuk = Habakkuk - 600 B.C.
 Zephaniah = Zephaniah - 650 B.C.
 Haggai = Haggai - 520 B.C.
 Zechariah = Zechariah - 500 B.C.
 Malachi = Malachi - 430 B.C.
 Matthew = Matthew - A.D. 55
 Mark = John Mark - A.D. 50
 Luke = Luke - A.D. 60
 John = John - A.D. 90
 Acts = Luke - A.D. 65
 Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon = Paul - A.D. 50-70
 Hebrews = unknown, mostly likely Paul, Luke, Barnabas, or Apollos - A.D. 65
 James = James - A.D. 45
 1 Peter, 2 Peter = Peter - A.D. 60
 1 John, 2 John, 3 John = John - A.D. 90
 Jude = Jude - A.D. 60
 Revelation = John - A.D. 90"

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37How do you know that, and how do you know this was not the case for the numerous gospels that were rejected from your bible because a group of politicians decided they should be rejected?

Because the writers themselves said they were inspired by God.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Here was my original quote.

"I'm saying that there should not be a punishment at all. Disagreeing with him or his rules, or having doubts in his existence, or having doubts that the books which claim to reflect his mind or that the people who claim to speak for him actually do so, is not a crime at all by any sane definition."

You still haven't refuted that.

I can't refute an opinion, which is all that is.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 And why can't you pull yourself away from this "doesn't want to believe" bullshit? It's simply a case that many people find your assertions unbelievable. This does not imply a choice on our part; it simply means that your assertions are dodgy.

Because it isn't bullshit. If you cannot bring yourself to understand, then you have the choice of pursuing the issue via study. If they're "dodgy", then you can't blame the claim without even putting any more effort into understanding.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 then your denomination is in the extreme minority of those who claim to be Christians.

When we travel, it's certainly very hard to find a church that we can go to. Most of the ones we see are either Baptist or Catholic (which makes sense, they're probably more popular because of their "faith only" belief).

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 and what if you're wrong, for example, about the islamic claim that you need to be a muslim otherwise you'll end up in hell?

Then I'm wrong. Your point?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 did you read the statement of mine you just quoted? the one where i talked about the genocide and slavery in your horrific holy book? and you think the problem is someone complaining about your religion? holy shit.

Hitler killed millions of Jews, and all you can complain about is Catholics in your government? You're changing the subject to avoid my original point, even changing my words. Is that the best argument you have?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 Quote: Because Adam and Eve weren't alone. All throughout the Old Testament are numerous examples of people disobeying one of God's commandments, which were given by God's presence. and all throughout the old testament are numerous examples of god punishing innocent people for the crimes of others... and here you are defending it.

Changing the subject again?

You sure like to jump to that point a lot, especially when it's irrelevant to my quote.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 so you're saying you do reject the idea of humans determining the way our societies work by means of voting? just want to make sure i'm getting that right.

No, I like the system a lot. But the system only works when everyone involved is of equal status.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37 excuse me, but the people who have spent thousands and thousands of years trying to tell us what to do are not higher powers. they just say

they work for one.

Hypothetically, if you knew for a fact that there was a higher power, would you or would you not give allegiance to it? Or would you fight it?

That's all I'm asking, here.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37How do you know Jesus' mother was a virgin? And what would that prove even if it was true? if you and i are arguing, can i just say "you lose this argument". you: "why's that?" me: "because my mother didn't have sex with a man". a few animals can reproduce this way, so it's not totally unthinkable that a human might as a result of some mutation or something... why would it prove that the child had any divine power, and why would it vindicate everything they said?

Alone, it proves little (despite the fact that there are little to no other evidence of a virgin giving birth before), but the baby grew and performed miracles, which is proof enough.

Of course, this visible proof was long ago and only written report remains.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37His fulfillment of these prophecies was very spectacular: Jesus gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, cured those who had leprosy, gave the deaf hearing, and raised people from the dead! These miracles and others were done many times in front of thousands of witnesses for three years. About 30 AD, Jesus was crucified (a prophecy) and died (a prophecy). Three days later he rose from the dead (another prophecy), after which He was seen by over 500 witnesses.

How do you know he did any of these things?

What about all the testimony of people who saw it happen? Or wait, since it was so long ago it can't be valid, right?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37How many people are in your "denomination?"

I don't know for a fact. A good indicator is that we always worship at a "Church of Christ", since that's the only name the Bible supports.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 10:14:48 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Tue, 23 March 2010 22:25Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37pity not all of the barbarism of the old testament has been "replaced", then, eh? no condemnation of slavery, for example. another example: the story of let he without sin cast the first stone. jesus doesn't say that the old law has been removed, he just says that none of you guys here are capable of enforcing it since you're all sinful. well, that surely means that we can't enforce laws at all, doesn't it? we can't punish adultery?

I have no idea what you mean.
it's actually very straightforward.

the baying religious mob bring a woman who they've caught committing adultery before jesus, and say we need to stone her to death.

jesus says: let he without sin cast the first stone. everyone there is sinful (indeed christianity says we're all sinful), so nobody can stone her, and she gets away with it. so that means we can't have and enforce any laws at all, because the only people allowed to punish offenders would have to be entirely sinless, and none of us are, are we?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 20 March 2010 01:22if you're further told that all Jews are guilty of the murder of Jesus...Where is that said? one of the gospels has the jews at the crucifixion calling for the responsibility of the murder of jesus to fall upon themselves and on all their descendants.

OK, so how does that translate into a Biblical command to kill Jews?
it's not exactly much of a jump to get from "all jews are responsible of the murder of our god" to actually doing something nasty to jews, is it?

but like i said, you probably aren't taught the bad parts of christianity, how dangerous it used to be to be jewish around easter time.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37you said this:
"So far, all the scientific theories that contradict the Bible have no more evidence than it does."
that's plainly nonsense. the age of the earth, for example... there's an extraordinary amount of evidence supporting the old-earth theory (about four and a half billion years). the bible would put it more like 6-10 thousand, for which there is no evidence at all.

I wouldn't call it 'extraordinary'. 'Speculative', more like.
For example, what about Carbon-14 or helium present in rocks? If they've been around as long as billions of years, they would have disappeared. Yet they still remain.
it's really odd you mention carbon-14 to try to support the young-earth claim.

the fact carbon-14 has a halflife and decays over time is such a helpful thing in determining the age of stuff. it doesn't get you as far as billions of years, i think it's only good for about 50,000 or something, but that would still make the 6-10,000 year assertion made by young-earth creationists look a bit stupid.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37another would be evolution. darwin didn't just make it up, he studied the evidence and created his theories accordingly. we're finding new fossils all the time. where's the evidence supporting the account given in genesis?

What about the Second Law of Thermodynamics, or Entropy?
What about it? My question was: where's the evidence supporting the account given in Genesis?
So how does this support the account given in Genesis?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37perhaps you didn't read my statement very carefully. i was not referring to a specific story of god flattening a city; i was citing the instruction given by god to his followers of what to do if you encounter a city where they worship a different god. firstly it doesn't say that they have to be carrying out human sacrifices to qualify for the

punishment, just says they need to be worshipping a different god. that's all it takes. secondly the punishment is the total extermination of the city, including children.

Can you cite the specific verse, since you seem so familiar with it?
you've seriously never heard of it?

i can't match verses to numbers off the top of my head, but i would have thought an avowed christian would at least have read the bible through.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37so you don't mind all that much, is what i was getting at? and you don't actually object to the fact that they will go to hell?

Yes, I mind. But if someone doesn't want to "hear, believe, and repent", then what am I supposed to do, eh? Pressing the issue won't help, forcing it won't help.
what are you supposed to do?

for starters, you could ask god to make his "revelation" a little less ridiculous, or you could ask god not to be such a bastard that he feels the need to dish out the worst crime imaginable just for the "crime" of disbelieving in his existence or disagreeing with his religion.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37you misunderstood the question. i was asking: so you're the real christian, and they're the splinter group? on what basis do you say that this is the case, as opposed to them being real christians and you being quite mistaken, or as opposed to both of you being wrong?

I suppose all Christian denominations are splinter groups now, since it would be extremely difficult to prove which particular one was the stem.

The main basis of our belief is the Bible, whereas other groups like Baptists and Catholics aren't following Bible scripture.

You started off that statement so well. It would indeed be difficult to prove that, for example, Jesus said anything that the bible reports him as saying, or did anything that the bible reports him as doing. Since the four gospels wildly contradict each other, this seems like quite an important question...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:How do you know that they were aware that condoms did work, or that they really didn't believe condoms were sinful?
Who cares?

Apparently you do... If you're going to say that they were spreading lies about condoms, it would be a good idea to know the intention behind the act, right?
i'm more concerned with the fact millions of people are dying.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:You still haven't mentioned where the Bible says to persecute an entire race for one sole act.
race? no. religion? yes.
Go on...
we're back to anti-semitism.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:If God exists and has all that power that

he does, why should we be equal with him?
Might makes right, then?

You didn't answer the question.

I did, actually, with another question. Might makes right, i.e. whoever is most powerful ought to be in charge and has the moral high ground...

by this logic, democracy would be impossible. Barack Obama exists, and has an extraordinary amount of power. (he's already got two up on your god). So why should you get a vote from now on?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37This doesn't answer my question. Who exactly wrote each portion of the bible?

"Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy = Moses - 1400 B.C.

Joshua = Joshua - 1350 B.C.

Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel = Samuel/Nathan/Gad - 1000 - 900 B.C.

1 Kings, 2 Kings = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.

1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah = Ezra - 450 B.C.

Esther = Mordecai - 400 B.C.

Job = Moses - 1400 B.C.

Psalms = several different authors, mostly David - 1000 - 400 B.C.

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon = Solomon - 900 B.C.

Isaiah = Isaiah - 700 B.C.

Jeremiah, Lamentations = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.

Ezekiel = Ezekiel - 550 B.C.

Daniel = Daniel - 550 B.C.

Hosea = Hosea - 750 B.C.

Joel = Joel - 850 B.C.

Amos = Amos - 750 B.C.

Obadiah = Obadiah - 600 B.C.

Jonah = Jonah - 700 B.C.

Micah = Micah - 700 B.C.

Nahum = Nahum - 650 B.C.

Habakkuk = Habakkuk - 600 B.C.

Zephaniah = Zephaniah - 650 B.C.

Haggai = Haggai - 520 B.C.

Zechariah = Zechariah - 500 B.C.

Malachi = Malachi - 430 B.C.

Matthew = Matthew - A.D. 55

Mark = John Mark - A.D. 50

Luke = Luke - A.D. 60

John = John - A.D. 90

Acts = Luke - A.D. 65

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1

Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon = Paul - A.D. 50-70

Hebrews = unknown, mostly likely Paul, Luke, Barnabas, or Apollos - A.D. 65

James = James - A.D. 45

1 Peter, 2 Peter = Peter - A.D. 60
1 John, 2 John, 3 John = John - A.D. 90
Jude = Jude - A.D. 60
Revelation = John - A.D. 90"
Doesn't answer my question. Who were they?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37How do you know that, and how do you know this was not the case for the numerous gospels that were rejected from your bible because a group of politicians decided they should be rejected?

Because the writers themselves said they were inspired by God.
how do you even know they said that?

once you've answered that, how do you know they were correct, as opposed to crazy or lying or just plain wrong?
once you've answered that, how do you know this wasn't the case for the rejected gospels?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Here was my original quote.
"I'm saying that there should not be a punishment at all. Disagreeing with him or his rules, or having doubts in his existence, or having doubts that the books which claim to reflect his mind or that the people who claim to speak for him actually do so, is not a crime at all by any sane definition."

You still haven't refuted that.

I can't refute an opinion, which is all that is.
it wouldn't be the first time i've made the assertion that it's plain evil to threaten someone with horrific punishment just for the "crime" of disagreeing with you or doubting what you say, would it?

i vaguely recall that the last time i tried getting you to understand just what a sick and immoral way this is to behave, you said i had a "binding to science" (????)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37And why can't you pull yourself away from this "doesn't want to believe" bullshit? It's simply a case that many people find your assertions unbelievable. This does not imply a choice on our part; it simply means that your assertions are dodgy.

Because it isn't bullshit.
yes it is, you don't know what you're talking about again. your religion makes incredibly feeble claims, it's had two thousand years to prove them and it hasn't even gotten to square one... stop acting like this extraordinary failure is the fault of everyone else instead of the religion's fault.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37and what if you're wrong, for example, about the islamic claim that you need to be a muslim otherwise you'll end up in hell?

Then I'm wrong. Your point?
You don't mind being spoken to in that tone of voice? Someone tells you you must agree with them or you'll go to hell?

There's quite an interesting verse in the islamic scripture (i can't tell you off the top of my head if it's the qur'an or the hadith, but bear with me)... it basically says "these guys who don't believe in allah, well, even if we did prove it to them they still wouldn't believe". I'm paraphrasing of course, but that's the gist. You probably read that and thought the same thing i did... it's either the rantings of a lunatic or it's quite a cunning attempt to cover up a lie. It's from a different religion, so you can probably see that without too much trouble.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37did you read the statement of mine you just quoted?

the one where i talked about the genocide and slavery in your horrific holy book?
and you think the problem is someone complaining about your religion?
holy shit.

Hitler killed millions of Jews, and all you can complain about is Catholics in your government?
uh no, i oppose murder and genocide and slavery and oppression wherever i find it. there's not really much of a need to speak out against the third reich now.

Quote:You're changing the subject to avoid my original point, even changing my words. Is that the best argument you have?
you'd better back this up.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37Quote:Because Adam and Eve weren't alone. All throughout the Old Testament are numerous examples of people disobeying one of God's commandments, which were given by God's presence.
and all throughout the old testament are numerous examples of god punishing innocent people for the crimes of others... and here you are defending it.

Changing the subject again?

You sure like to jump to that point a lot, especially when it's irrelevant to my quote.
firstly it's not irrelevant at all, secondly it's quite an important point... the bible continually shows god as willing to punish innocents for crimes committed by somebody else. what a shitty source of morals... no wonder you don't know right from wrong.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37so you're saying you do reject the idea of humans determining the way our societies work by means of voting? just want to make sure i'm getting that right.

No, I like the system a lot. But the system only works when everyone involved is of equal status.
so who's not "of equal status"?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37excuse me, but the people who have spent thousands and thousands of years trying to tell us what to do are not higher powers. they just say they work for one.

Hypothetically, if you knew for a fact that there was a higher power, would you or would you not give allegiance to it? Or would you fight it?
That's all I'm asking, here.

if there was a "higher power", i would not think that this justified a dictatorship over us. i'd still be in favour of democracy, human rights, stuff like that.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37How do you know Jesus' mother was a virgin? And what would that prove even if it was true? if you and i are arguing, can i just say "you lose this argument". you: "why's that?" me: "because my mother didn't have sex with a man". a few animals can reproduce this way, so it's not totally unthinkable that a human might as a result of some mutation or something... why would it prove that the child had any divine power, and why would it vindicate everything they said?

Alone, it proves little (despite the fact that there is little to no other evidence of a virgin giving birth before), but the baby grew and performed miracles, which is proof enough.

Of course, this visible proof was long ago and only written report remains.

firstly, there's "little to no evidence of a virgin giving birth before"... indeed. that includes mary and jesus.

there's the story that it happened... but then there have been countless gods and messiahs who've been reported as being born in a similar way, jesus is only one of them... i wonder how many of the others you think are correct.

secondly, even if the virgin birth AND the miracles are true, why would that vindicate everything jesus said? why would that make all his moral teachings valid?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37His fulfillment of these prophecies was very spectacular: Jesus gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, cured those who had leprosy, gave the deaf hearing, and raised people from the dead! These miracles and others were done many times in front of thousands of witnesses for three years. About 30 AD, Jesus was crucified (a prophecy) and died (a prophecy). Three days later he rose from the dead (another prophecy), after which He was seen by over 500 witnesses.

How do you know he did any of these things?

What about all the testimony of people who saw it happen? Or wait, since it was so long ago it can't be valid, right?

What about all the testimony of people who claim to have been abducted by UFOs? What about all the people who are convinced - absolutely convinced - in the truth of other religions?

If someone says they saw a miracle, then it's a good idea to consider the odds here.

he may be correct, he may be honestly mistaken (the mind plays tricks), he may be downright crazy, he may just be lying to you. what's most likely, do you think?

now imagine the whole thing is not first-hand but third-hand. you aren't talking to someone who says he saw it himself... you're reading a book. for starters, you have no way of knowing who it was written by.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 21 March 2010 19:37How many people are in your "denomination?"

I don't know for a fact. A good indicator is that we always worship at a "Church of Christ", since that's the only name the Bible supports.[/quote]

you said earlier that it isn't all that numerous, which brings me to the point of the question.

so your denomination are the "real" christians, right? (they all say that, but never mind that for now).

isn't god a bit of a prick for making his message so ludicrously cryptic that only a small proportion of the population get it right, and punishing everyone who gets it wrong?

what a twat.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [jnz](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 12:26:40 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 10:14what a twat.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 20:40:20 GMT

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The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics essentially states: A system will always lose energy to the environment (typically as light, heat or sound) because otherwise no energy has changed from one form (such as gravitational potential energy or chemical potential energy) into another, such as light and therefore no work can be done.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_law_of_thermodynamics - explains it better.

So, all I have to say is... How on Earth does that back up Genesis?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 2010 16:08:52 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14it's actually very straightforward.

the baying religious mob bring a woman who they've caught committing adultery before jesus, and say we need to stone her to death.

jesus says: let he without sin cast the first stone. everyone there is sinful (indeed christianity says we're all sinful), so nobody can stone her, and she gets away with it. so that means we can't have and enforce any laws at all, because the only people allowed to punish offenders would have to

be entirely sinless, and none of us are, are we?

"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

"This is another counterfeiting of the Scriptures many have tried to use to shame us for what we do in his name. "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone" is not speaking to judging. Let me explain.

Using the KJV this time, in John 8:1 - 11 scribes and Pharisees had caught a woman in the act of adultery (the woman commonly referred to as the prostitute) and told Jesus who was teaching in the temple that the Mosaic Law required she be stoned to death. Trying to make an opportunity of this to trick Jesus that they might accuse Him, they, with stones in hand, asked Jesus what He says about the Law. After Jesus tried to ignore their repeated questioning, He told them "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." One by one each man dropped his stone and walked away.

Jesus was not arguing with the judgment. Nor was Jesus arguing the law nor the woman's guilt. Jesus was arguing with our right to execute the woman. Once all the men had dropped their stones Jesus confronted the woman and asked her if any of the men were still there to condemn her. When she answered "No man, Lord", Jesus told her that neither did He - He forgave her of her sin. He did not excuse the sin of adultery/prostitution, he forgave her of it. All behavior and thought that is sinful before forgiveness is still sinful after forgiveness. Not only was Jesus not afraid to call a sin a sin, He was not afraid to call a sinner a sinner. He even reminded her of the sin of adultery/prostitution by telling her "Go and sin no more."

The point? Jesus did not argue the act of judging the chosen behavior of the adulteress/prostitute."

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14it's not exactly much of a jump to get from "all jews are responsible of the murder of our god" to actually doing something nasty to jews, is it?

God didn't say it, one man did. One man said that all Jews should be responsible. That doesn't translate to a Biblical command.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14What about it? My question was: where's the evidence supporting the account given in Genesis? So how does this support the account given in Genesis?

I wasn't providing evidence supporting Genesis, I was asking in terms of evolution.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14i can't match verses to numbers off the top of my head, but i would have thought an avowed christian would at least have read the bible through.

How does that make sense? Yes, I study the Bible, but I don't know all of its contents. It would take years to effectively read and study every Bible verse.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14for starters, you could ask god to make his "revelation" a little less ridiculous, or you could ask god not to be such a bastard that he feels the

need to dish out the worst crime imaginable just for the "crime" of disbelieving in his existence or disagreeing with his religion.

There are plenty of people who think the revelation was just fine, and don't see how his commandments are ridiculous. So, why should your opinion be any more important than theirs?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14Quote:Apparently you do... If you're going to say that they were spreading lies about condoms, it would be a good idea to know the intention behind the act, right?

i'm more concerned with the fact millions of people are dying.

So you only care for the act and not the motive? Isn't that an ignorant viewpoint?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14how do you even know they said that?

once you've answered that, how do you know they were correct, as opposed to crazy or lying or just plain wrong?

once you've answered that, how do you know this wasn't the case for the rejected gospels?

1. They said it in the gospels they wrote.
2. I don't "know" that, but as you said, odds - if that many people (the writers) all claimed the same thing, they either are telling the truth or a coordinated lie.
3. I don't, since I haven't read said gospels.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14it wouldn't be the first time i've made the assertion that it's plain evil to threaten someone with horrific punishment just for the "crime" of disagreeing with you or doubting what you say, would it?

No, it wouldn't be. It's your motto, I guess.

By that logic, though, you shouldn't punish a child molester because he doesn't agree with the anti-pedophilia law.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14Quote:You're changing the subject to avoid my original point, even changing my words. Is that the best argument you have?
you'd better back this up.

I'm referencing to actions made by the people in the Old Testament, and you keep turning it around to "Look what GOD did!"

And it wasn't "complaining about your religion" as you quoted me.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14if there was a "higher power", i would not think that this justified a dictatorship over us. i'd still be in favour of democracy, human rights, stuff like that.

I'm in favor of democracy and human rights among humans.

I'm suprised that you think that a people completely created by another being by his will alone should have exact and equal rights as that being and should be left to their own devices and be allowed to shun their creator.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14so your denomination are the "real" christians, right? (they all say that, but never mind that for now).

Depends on what you mean by that... we believe what the Bible says, and we don't associate us with those who would change it.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14isn't god a bit of a prick for making his message so ludicrously cryptic that only a small proportion of the population get it right, and punishing everyone who gets it wrong?

Is it really that hard to "decrypt"? The Bible is large and full of complex verses, yes. But the very basic instruction left for us today is very simple, the five-step process. Follow that and you're set. It also is pretty simple to understand what God says is a sin and what is not.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 2010 17:53:05 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 10:08"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

"This is another counterfeiting of the Scriptures many have tried to use to shame us for what we do in his name. "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone" is not speaking to judging. Let me explain.

Using the KJV this time, in John 8:1 - 11 scribes and Pharisees had caught a woman in the act of adultery (the woman commonly referred to as the prostitute) and told Jesus who was teaching in the temple that the Mosaic Law required she be stoned to death. Trying to make an opportunity of this to trick Jesus that they might accuse Him, they, with stones in hand, asked Jesus what He says about the Law. After Jesus tried to ignore their repeated questioning, He told them "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." One by one each man dropped his stone and walked away.

Jesus was not arguing with the judgment. Nor was Jesus arguing the law nor the woman's guilt. Jesus was arguing with our right to execute the woman. Once all the men had dropped their stones Jesus confronted the woman and asked her if any of the men were still there to condemn her. When she answered "No man, Lord", Jesus told her that neither did He - He forgave her of her sin. He did not excuse the sin of adultery/prostitution, he forgave her of it. All behavior and thought that is sinful before forgiveness is still sinful after forgiveness. Not only was Jesus not afraid to call a sin a sin, He was not afraid to call a sinner a sinner. He even reminded her of the sin of adultery/prostitution by telling her "Go and sin no more."

The point? Jesus did not argue the act of judging the chosen behavior of the adulteress/prostitute."

i'm not seeing how this refutes my point?

the woman gets away with it because sinful people are supposedly not allowed to punish offenders. we're told we're all sinful, so what's the point the law being there if it's unenforcable?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14it's not exactly much of a jump to get from "all jews are responsible of the murder of our god" to actually doing something nasty to jews, is it?

God didn't say it, one man did. One man said that all Jews should be responsible. That doesn't translate to a Biblical command.

and yet throughout the bible we have innumerable cases of god eagerly punishing or threatening to punish innocents for the crimes of others. you've even defended that bullshit yourself.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14What about it? My question was: where's the evidence supporting the account given in Genesis? So how does this support the account given in Genesis?

I wasn't providing evidence supporting Genesis, I was asking in terms of evolution.

firstly, i said: where's the evidence supporting the account given in genesis? you said the second law of thermodynamics/entropy.

so if that wasn't intended to provide evidence supporting genesis, what IS your evidence to support that version of events?

secondly, i don't give a shit whether you or anyone else is convinced by the theory of evolution or not, and i'm not aware of anyone saying "you MUST believe this or you'll suffer horrific punishments for eternity". but still, i'm not sure exactly why you think the second law of thermodynamics is supposed to be a counter-argument to the theory of evolution?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14i can't match verses to numbers off the top of my head, but i would have thought an avowed christian would at least have read the bible through.

How does that make sense? Yes, I study the Bible, but I don't know all of its contents. It would take years to effectively read and study every Bible verse.

k, then here's the one i was talking about we are. Deuteronomy 13:12-16

If you hear that in one of the towns which Yahweh your God has given you for a home, there are men, scoundrels from your own stock, who have led their fellow citizens astray, saying "Let us go and serve other gods" hitherto unknown to you, it is your duty to look into the matter, examine it, and inquire most carefully. If it is proved and confirmed that such a hateful thing has taken place among you, you must put the inhabitants of that town to the sword, you must lay it under the curse of destruction, the town and everything in it. You must pile up all its loot in the public square and burn the town and all its loot, offering it all to Yahweh your God. It is to be a ruin for all time and never rebuilt.

Another noteworthy statement along the same lines: Deuteronomy 13:7-11

If your brother, the son of your father or of your mother, or your son or daughter, or the spouse whom you embrace, or your most intimate friend, tries to secretly seduce you, saying "Let us go and serve other gods" unknown to you or your ancestors before you, gods of the peoples surrounding you, whether near you or far away, anywhere throughout the world, you must not consent, you must not listen to him, you must show him no pity, you must not spare him or conceal his guilt. No, you must kill him, your hand must strike the first blow in putting him to death

and the hands of the rest of the people following. You must stone him to death, since he has tried to divert you from Yahweh your God.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14for starters, you could ask god to make his "revelation" a little less ridiculous, or you could ask god not to be such a bastard that he feels the need to dish out the worst crime imaginable just for the "crime" of disbelieving in his existence or disagreeing with his religion.

There are plenty of people who think the revelation was just fine, and don't see how his commandments are ridiculous. So, why should your opinion be any more important than theirs?[/quote]

Firstly, there are not quite as many such people as you think. Christians are by no means a majority in this world, and that's even if we count all the sects who claim to be real Christians - many of whom I'm sure you think are not.

Secondly, I'm not seeing why someone else thinking that the Christian revelations were crystal clear and think there's nothing immoral about his commandments justifies the horrific punishment threatened to anyone who disagrees with them.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14Quote:Apparently you do... If you're going to say that they were spreading lies about condoms, it would be a good idea to know the intention behind the act, right?

i'm more concerned with the fact millions of people are dying.

So you only care for the act and not the motive? Isn't that an ignorant viewpoint?

Not really, the catholic church has had plenty of time up till now to defend its absurd and immoral position on contraception, and it hasn't done so.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14how do you even know they said that?

once you've answered that, how do you know they were correct, as opposed to crazy or lying or just plain wrong?

once you've answered that, how do you know this wasn't the case for the rejected gospels?

1. They said it in the gospels they wrote.
2. I don't "know" that, but as you said, odds - if that many people (the writers) all claimed the same thing, they either are telling the truth or a coordinated lie.
3. I don't, since I haven't read said gospels.
 1. you mean the gospel says so - not the same thing at all. how do you know that everything in there is exactly what the writers wanted to say?
 2. they didn't all claim the same thing. the gospels contradict each other about almost every major event in jesus' life.
 3. ah. i remember you saying you hadn't read the qur'an or hadith either. well, these all claim to be revelations from the god you believe in... don't you think you should at least read them before deciding they're not the real deal?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14it wouldn't be the first time i've made the assertion that it's plain evil to threaten someone with horrific punishment just for the "crime" of

disagreeing with you or doubting what you say, would it?

No, it wouldn't be. It's your motto, I guess. By that logic, though, you shouldn't punish a child molester because he doesn't agree with the anti-pedophilia law.

Firstly, you seem to be affirming that you don't think there's anything wrong with threatening someone with horrific punishment for nothing worse than disagreeing with you.

Secondly, are you drawing a parallel between 1. disagreeing with someone, and 2. raping a child? we have laws to protect children from paedophiles because raping a child is a genuine crime with potentially severe consequences for the victim, and because basic human decency leads most of us to think vulnerable children need to be protected from predatory adults. i hardly see how this is the same situation as someone who is not convinced that a particular religion is correct or disagrees with its teachings?

Quote:I'm referencing to actions made by the people in the Old Testament, and you keep turning it around to "Look what GOD did!"

actually a lot of my criticism of the moral evils of the old testament are reported to have been carried out by the god character himself. certainly his followers do a lot of evil things, certainly he ORDERS a lot of evil things, he also DOES a lot of evil things (ordering them can count in this column too)

And it wasn't "complaining about your religion" as you quoted me.

Quote:I'm in favor of democracy and human rights among humans.

I'm suprised that you think that a people completely created by another being by his will alone should have exact and equal rights as that being and should be left to their own devices and be allowed to shun their creator.

you misunderstand me. i didn't say humans should have equal rights to 'god'. i don't see any reason why this 'god' should have any rights, since nobody's even managed to demonstrate that it exists at all.

secondly, i seem to recall having this argument with you before. apparently we're stuck as slaves to anyone who created us? well, what if you found out that you were created by a mad scientist in a lab, a modern-day dr. frankenstein? would that make you his slave, like it or not?

if we were to find out that the origins of life on earth was because some aliens 'seeded' the planet a few million years ago, would that mean we have to be slaves to them?

if instead you decide that you were created by your parents in the traditional way, do they rule you for your entire life?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 04:14isn't god a bit of a prick for making his message so ludicrously cryptic that only a small proportion of the population get it right, and punishing everyone who gets it wrong?

Is it really that hard to "decrypt"?

if the only people on this planet who've gotten it right are in your particular denomination, then apparently it is.

Quote:It also is pretty simple to understand what God says is a sin and what is not.
sure, doesn't mean we need to listen to him, considering how absolutely crap his moral standards seem to be.

but that's no surprise; he was, after all, created by bronze-age middle-eastern barbarians.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [The Party](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 2010 17:55:50 GMT
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HoF FTW! I feel the heat from this thread.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [_SSnipe_](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 2010 20:45:07 GMT
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Spoony, why does everyone one of your topics have to do with...someone cheating....flame post about someone else....or religious/homo type subjects

no disrespect it just seems like...nvm im stop now

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 2010 23:25:25 GMT
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maybe when religion stops trying to take over the world there won't be anything to complain about

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 27 Mar 2010 17:13:12 GMT
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quick audio summary from pat of everything i've been saying about the catholic church
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKg4HLsu5gE&feature=sub>

admittedly i'd have mentioned its persecution of homosexuality too but meh

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 28 Mar 2010 09:46:46 GMT

Spoony wrote on Sat, 27 March 2010 11:13 quick audio summary from pat of everything i've been saying about the catholic church
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKg4HLsu5gE&feature=sub>

admittedly i'd have mentioned its persecution of homosexuality too but meh

I thought you were the old man in the vid for a moment.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 29 Mar 2010 01:16:50 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 i'm not seeing how this refutes my point?
the woman gets away with it because sinful people are supposedly not allowed to punish offenders. we're told we're all sinful, so what's the point the law being there if it's unenforcable?

Perhaps I wasn't trying to refute it?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 and yet throughout the bible we have innumerable cases of god eagerly punishing or threatening to punish innocents for the crimes of others. you've even defended that bullshit yourself.

That doesn't change the fact that the Bible doesn't command us to persecute Jews.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 firstly, i said: where's the evidence supporting the account given in genesis? you said the second law of thermodynamics/entropy.

When I said those two examples, I was NOT giving them as evidence to Genesis, I was bringing it up against evolution, as I already said.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 secondly, i don't give a shit whether you or anyone else is convinced by the theory of evolution or not, and i'm not aware of anyone saying "you MUST believe this or you'll suffer horrific punishments for eternity". but still, i'm not sure exactly why you think the second law of thermodynamics is supposed to be a counter-argument to the theory of evolution?

So you want me to provide evidence and attempt to vindicate Genesis, but you don't think I should make any move against evolution? One-sided, no?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 k, then here's the one i was talking about we are.
Deuteronomy 13:12-16

If thou shalt hear [say] in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying,
[Certain] men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the

inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known; Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, [if it be] truth, [and] the thing certain, [that] such abomination is wrought among you; Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that [is] therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword. And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the LORD thy God: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again.

I took the liberty of changing your quoted verses to KJV.

Now here's Matthew Henry's commentary which should hopefully answer any question you have provided you read it carefully.

Toggle Spoiler"Here the case is put of a city revolting from its allegiance to the God of Israel, and serving other gods.

I. The crime is supposed to be committed, 1. By one of the cities of Israel, that lay within the jurisdiction of their courts. The church then judged those only that were within, 1 Co. 5:12, 13. And, even when they were ordered to preserve their religion in the first principles of it by fire and sword to propagate it. Those that are born within the allegiance of a prince, if they take up arms against him, are dealt with as traitors, but foreign invaders are not so. The city that is here supposed to have become idolatrous is one that formerly worshipped the true God, but had now withdrawn to other gods, which intimates how great the crime is, and how sore the punishment will be, of those that, after they have known the way of righteousness, turn aside from it, 2 Pt. 2:21. 2. It is supposed to be committed by the generality of the inhabitants of the city, for we may conclude that, if a considerable number did retain their integrity, those only that were guilty were to be destroyed, and the city was to be spared for the sake of the righteous in it; for will not the Judge of all the earth do right? No doubt he will. 3. They are supposed to be drawn to idolatry by certain men, the children of Belial, men that would endure no yoke (so it signifies), that neither fear God nor regard man, but shake off all restraints of law and conscience, and are perfectly lost to all manner of virtue; these are those that say, "Let us serve other gods," that will not only allow, but will countenance and encourage, our immoralities. Belial is put for the devil (2 Co. 6:15), and the children of Belial are his children. These withdraw the inhabitants of the city; for a little of this old leaven, when it is entertained, soon leavens the whole lump.

II. The cause is ordered to be tried with a great deal of care (v. 14): Thou shalt enquire and make search. They must not proceed upon common fame, or take the information by hearsay, but must examine the proofs, and not give judgment against them unless the evidence was clear and the charge fully made out. God himself, before he destroyed Sodom, is said to have come down to see whether its crimes were according to the clamour, Gen. 18:21. In judicial processes it is requisite that time, and care, and pains, be taken to find out the truth, and that search be made without any passion, prejudice, or partiality. The Jewish writers say that, though particular persons who were idolaters might be judged by the inferior courts, the defection of a city was to be tried by the great Sanhedrim; and, if it appeared that they were thrust away to idolatry, two learned men were sent to them to admonish and reclaim them. If they repented, all would be well; if not, then all Israel must go up to war against them, to testify their indignation against idolatry and to stop the spreading of the contagion.

III. If the crime were proved, and the criminals were incorrigible, the city was to be wholly destroyed. If there were a few righteous men in it, no doubt they would remove themselves and their families out of such a dangerous place, and then all the inhabitants, men, women, and children, must be put to the sword (v. 15), all the spoil of the city, both shop-goods and the furniture of houses, must be brought into the marketplace and burned, and the city itself must be laid in ashes and never built again, v. 16. The soldiers are forbidden, upon pain of death, to convert any of the plunder to their own use, v. 17. It was a devoted thing, and dangerous to meddle with, as we find in the case of Achan. Now, 1. God enjoins this severity of show what a jealous God he is in the matters of his worship, and how great a crime it is to serve other gods. Let men know that God will not give his glory to another, nor his praise to graven images. 2. He expects that magistrates, having their honour and power from him, should be concerned for his honour, and use their power for terror to evil doers, else they bear the sword in vain. 3. The faithful worshippers of the true God must take all occasions to show their just indignation against idolatry, much more against atheism, infidelity, and irreligion. 4. It is here intimated that the best expedient for the turning away of God's anger from a land is to execute justice upon the wicked of the land (v. 17), that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger, which was ready to break out against the whole nation, for the wickedness of that one apostate city. It is promised that, if they would thus root wickedness out of their land, God would multiply them. They might think it impolitic, and against the interest of their nation, to ruin a whole city for a crime relating purely to religion, and that they should be more sparing of the blood of Israelites: "Fear not the" (says Moses), "God will multiply you the more; the body of your nation will lose nothing by the letting out of this corrupt blood." Lastly, Though we do not find this law put in execution in all the history of the Jewish church (Gibeah was destroyed, not for idolatry, but immorality), yet for the neglect of the execution of it upon the inferior cities that served idols God himself, by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem, the head city, which, for is apostasy from God, was utterly destroyed and laid waste, and lay in ruins seventy years. Though idolaters may escape punishment from men (nor is this law in the letter of it binding now, under the gospel), yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgements. The New Testament speaks of communion with idolaters as a sin which, above any other, provokes the Lord to jealousy, and dares him as if we were stronger than he, 1 Co. 10:21, 22."

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53Another noteworthy statement along the same lines: Deuteronomy 13:7-11

[Namely], of the gods of the people which [are] round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth;
Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:
But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.
And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

Same as above, here:

Toggle Spoiler"Further provision is made by this branch of the statute against receiving the infection of idolatry from those that are near and dear to us.

I. It is the policy of the tempter to send his solicitations by the hand of those whom we love, whom we least suspect of any ill design upon us, and whom we are desirous to please and apt to conform ourselves to. The enticement here is supposed to come from a brother or child that are near by nature, from a wife or friend that are near by choice, and are to us as our own souls, v. 6. Satan tempted Adam by Eve and Christ by Peter. We are therefore concerned to stand upon our guard against a bad proposal when the person that makes it can pretend to an interest in us, that we may never sin against God in compliment to the best friend we have in the world. The temptation is supposed to be private: he will entice thee secretly, implying that idolatry is a work of darkness, which dreads the light and covets to be concealed, and in which the sinner promises himself, and the tempter promises him, secrecy and security. Concerning the false gods proposed to be served, 1. The tempter suggests that the worshipping of these gods was the common practice of the world; and, if they limited their adorations to an invisible Deity, they were singular, and like nobody, for these gods were the gods of the people round about them, and indeed of all the nations of the earth, v. 7. This suggestion draws many away from religion and godliness, that it is an unfashionable thing; and they make their court to the world and the flesh because these are the gods of the people that are round about them. 2. Moses suggests, in opposition to this, that it had not been the practice of their ancestors; they are gods which thou hast not known, thou nor thy fathers. Those that are born of godly parents, and have been educated in pious exercises, when they are enticed to a vain, loose, careless way of living should remember that those are ways which they have not known, they nor their fathers. And will they thus degenerate?

II. It is our duty to prefer God and religion before the best friends we have in the world. 1. We must not, in complaisance to our friends, break God's law (v. 8): "Thou shalt not consent to him. nor go with him to his idolatrous worship, no, not for company, or curiosity, or to gain a better interest in his affections." It is a general rule, If sinners entice thee, consent thou not, Prov. 1:10. 2. We must not, in compassion to our friends, obstruct the course of God's justice. He that attempts such a thing must not only be looked upon as an enemy, or dangerous person, whom one should be afraid of, and swear the peace against, but as a criminal or traitor, whom, in zeal for our sovereign Lord, his crown and dignity, we are bound to inform against, and cannot conceal without incurring the guilt of a great misprision (v. 9): Thou shalt surely kill him. By this law the persons enticed were bound to the seducer, and to give evidence against him before the proper judges, that he might suffer the penalty of the law, and that without delay, which the Jews say is here intended in that phrase, as it is in the Hebrew, killing thou shalt kill him. Neither the prosecution nor the execution must be deferred; and he that was first in the former must be first in the latter, to show that he stood to his testimony: "Thy hand shall be first upon him, to mark him out as an anathema, and then the hands of all the people, to put him away as an accursed thing." The death he must die was that which was looked upon among the Jews as the severest of all deaths. He must be stoned: and his accusation written is that he has sought to thrust thee away, by a kind of violence, from the Lord thy God, v. 10. Those are certainly our worst enemies that would thrust us from God, our best friend; and whatever draws us to sin, separates between us and God, is a design upon our life, and to be resented accordingly. And, lastly, here is the good effect of this necessary execution (v. 11): All Israel shall hear and fear. They ought to hear and fear; for the punishment of crimes committed is designed in *terrorem*—to terrify, and so to prevent their repetition. And it is to be hoped they will hear and fear, and by the severity of the punishment, especially when it is at the prosecution of a father, a brother, or a friend, will be made to conceive a horror of the sin, as exceedingly sinful, and to be afraid of incurring the like punishment themselves. Smite the scorner that sins presumptuously, and the simple, that is in danger of sinning carelessly, will beware."

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 I'm not seeing why someone else thinking that the Christian revelations were crystal clear and think there's nothing immoral about his commandments justifies the horrific punishment threatened to anyone who disagrees with them.

It doesn't justify, sure, but I'm trying to point out a different opinion since yours is the prominent one here.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 Not really, the catholic church has had plenty of time up till now to defend its absurd and immoral position on contraception, and it hasn't done so.

If the people who physically did those things were still alive and were asked the question, I'm sure they'd answer... but they're not around today, are they?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 1. you mean the gospel says so - not the same thing at all. how do you know that everything in there is exactly what the writers wanted to say?

2. they didn't all claim the same thing. the gospels contradict each other about almost every major event in Jesus' life.

3. ah. i remember you saying you hadn't read the Qur'an or hadith either. well, these all claim to be revelations from the god you believe in... don't you think you should at least read them before deciding they're not the real deal?

1. "How do you know" again? Same answer - I don't. How do you know they weren't? You don't. Simple answer - we don't know.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 Firstly, you seem to be affirming that you don't think there's anything wrong with threatening someone with horrific punishment for nothing worse than disagreeing with you.

The played-down part here is "disagreeing with you" - it's a lot more than that, you know.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 Secondly, are you drawing a parallel between 1. disagreeing with someone, and 2. raping a child? we have laws to protect children from paedophiles because raping a child is a genuine crime with potentially severe consequences for the victim, and because basic human decency leads most of us to think vulnerable children need to be protected from predatory adults. i hardly see how this is the same situation as someone who is not convinced that a particular religion is correct or disagrees with its teachings?

I could use ANY exmple here if I wanted. I'm not talking about the act in particular. Let's change it to whatever law then - the lawbreaker disagrees with the law at hand, and doesn't think it's a proper law and should not be enforced. Should we punish him anyway, or should we let him be, since it isn't fair that we punish him for breaking a law he doesn't think is fair or right?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 Quote: I'm referencing to actions made by the people in the Old Testament, and you keep turning it around to "Look what GOD did!"

actually a lot of my criticism of the moral evils of the old testament are reported to have been carried out by the god character himself. certainly his followers do a lot of evil things, certainly he ORDERS a lot of evil things, he also DOES a lot of evil things (ordering them can count in this

column too)

That's what I said, yeah. You refer to what GOD did, when I was referring to something else.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53you misunderstand me. i didn't say humans should have equal rights to 'god'. i don't see any reason why this 'god' should have any rights, since nobody's even managed to demonstrate that it exists at all.

Stop dragging the hypothetical situation to the real world - IF God did exist (IF), should we have equal rights to him?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53secondly, i seem to recall having this argument with you before. apparently we're stuck as slaves to anyone who created us? well, what if you found out that you were created by a mad scientist in a lab, a modern-day dr. frankenstein? would that make you his slave, like it or not?

That's a completely different situation, eh? Mad scientists would have to work with inventions and materials around him, not create everything out of nothing with pure will.

Also, if we were made by a mad scientist, we'd be wherever he was (unless he was completely alone in the universe) and would be subject to his existence as well, so...

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if we were to find out that the origins of life on earth was because some aliens 'seeded' the planet a few million years ago, would that mean we have to be slaves to them?

Again, completely different scenario.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if instead you decide that you were created by your parents in the traditional way, do they rule you for your entire life?

'The traditional way'?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if the only people on this planet who've gotten it right are in your particular denomination, then apparently it is.

Again, we're not. But some (or a lot) groups have changed the scripture to suit themselves. And as the Bible says, let no man add or take away from what is written.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53Quote:It also is pretty simple to understand what God says is a sin and what is not.

sure, doesn't mean we need to listen to him, considering how absolutely crap his moral standards seem to be.

but that's no surprise; he was, after all, created by bronze-age middle-eastern barbarians.

But they're simple, as you just affirmed. Not cryptic at all.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 29 Mar 2010 08:41:35 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 28 March 2010 19:16 Perhaps I wasn't trying to refute it?

shrug then i guess my earlier statement about the overall stupidity of the story can be allowed to stand

Quote: Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 and yet throughout the bible we have innumerable cases of god eagerly punishing or threatening to punish innocents for the crimes of others. you've even defended that bullshit yourself.

That doesn't change the fact that the Bible doesn't command us to persecute Jews. well, it would be nice if all the christian authorities had said this for the last two thousand years, instead of specifically encouraging the persecution of jews, culminating in the holocaust. and if you're going to take the line that statements of "faith" don't have to be proven, then this is only a problem for your side.

Quote: When I said those two examples, I was NOT giving them as evidence to Genesis, I was bringing it up against evolution, as I already said.

So you want me to provide evidence and attempt to vindicate Genesis, but you don't think I should make any move against evolution? One-sided, no?

firstly, i never said you shouldn't try to refute the theory of evolution. no real scientist would say that, and i'm not even a scientist. evolution is a scientific theory, and since it's scientific it's open to challenges. if the best you can do is mentioning the second law of thermodynamics, then ok. i can't imagine why that's supposed to be a rebuttal to the theory of evolution, so perhaps you can explain that for us.

secondly, yes i do want you to prove the account as reported in genesis.

thirdly, i'll just repeat my earlier assertion that i don't really care whether you find the theory of evolution convincing or not, and if i ever came across anybody saying that if you don't believe their scientific theory then their boss will inflict horrific punishment upon you for your disbelief! then i'd be the first to say what a deranged and immoral pronouncement that would be.

even more so if they never put forth any decent evidence for it in the first place.

Quote: I took the liberty of changing your quoted verses to KJV.

Now here's Matthew Henry's commentary which should hopefully answer any question you have provided you read it carefully.

i have a feeling it's going to raise more questions than it answers, but i'll give it a shot.

Quote: "Here the case is put of a city revolting from its allegiance to the God of Israel, and serving other gods.

I. The crime is supposed to be committed

oh dear. already i've got to stop you. i don't accept that a crime has been committed here.

Quote:The crime is supposed to be committed, 1. By one of the cities of Israel, that lay within the jurisdiction of their courts.

Ah. I think I see what he's getting at here; it only applies to the Israelites, does it? In that case, then the verse would be totally irrelevant in a modern context. That would certainly be no problem for me; it would only be a problem for anybody who dared to say that God gave them this planet, their property etc.

But quite a lot of Christians do say that, don't they?

Quote:The church then judged those only that were within, 1 Co. 5:12, 13. And, even when they were ordered to preserve their religion in the first principles of it by fire and sword to propagate it. fun fun fun!

Quote:Those that are born within the allegiance of a prince, if they take up arms against him, are dealt with as traitors, but foreign invaders are not so.
We're back to my earlier criticism of dictatorship.

I do accept that someone who "takes up arms against" a cause they have freely chosen to swear allegiance to is considered a traitor. But there are three problems in this case.

1. The choice to swear allegiance to your god is not free. I've never heard a serious attempt to make the case that it is, either from the barbarism of the Bible or from modern-day Christians who say we're free to believe what we like but we'll go to hell for believing the wrong thing.
2. "Born within the allegiance" negates the concept of a choice at all.
3. I don't accept that simply not worshipping the god and having a different religious viewpoint constitutes "taking up arms against"

Quote:The city that is here supposed to have become idolatrous is one that formerly worshipped the true God, but had now withdrawn to other gods, which intimates how great the crime is ...no, no it doesn't.

Although, "other gods"... do you think there are (or were) any other gods?

Quote:It is supposed to be committed by the generality of the inhabitants of the city, for we may conclude that, if a considerable number did retain their integrity, those only that were guilty were to be destroyed, and the city was to be spared for the sake of the righteous in it; for will not the Judge of all the earth do right? No doubt he will.

firstly, there's nothing in the original commandment saying "this punishment is only to be carried out if they're all guilty", nor "innocent bystanders will be spared", and it's rather dishonest to suggest that there is, but then i've never come across any theology that wasn't at some stage based on dishonesty.

secondly it's worth noting that the author seems to realise that if god did do this, if he did flatten a city including innocent bystanders just because some other people in the city did something bad (not that i accept that having a different religious opinion is a crime), god would be morally wrong to do it.

Quote:They are supposed to be drawn to idolatry by certain men, the children of Belial, men that would endure no yoke (so it signifies), that neither fear God nor regard man, but shake off all

restraints of law and conscience, and are perfectly lost to all manner of virtue; these are those that say, "Let us serve other gods,"

He really has lost me here. Why would serving a different god mean someone has no desire to be bound by laws, or any "manner of virtue"? They're just picking a different set, aren't they?

Secondly, are non-theists thrown into the same category, I wonder?

Quote:The cause is ordered to be tried with a great deal of care (v. 14): Thou shalt enquire and make search. They must not proceed upon common fame, or take the information by hearsay, but must examine the proofs, and not give judgment against them unless the evidence was clear and the charge fully made out. God himself, before he destroyed Sodom, is said to have come down to see whether its crimes were according to the clamour, Gen. 18:21. In judicial processes it is requisite that time, and care, and pains, be taken to find out the truth, and that search be made without any passion, prejudice, or partiality. The Jewish writers say that, though particular persons who were idolaters might be judged by the inferior courts, the defection of a city was to be tried by the great Sanhedrim; and, if it appeared that they were thrust away to idolatry, two learned men were sent to them to admonish and reclaim them. If they repented, all would be well; if not, then all Israel must go up to war against them, to testify their indignation against idolatry and to stop the spreading of the contagion.

this part of the commentary is uncharacteristically honest. yes, the original commandment does make it clear that it is to be painstakingly investigated.

Quote:III. If the crime were proved, and the criminals were incorrigible, the city was to be wholly destroyed. If there were a few righteous men in it, no doubt they would remove themselves and their families out of such a dangerous place
Ah.

So it's ok to flatten an entire city if some of its inhabitants commit a crime, because anyone who was innocent would "no doubt" have already left.

Quote:and then all the inhabitants, men, women, and children, must be put to the sword (v. 15)
I'm going to emphasise a part of this quote, and then I'll throw it out here and we'll see whether you have anything to say about it.

"Children must be put to the sword."

Quote:all the spoil of the city, both shop-goods and the furniture of houses, must be brought into the marketplace and burned, and the city itself must be laid in ashes and never built again, v. 16. The soldiers are forbidden, upon pain of death, to convert any of the plunder to their own use, v. 17. It was a devoted thing, and dangerous to meddle with, as we find in the case of Achan.
well, i think the real crime here is the slaughter of the city's inhabitants, not the ensuing destruction of property.

Quote:Now, 1. God enjoins this severity of show what a jealous God he is in the matters of his worship, and how great a crime it is to serve other gods.
firstly, he hasn't successfully made the case that serving another god is a crime.

secondly, even if he did make that case, this wouldn't make it morally acceptable to punish

innocents if someone else was guilty.

thirdly, see my earlier question. are there other gods...?

Quote:Let men know that God will not give his glory to another, nor his praise to graven images.
2. He expects that magistrates, having their honour and power from him, should be concerned for his honour, and use their power for terror to evil doers, else they bear the sword in vain.
And does he still expect that?

Quote:The faithful worshippers of the true God must take all occasions to show their just indignation against idolatry, much more against atheism, infidelity, and irreligion.
Ah, so that means someone who does not take all occasions to show their just indignation against atheism and idolatry is not a faithful worshipper of the true God?

Quote:It is here intimated that the best expedient for the turning away of God's anger from a land is to execute justice upon the wicked of the land (v. 17), that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger, which was ready to break out against the whole nation, for the wickedness of that one apostate city.
Here we have another example of what we noticed earlier. Earlier we noticed that the author seems to realise that if god really did flatten a city for the crimes of a few of its inhabitants, it would be an immoral thing for god to do.

Now we're seeing that again. What a good thing that God's people are laying waste to this city, he says, because otherwise God was going to destroy the entire country just for what one city did!

Quote:It is promised that, if they would thus root wickedness out of their land, God would multiply them. They might think it impolitic, and against the interest of their nation, to ruin a whole city for a crime relating purely to religion, and that they should be more sparing of the blood of Israelites: "Fear not the" (says Moses), "God will multiply you the more; the body of your nation will lose nothing by the letting out of this corrupt blood."
Here we have it again! The author is recognising that some people might have had a problem with this commandment!

Unfortunately, even though that's a good starting point, he totally fucks it all up by saying "even if you think this is morally wrong, you should do it anyway because there's something in it for you". Oh dear.

Quote:Lastly, Though we do not find this law put in execution in all the history of the Jewish church (Gibeah was destroyed, not for idolatry, but immorality)
I wasn't sure what was originally meant by Gibeah, so I looked that up. I do recognise the story, though not as 'Gibeah'. The one about the baying mob who want to rape the male visitor, and the decision by the men to throw the young women to the mob to save themselves. So the visitor's woman gets raped to death. That one. It's similar to the Lot story, isn't it? The similarity of the narrative, the almost identical speech reported, and the fact that modern Christians seem to draw some really odd moral lessons from it, i.e. homosexuality is evil, but if you find yourself faced by a mob of rapists, just throw a defenceless young girl at them and save yourself.

Quote:yet for the neglect of the execution of it upon the inferior cities that served idols God

himself, by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem, the head city, which, for is apostasy from God, was utterly destroyed and laid waste, and lay in ruins seventy years. What's he saying here?

Quote: Though idolaters may escape punishment from men (nor is this law in the letter of it binding now, under the gospel), yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgements. The New Testament speaks of communion with idolaters as a sin which, above any other, provokes the Lord to jealousy, and dares him as if we were stronger than he, 1 Co. 10:21, 22."

This is quite an odd kettle of fish, isn't it?

So, idolatry, serving other gods etc, they're things which absolutely infuriate God. Yes, the old testament makes that clear... and it doesn't exactly work in his favour. There are plenty of evil actions he either doesn't mind or positively recommends - slavery, for example - but if you have a different religious opinion, you'd better watch out.

So there must be a law against this "crime" in the Old Testament. But as he says here, in the New Testament, the law is not binding anymore, but it still infuriates God and he'll still punish people who do it? So why repeal the law?

Quote: "Further provision is made by this branch of the statute against receiving the infection of idolatry from those that are near and dear to us.

I. It is the policy of the tempter to send his solicitations by the hand of those whom we love, whom we least suspect of any ill design upon us, and whom we are desirous to please and apt to conform ourselves to. The enticement here is supposed to come from a brother or child that are near by nature, from a wife or friend that are near by choice, and are to us as our own souls, v. 6. Satan tempted Adam by Eve and Christ by Peter. We are therefore concerned to stand upon our guard against a bad proposal when the person that makes it can pretend to an interest in us, that we may never sin against God in compliment to the best friend we have in the world. The temptation is supposed to be private: he will entice thee secretly, implying that idolatry is a work of darkness, which dreads the light and covets to be concealed, and in which the sinner promises himself, and the tempter promises him, secrecy and security.

This all assumes that the person doing the "tempting" has evil intentions... what if they're just someone like you, evangelising? Someone who genuinely believes in their God, and wants to spread the good news?

as an aside, do you really believe that the snake in the garden was Satan?

Quote: Concerning the false gods proposed to be served
Define "false god", please.

Quote: 1. The tempter suggests that the worshipping of these gods was the common practice of the world; and, if they limited their adorations to an invisible Deity, they were singular, and like nobody, for these gods were the gods of the people round about them, and indeed of all the nations of the earth, v. 7.
makes sense to ask why worship something intangible.

Quote: This suggestion draws many away from religion and godliness, that it is an unfashionable thing
so far so good

Quote: and they make their court to the world and the flesh because these are the gods of the people that are round about them.
??

Quote: Moses suggests, in opposition to this, that it had not been the practice of their ancestors; they are gods which thou hast not known, thou nor thy fathers. Those that are born of godly parents, and have been educated in pious exercises, when they are enticed to a vain, loose, careless way of living should remember that those are ways which they have not known, they nor their fathers. And will they thus degenerate?
Ask the Jews who rejected the message of Jesus.

Quote: II. It is our duty to prefer God and religion before the best friends we have in the world. Including your children?

What would be your response to the Abraham test, do you think?

Quote: We must not, in complaisance to our friends, break God's law (v. 8): "Thou shalt not consent to him. nor go with him to his idolatrous worship, no, not for company, or curiosity, or to gain a better interest in his affections." It is a general rule, If sinners entice thee, consent thou not, Prov. 1:10. 2. We must not, in compassion to our friends, obstruct the course of God's justice. Again, the author is recognising that people might, unbelievably, have a problem with this commandment. Their compassion might get in the way. I certainly hope so. I wonder why I've never heard a Christian say that compassion was a work of Satan.

Quote: He that attempts such a thing must not only be looked upon as an enemy, or dangerous person, whom one should be afraid of, and swear the peace against, but as a criminal or traitor, whom, in zeal for our sovereign Lord, his crown and dignity, we are bound to inform against, and cannot conceal without incurring the guilt of a great misprision (v. 9): Thou shalt surely kill him. By this law the persons enticed were bound to the seducer, and to give evidence against him before the proper judges, that he might suffer the penalty of the law, and that without delay, which the Jews say is here intended in that phrase, as it is in the Hebrew, killing thou shalt kill him. Neither the prosecution nor the execution must be deferred; and he that was first in the former must be first in the latter, to show that he stood to his testimony: "Thy hand shall be first upon him, to mark him out as an anathema, and then the hands of all the people, to put him away as an accursed thing." The death he must die was that which was looked upon among the Jews as the severest of all deaths. He must be stoned: and his accusation written is that he has sought to thrust thee away, by a kind of violence, from the Lord thy God, v. 10.
still hasn't explained where the crime is here

Quote: Those are certainly our worst enemies that would thrust us from God, our best friend; and whatever draws us to sin, separates between us and God, is a design upon our life, and to be resented accordingly
see above re: intentions not necessarily evil.

Suppose I said the following.

You, Altzan, are certainly my worst enemy that would thrust me from reason, my best friend. Whatever draws me to religion, separates between myself and my reason, is a design upon my mind, to be resented accordingly.

It's not actually so far from the truth, although I wouldn't say this would justify me killing you for trying.

Quote:And, lastly, here is the good effect of this necessary execution (v. 11): All Israel shall hear and fear. They ought to hear and fear; for the punishment of crimes committed is designed in terrorem—to terrify, and so to prevent their repetition. And it is to be hoped they will hear and fear, and by the severity of the punishment, especially when it is at the prosecution of a father, a brother, or a friend, will be made to conceive a horror of the sin, as exceedingly sinful, and to be afraid of incurring the like punishment themselves. Smite the scorner that sins presumptuously, and the simple, that is in danger of sinning carelessly, will beware."

Well, yes, if you carry out the most horrific of punishments for some "crime", people probably will avoid doing it. That doesn't mean the punishment is just, or that the "crime" is a crime at all.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53I'm not seeing why someone else thinking that the Christian revelations were crystal clear and think there's nothing immoral about his commandments justifies the horrific punishment threatened to anyone who disagrees with them.

It doesn't justify, sure, but I'm trying to point out a different opinion since yours is the prominent one here.

k, but the other opinion is crap, isn't it?

saying the christian revelation is crystal clear is plainly absurd; if it is, what's the need for 'faith'?

as for thinking there's nothing immoral about his commandments... well, you can even see some objections in matthew henry's commentary if you look closely.

Quote:If the people who physically did those things were still alive and were asked the question, I'm sure they'd answer... but they're not around today, are they?

the catholic church is still spreading its evil doctrine against contraception even now.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:531. you mean the gospel says so - not the same thing at all. how do you know that everything in there is exactly what the writers wanted to say?

2. they didn't all claim the same thing. the gospels contradict each other about almost every major event in jesus' life.

3. ah. i remember you saying you hadn't read the qur'an or hadith either. well, these all claim to be revelations from the god you believe in... don't you think you should at least read them before deciding they're not the real deal?

1. "How do you know" again? Same answer - I don't.

Simple answer - we don't know.

I will give you credit where credit is due. I think this is the most honest and reasonable thing I've

seen you say in these religious debates.

It goes a bit wrong from there, though... you ask me how do I know they weren't inspired by god. well, i've been waiting for quite some time for anybody to explain what they even mean by god, and prove his existence, and demonstrate that he's worth listening to.

Once they've done that, then I'll be sure to give due consideration to whether a book claiming to be inspired by him actually is. Otherwise I don't really see the point.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53Firstly, you seem to be affirming that you don't think there's anything wrong with threatening someone with horrific punishment for nothing worse than disagreeing with you.

The played-down part here is "disagreeing with you" - it's a lot more than that, you know. Go on.

Quote:I could use ANY exmple here if I wanted. I'm not talking about the act in particular. Let's change it to whatever law then - the lawbreaker disagrees with the law at hand, and doesn't think it's a proper law and should not be enforced. Should we punish him anyway, or should we let him be, since it isn't fair that we punish him for breaking a law he doesn't think is fair or right? The contents of the bible aren't laws at all; nobody's ever demonstrated that they come from any position of authority.

That's the legal side. On to the moral side. What if the majority thinks the law is wrong? Can it be changed democratically?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53you misunderstand me. i didn't say humans should have equal rights to 'god'. i don't see any reason why this 'god' should have any rights, since nobody's even managed to demonstrate that it exists at all.

Stop dragging the hypothetical situation to the real world - IF God did exist (IF), should we have equal rights to him?

No. If God did exist and the biblical account of his deeds are true, he should not have equal rights to us. Not after his trial, anyway.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53secondly, i seem to recall having this argument with you before. apparently we're stuck as slaves to anyone who created us? well, what if you found out that you were created by a mad scientist in a lab, a modern-day dr. frankenstein? would that make you his slave, like it or not?

That's a completely different situation, eh? Mad scientists would have to work with inventions and materials around him, not create everything out of nothing with pure will. Firstly, how do you know how God supposedly made everything?

Secondly, why is this an important difference? If God creates stuff out of nothing through pure will, he's just using the tools and abilities available to him. What's the difference?

Quote:Also, if we were made by a mad scientist, we'd be wherever he was (unless he was

completely alone in the universe) and would be subject to his existence as well, so...
you've lost me there.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if we were to find out that the origins of life on earth was because some aliens 'seeded' the planet a few million years ago, would that mean we have to be slaves to them?

Again, completely different scenario.

the only differences i see is that i find the aliens scenario a little easier to believe, and that nobody's telling me i must believe it and act accordingly.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if instead you decide that you were created by your parents in the traditional way, do they rule you for your entire life?

'The traditional way'?
having sex.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if the only people on this planet who've gotten it right are in your particular denomination, then apparently it is.

Again, we're not. But some (or a lot) groups have changed the scripture to suit themselves. And as the Bible says, let no man add or take away from what is written.
Matthew Henry added quite a bit, and that was only to two brief statements.

Secondly, what do you think will happen to the other kinds of Christian after they die? i.e. everyone outside your denomination who says they're a Christian but, in your church's view, are mistaken.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53Quote:It also is pretty simple to understand what God says is a sin and what is not.
sure, doesn't mean we need to listen to him, considering how absolutely crap his moral standards seem to be.
but that's no surprise; he was, after all, created by bronze-age middle-eastern barbarians.

But they're simple, as you just affirmed. Not cryptic at all.
firstly you don't seem to be challenging my statement that his moral standards are absolutely shit.
secondly it really is cryptic, or at least too cryptic for humans, otherwise the vast majority of the world wouldn't have a problem with it.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [HaTe](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 2010 01:46:33 GMT
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Science>Religion
Proof>Belief
Seeing>Wondering
Knowing>Assuming

Not even going to read the whole topic, but that is my general opinion. I'd rather have actual proof, without having to be convinced and dragged into, rather than assumptions and, what appear to me - are false hopes. I'm not one to judge anyone by their religion, but i do feel as if they may not be aware of some of the actual facts out there....like the fact that there has been, what, hundreds of different religions before us, all believing 100% that THEIR religion, and their gods were what was real. Then every other religion comes and says they are wrong, and that the religion they believe in is right....when there is yet to be facts about any of this. Seems like it's more culture and tradition to believe in one defined religion now-a-days anyway....or just the fear that when you die, you will not be taken care of, or go to hell, if you do not believe. I'd rather not get my hopes about something that appears to me as proven to be false more than true to this point. Tradition, culture, and fear aren't really something i would be willing to trust my life to.....even science would be better.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 2010 06:47:29 GMT

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HaTe wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 19:46Science>Religion

Proof>Belief

Seeing>Wondering

Knowing>Assuming

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Yea but what does science offer you after you die - a nice little story about the decomposition of your body.

What does religion (generally) offer? - A nice little story about living in an unimaginable paradise if you're a good little boy or girl for eternity.

Not hard to see why so many people would rather believe in religion, as science promises nothing except knowledge for present use. After you die, what good is it to you?

I know what i'd want after I died, yet reality drags the wishful mind back into the real world; and the facts are daunting.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 2010 14:34:09 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Tue, 30 March 2010 00:47HaTe wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010

19:46Science>Religion

Proof>Belief

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let's not understate of the benefits of science. presumably neither you nor anyone close to you has ever had a potentially life-threatening illness, for example. what use is religion in the field of medicine? according to the holy books, plagues and other natural disasters usually happen because god is punishing someone. that'd be a real help if you had cancer, wouldn't it? "sorry we can't do a damn thing to help you, and what's more, it's your fault anyway"

and as for "after you die, what good is it to you"? well, after you die, what more do you need? nobody's ever given a convincing reason to think that there is life after death.

on to the promises of paradise.

firstly, would you rather be told the unwelcome truth or a comforting lie? seems you'd rather be told what you'd find more comforting, regardless of how much truth there is to it.

secondly, many religions say that the way to paradise is more to do with believing the right thing than it is to do with your actions.

thirdly, many religions' rules - some of them, at least - are pretty shitty. to take the most obvious example, the 72-virgins business.

here's what you said:

"What does religion (generally) offer? - A nice little story about living in an unimaginable paradise if you're a good little boy or girl for eternity."

well, islam offers a paradise if you die in battle, and islam also says that non-muslims are the perpetual enemy. look at the results.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 2010 20:20:04 GMT

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The christian argument is so weak that only "misinformed" people who fell prey to its "intellectual dishonesty" would even think of upholding and defending the religion. And of course, the majority of christians today are christians because they were raised in a christian home and therefore indoctrinated and thereby lacking the "intellectual bargaining power" to deal with their brainwashing.

I want to say something about being "misinformed" and "intellectual dishonesty" and the "intellectual bargaining power". These are the roots of the religious question imo.

btw, I am basically talking about myself and my experience here:

The first one of being misinformed starts at birth. A christian child is going to be told that Adam was the first human being and that everything began with a "Let there be light" command. For example, the child is not going to be told that early humans in those ancient tribal groups first hunted, then foraged, then later grew their own crops in their search for food. The child is not going to be told about exciting things such as continental drift or the science behind earthquakes ("its god's judgment" I heard). If you were in a religious family and you were told this, count yourself very lucky.

So moving on, a whole false history of our origin is impressed upon the child while real history and science is ignored. I want to stress here that COMMONSENSE is ignored and dogma is upheld. But children are not easily fooled; fresh off the human production line, they have sharp senses, fresh memory, and a keen sense of curiosity. They begin to ask questions that makes the adults around them look like idiots.

For example, in my case when I was kid, I always wondered about the concept of the soul. This was an actual conversation I remember very clearly sometime in the early 90's when I was around 8 years old.

Marc: what is the soul grandma?

Grandma: its a spirit inside us (how the fuck did she know?)

Marc: does everyone have them?

Grandma: yes, dear

Marc: do animals have souls? wow birds! do birds have souls?

Grandma: no they don't

Marc: how do you know they don't grandma
Grandma: ...

I got a stunned silence on that one. I also had other questions like why grandpa and grandma go to the doctor all the time and take 5 different tablets each night when they could pray and get healed cheaply.

This leads me to the next part: intellectual dishonesty. EVERY religious parent have been intellectually dishonest to their children...no exceptions. To be fair, I understand that the blind cannot lead and parents are only going to indoctrinate the kids based on what they themselves were indoctrinated with. But still, we see how this is a huge problem; instead of admitting that she has no idea what the soul is and whether it is even real or not, a silence is maintained or some change-the-subject bs answer is given.

And how do the religious counter this awesome force of curiosity and yearning to learn from their children? Prepare to be disgusted: by teaching them about their god and their hell. This is the part religious folks in debates and arguments get wrong: you can be born into any religion and you are taught only that religion. Just look how asinine it is to claim your religion is the right one then!

So moving on, oh yes, there is a reason they have 2 seperate services for adults and children. The adults brainwashing is reinforced in the sunday worship service while the children are freshly brainwashed in the sunday school simultaneously. Nice.

The idea of hell is introduced to children here. In my case in India, a very horrific movie about hell was shown to us. Remember we were cute little children who should be taken to stargazing trips but here we were FUCKING SCARED SHITLESS. (The short fictional movie was about a good christian and an "immoral businessman" in a 747 jumbo jet going to Australia; the plane crashes into the Indian ocean and while white costumed angels descend and take away the good man, red costumed demons grab and chain/shackle the businessman and drag him into a black hole in a red cardboard wall...smoke effects and screams and all.) Religious folks love this type of judgmental violence to fall upon "sinners."

Along with that, biblical teaching is upheld, bible verses are made to be memorized, and there are short biblical plays and such in sunday school.

So the child at this point is basically a christian drone; his internal hard disks filled with obscene religious bullshit with a religious OS installed. The young mind is corrupted at this point dangerously past the point of no return. The doctrine is firmly rooted in, i.e. "God is real, Adam is the first man to walk the earth, hell is real" among many other beliefs. Sadly, this is game over for many children. A vast majority of them never recover from this brainwashing because, surrounded by other drones, no one is able to talk sense to them as they automatically reject anything that is contrary to their doctrine. With their worldview defined thru the teaching of their religions, they are stuck for the rest of their lives. It took me 3 whole years to come out and jettison this shit off my mind (the last 2 years were basically dealing with hell fear...am glad it is a piss in the wind!)

Therefore, they lack intellectual bargaining power and repeat the same dogshit over and over. This is where atheists trump em all the time because religious folks never think about the world objectively. They never connect the dots, they never read a REAL history book...for example, they

never really give a shit about why there is a molten core in the center of the earth. "Who cares!" they say, "god is going to wipe out this earth on judgment day...he is going to blow it all away!"...atleast that's what the 68 year old pastor told in the church sermon 2 days ago.

The religious mind, since it was only given a very carefully selected portion of false history, gets easily overwhelmed and frustrated and even angry when it encounters anything that is even slightly different; even if it is from someone from another religion who themselves have been given a dose of yet another set of false history. This is the absolute root of why religious folks claim their religion is the right one and are so sure of it.

Ask a muslim and he will tell you "Islam is the best religion" with a happy beautiful self-content smile (this actually happened with one muslim guy I talked and he did respond that way). So confident and so sure of it! Applies to every religious group. If you have not talked to someone from another religion, you should do so.

When I used to live in India, a particular Hindu family next door were best friends. Now these folks were more honest, more helpful, and friendly than any christian I ever known. A few months back during a discussion, my religious nut dad admitted something most christians don't really have the balls to: he was saying how that family, no matter how awesome they are, will go to hell because they do not know Jesus. Needless to say, I felt like vomiting.

When a religious nut comes to me and says "Jesus loves you" and tries to give me a tract (and unlike indoctrinated religious folks who are basically pre-programmed to accept the tract or booklet), for me, in an instant, I see how useless it is and refuse. Simple; it does not make sense whatsoever.

Images of historical events, the ancient empires, Pharoah's grand temples and claims of being god himself, aztec heart-throbbing sacrificial murders, burning screaming people at the stake, the formation of the earth with the heavy molten lava sweeping in thru the continental cracks to gather in the center, the creation stories from a 100 different religions that came before christianity, the simple coincidences in life which are attributed to answered prayers by religious folks (!), the ridiculous concept of a devil, the purification by water concept. I see images of people praying in mosques, hindu temples and churches...which god is listening...if anyone?! To a religious mind, these thought process don't occur but it does for me and I realize that I am just human #9685849487373 living out a life and that any religion's claims of truth is delusional bullshit. Thinking logically like this rather than emotionally is better.

A christian sees Billy Graham and sees a prophet...an atheist sees Billy Graham and sees a delusional religious figure in a line of many. No wonder the religious authority folks hate atheists very much...because we see them as to who they really are (fakester punks) while their followers see them as who they tell them they are.

In a nutshell, christianity is like a salesman that is trying to make you put down your cash for a product you get after you die. Just see how ridiculous the concept is. The money here is your very life...the religious establishment wants you to live a "honest" life of slavery while they stay in charge. I wouldn't throw away my life to a lie to liars...better to enjoy each and every day than waste it dreaming about what happens after you die. After I die, I won't be able to do what I was able to do while I was alive. This instantly makes life more precious...something to be lived and

protected.

For me, travel is very important. I want to be able to say that I saw this and went here and there. I want to die satisfied that there is nothing more to do. Now the religious gang love to deride this. 2 weeks ago at church, the pastor bashed atheists for "living thru their 5 senses" and said they lack "spiritual organs." I felt like making a disruption by shouting "if spiritual organs means self-delusion, then I will pass" but I didn't. lol

Lastly, religious folks don't seem to understand what atheism is. We reject your gods because they are silly just as you reject a hundred different gods that you don't like plus the doctrine is ridiculous full of holes and unbelievable at best. Atheism doesn't mean we are going to ditch our clothes and come to work naked. Sadly, this is what they think atheism is. This comes from them thinking morals can only come from a religious source.

If anyone is wondering why I go to church, without saying much, its part of a double life. Spoony is right when he said this:

Spoony wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 18:55well, i could make an outward display of christianity. i could pretend i believed all this, i could probably fool anyone who took the time to wonder what my religious beliefs were,

^ It's so easy to trick em. But on a serious note, it is not funny getting your mind raped everyday. My mind is my own property...please stay off it.

HaTe wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 19:46Tradition, culture, and fear aren't really something i would be willing to trust my life to.....

Couldn't agree more.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [HaTe](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 2010 22:02:26 GMT

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Nobody actually knows what happens when we die Spoony....so nobody actually knows what is "good for us" if we die. It may very well be that believing in god your entire life is the key to a happy afterlife, but i very highly doubt it. Like i said, i'm not worried about what will happen when i die, i'll focus on life for now, and take my chances then. I'm not going to live like someone who may or may not exist tells me to live.

Quote:My mind is my own property...please stay off it.

Exactly. No one wants to have someone else influence their life, or drive their life from birth, yet that is basically what the stories of a christian god are doing...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2010 04:43:19 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41well, it would be nice if all the christian authorities had said this for the last two thousand years, instead of specifically encouraging the persecution of jews, culminating in the holocaust.

Agreed.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:"Here the case is put of a city revolting from its allegiance to the God of Israel, and serving other gods.

I. The crime is supposed to be committed

oh dear. already i've got to stop you. i don't accept that a crime has been committed here.

Why should I care?

God created all, including the laws. He is the lawmaker. So if he says it's a crime, it is.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:The crime is supposed to be committed, 1. By one of the cities of Israel, that lay within the jurisdiction of their courts.

Ah. I think I see what he's getting at here; it only applies to the Israelites, does it? In that case, then the verse would be totally irrelevant in a modern context.

Yeah.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41That would certainly be no problem for me; it would only be a problem for anybody who dared to say that God gave them this planet, their property etc.

But quite a lot of Christians do say that, don't they?

...What?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:The city that is here supposed to have become idolatrous is one that formerly worshipped the true God, but had now withdrawn to other gods, which intimates how great the crime is
...no, no it doesn't.

Although, "other gods"... do you think there are (or were) any other gods?

...yes, yes it does.

And no, I don't believe there were other gods, although those idolators apparently did.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41He really has lost me here. Why would serving a different god mean someone has no desire to be bound by laws, or any "manner of virtue"? They're just picking a different set, aren't they?

Why would anyone cease serving a God, knowing they would incur his wrath, if they were only

changing a few things? If they weren't changing their laws or virtues, they'd be better off staying...

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Secondly, are non-theists thrown into the same category, I wonder?

Since atheists don't believe in a god, I'd say yes.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 So it's ok to flatten an entire city if some of its inhabitants commit a crime, because anyone who was innocent would "no doubt" have already left.

If they knew what was going on in the city and didn't leave, they are at the least tolerating it, which hardly makes them innocent, does it?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: Let men know that God will not give his glory to another, nor his praise to graven images. 2. He expects that magistrates, having their honour and power from him, should be concerned for his honour, and use their power for terror to evil doers, else they bear the sword in vain. And does he still expect that?

No, because it's no longer necessary today.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: The faithful worshippers of the true God must take all occasions to show their just indignation against idolatry, much more against atheism, infidelity, and irreligion.

Ah, so that means someone who does not take all occasions to show their just indignation against atheism and idolatry is not a faithful worshipper of the true God?

Yes...

But how, do you think, is 'indignation' defined here?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: Lastly, Though we do not find this law put in execution in all the history of the Jewish church (Gibeah was destroyed, not for idolatry, but immorality)

I wasn't sure what was originally meant by Gibeah, so I looked that up. I do recognise the story, though not as 'Gibeah'. The one about the baying mob who want to rape the male visitor, and the decision by the men to throw the young women to the mob to save themselves. So the visitor's woman gets raped to death. That one. It's similar to the Lot story, isn't it? The similarity of the narrative, the almost identical speech reported, and the fact that modern Christians seem to draw some really odd moral lessons from it, i.e. homosexuality is evil, but if you find yourself faced by a mob of rapists, just throw a defenceless young girl at them and save yourself.

Are you implying that God OK'd this?

From what I read, this incident got the city destroyed by the Israelites shortly after.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: yet for the neglect of the execution of it upon the inferior cities that served idols God himself, by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem, the head city, which, for is apostasy from God, was utterly destroyed and laid

waste, and lay in ruins seventy years.
What's he saying here?

I think he's referencing a real or hypothetical situation where the Israelites didn't destroy a city of idolators, and that city rose up and destroyed the Israelite's Jerusalem.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 So, idolatry, serving other gods etc, they're things which absolutely infuriate God. Yes, the old testament makes that clear... and it doesn't exactly work in his favour. There are plenty of evil actions he either doesn't mind or positively recommends - slavery, for example - but if you have a different religious opinion, you'd better watch out.

So there must be a law against this "crime" in the Old Testament. But as he says here, in the New Testament, the law is not binding anymore, but it still infuriates God and he'll still punish people who do it? So why repeal the law?

The 'no idols' law is one of the Ten Commandments, which are in effect today (except Sabbath).

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 This all assumes that the person doing the "tempting" has evil intentions... what if they're just someone like you, evangelising? Someone who genuinely believes in their God, and wants to spread the good news?

How does it 'assume evil intentions'? It only warns against those who'd turn you from God, no matter what approach.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 as an aside, do you really believe that the snake in the garden was Satan?

Yes.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: Concerning the false gods proposed to be served

Define "false god", please.

I'm pretty sure you know what it means.
Feel free to make a point out of it if you were planning to.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: II. It is our duty to prefer God and religion before the best friends we have in the world.

Including your children?

What would be your response to the Abraham test, do you think?

Same as Abraham's.

Thankfully, I have never been commanded to sacrifice a child to God, in fact nobody has (except Abraham of course, but as you said, it was a test.)

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Again, the author is recognising that people might, unbelievably, have a problem with this commandment. Their compassion might get in the way. I certainly hope so. I wonder why I've never heard a Christian say that compassion was a work of

Satan.

Because it isn't. Compassion can compel towards sinful action, is the point here.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Suppose I said the following.

You, Altzan, are certainly my worst enemy that would thrust me from reason, my best friend. Whatever draws me to religion, separates between myself and my reason, is a design upon my mind, to be resented accordingly.

Well, if you did say that to me, I'd be saddened by the fact.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 It's not actually so far from the truth, although I wouldn't say this would justify me killing you for trying.

We're agreed then?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 k, but the other opinion is crap, isn't it?

It's no more crap than yours. Opinions are just that, opinions. So naturally you'd think an opposing opinion is crap... heck, it's what I think of yours.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 the catholic church is still spreading its evil doctrine against contraception even now.

Ahh.

You've only mentioned it in historical context up to this point, so I assumed it wasn't ongoing.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 I will give you credit where credit is due. I think this is the most honest and reasonable thing I've seen you say in these religious debates.

It goes a bit wrong from there, though... you ask me how do I know they weren't inspired by god. well, i've been waiting for quite some time for anybody to explain what they even mean by god, and prove his existence, and demonstrate that he's worth listening to.

Once they've done that, then I'll be sure to give due consideration to whether a book claiming to be inspired by him actually is. Otherwise I don't really see the point.

In other words, you won't believe unless you have certain proof.

Is this the basis of your earlier argument? That some people simply cannot believe God's word because there's not enough evidence? The vast majority of the human population believe with faith, which shows it's NOT impossible (disregarding whether or not the faith in question is well founded, seeing as how you'd try and make that a counterpoint). If you've told yourself that it's impossible for you to believe in anything without proof, then you're lying to yourself. Simple as that.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: I could use ANY exmple here if I wanted. I'm not talking about the act in particular. Let's change it to whatever law then - the lawbreaker disagrees with the law at hand, and doesn't think it's a proper law and should not be enforced. Should we punish him anyway, or should we let him be, since it isn't fair that we punish him for breaking a law he doesn't think is fair or right?

The contents of the bible aren't laws at all; nobody's ever demonstrated that they come from any position of authority.

Similar to what you said near the beginning of the post.

Still, though - "Should we punish him anyway, or should we let him be, since it isn't fair that we punish him for breaking a law he doesn't think is fair or right?"

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 That's the legal side. On to the moral side. What if the majority thinks the law is wrong? Can it be changed democratically?

If the majority is a part of the lawmaking process, then yes.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 Quote: Also, if we were made by a mad scientist, we'd be wherever he was (unless he was completely alone in the universe) and would be subject to his existence as well, so...
you've lost me there.

A 'mad scientist' would be in a lab, located in a universe where other beings existed with their own laws and morals. Wouldn't the people created by the mad scientist be subject to the laws of that universe?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53 if instead you decide that you were created by your parents in the traditional way, do they rule you for your entire life?

No. Although they should take responsibility for your early life to insure survival.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 what do you think will happen to the other kinds of Christian after they die? i.e. everyone outside your denomination who says they're a Christian but, in your church's view, are mistaken.

If they've broken Biblical commandments, the same will happen to them as others who do the same.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 firstly you don't seem to be challenging my statement that his moral standards are absolutely shit.
secondly it really is cryptic, or at least too cryptic for humans, otherwise the vast majority of the world wouldn't have a problem with it.

I won't challenge your 'statement' since it's your opinion and that would be pointless.
And what's so cryptic about the 5-step plan or what God considers sin?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2010 07:41:02 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Tue, 30 March 2010 08:34 snpr1101 wrote on Tue, 30 March 2010 00:47 HaTe

wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 19:46Science>Religion
Proof>Belief
Seeing>Wondering
Knowing>Assuming

Not even going to read the whole topic, but that is my general opinion. I'd rather have actual proof, without having to be convinced and dragged into, rather than assumptions and, what appear to me - are false hopes. I'm not one to judge anyone by their religion, but i do feel as if they may not be aware of some of the actual facts out there....like the fact that there has been, what, hundreds of different religions before us, all believing 100% that THEIR religion, and their gods were what was real. Then every other religion comes and says they are wrong, and that the religion they believe in is right....when there is yet to be facts about any of this. Seems like it's more culture and tradition to believe in one defined religion now-a-days anyway....or just the fear that when you die, you will not be taken care of, or go to hell, if you do not believe. I'd rather not get my hopes about something that appears to me as proven to be false more than true to this point. Tradition, culture, and fear aren't really something i would be willing to trust my life to.....even science would be better.

Yea but what does science offer you after you die - a nice little story about the decomposition of your body.

What does religion (generally) offer? - A nice little story about living in an unimaginable paradise if you're a good little boy or girl for eternity.

Not hard to see why so many people would rather believe in religion, as science promises nothing except knowledge for present use. After you die, what good is it to you?

I know what i'd want after I died, yet reality drags the wishful mind back into the real world; and the facts are daunting.

let's not understate of the benefits of science. presumably neither you nor anyone close to you has ever had a potentially life-threatening illness, for example. what use is religion in the field of medicine? according to the holy books, plagues and other natural disasters usually happen because god is punishing someone. that'd be a real help if you had cancer, wouldn't it? "sorry we can't do a damn thing to help you, and what's more, it's your fault anyway"

and as for "after you die, what good is it to you"? well, after you die, what more do you need? nobody's ever given a convincing reason to think that there is life after death.

on to the promises of paradise.

firstly, would you rather be told the unwelcome truth or a comforting lie? seems you'd rather be told what you'd find more comforting, regardless of how much truth there is to it.

secondly, many religions say that the way to paradise is more to do with believing the right thing than it is to do with your actions.

thirdly, many religions' rules - some of them, at least - are pretty shitty. to take the most obvious example, the 72-virgins business.

here's what you said:

"What does religion (generally) offer? - A nice little story about living in an unimaginable paradise if you're a good little boy or girl for eternity."

well, islam offers a paradise if you die in battle, and islam also says that non-muslims are the perpetual enemy. look at the results.

I don't know to what degree you're challenging what I said, but I wasn't intending to understate the benefits of science, just made a short and sweet message. Yea of course stating - science provides knowledge for the present isn't encompassing all that is science and the benefits it provides.

As for the after you die part, I wasn't saying you needed anything after you die, it was simply a comparison between what science "offers" you after death, and what religion "offers" you. Again I wasn't arguing for either side nor did I say anyone had given any convincing reasons. The clear point I was making was that the potential future after death that religion offers is certainly brighter than the one science does. (I use the term religion loosely and I know there are differences between each)

Finally, i can't see how you can come to the conclusion that I personally would prefer a comforting lie over truth. I simply made a general observation as to why I thought people believed in the promises made to you by religion after death.

And by the way, my granddad had toes and feet amputated. He eventually died of a stroke. My Grandmother suffers from servere parkinsons' disease at present. I myself was very sick as a child, and have come close to death many times.

Not trying to turn this into a self pity post or a "who knows more family members who've died or suffered" contest. Just pointing out your assumption was wrong.

edit; off topic: i thought Spoony had passed away? Am I mistaken, or are you a friend / family member using his account?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoon](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2010 08:13:33 GMT

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nothing much to quarrel with in starbuzz's posts.

Quote:Nobody actually knows what happens when we die Spoony....so nobody actually knows

what is "good for us" if we die. It may very well be that believing in god your entire life is the key to a happy afterlife, but i very highly doubt it. Like i said, i'm not worried about what will happen when i die, i'll focus on life for now, and take my chances then. I'm not going to live like someone who may or may not exist tells me to live.

I don't claim to know for certain what happens to us after we die; just said it looks to me like that's the end for us in any conscious sense, and for all the people who've asserted otherwise they've never made a convincing case of it.

it's like god, really. i don't say there definitely isn't one; i just say nobody's ever made a convincing case that there is.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:"Here the case is put of a city revolting from its allegiance to the God of Israel, and serving other gods.

I. The crime is supposed to be committed

oh dear. already i've got to stop you. i don't accept that a crime has been committed here.

Why should I care?

God created all, including the laws. He is the lawmaker. So if he says it's a crime, it is.

Let's call this concept what it is; a complete and unchallengeable dictatorship. The argument from authority doesn't fly with me, especially when nobody's even managed to demonstrate that there is any authority at all in this case.

But if you're going to take the "god says it, and that's all i need to know" line, then I have a hypothetical question for you. Let's say it was somehow proven that the Islamic revelation was correct. Mohammed claimed to be inspired by the same god you believe in. I expect you don't believe that any more than I do, but let's suppose it was conclusively proven. Would you then abide by the Islamic code of behaviour? Some of them aren't so pretty; there are hundreds of verses in the Islamic scriptures speaking of Allah's (same god, remember) fury and contempt towards non-believers, and quite a few instructions to fight non-Muslims and either convert them to Islam, subjugate them under Islamic rule, or kill them. So if it turned out that Mohammed really was inspired by god, you'd grab a sword and have at it, would you?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:The crime is supposed to be committed, 1. By one of the cities of Israel, that lay within the jurisdiction of their courts.

Ah. I think I see what he's getting at here; it only applies to the Israelites, does it? In that case, then the verse would be totally irrelevant in a modern context.

Yeah.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41That would certainly be no problem for me; it would only be a problem for anybody who dared to say that God gave them this planet, their property etc.

But quite a lot of Christians do say that, don't they?

...What?

well, it doesn't really seem like we can just say that only applies to the israelites.

what's the justification? "god's obviously talking to the israelites because they're the people he gave this land to". well, a lot of christians say ad nauseum that god gave them whatever they have.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:The city that is here supposed to have become idolatrous is one that formerly worshipped the true God, but had now withdrawn to other gods, which intimates how great the crime is
...no, no it doesn't.

Although, "other gods"... do you think there are (or were) any other gods?

...yes, yes it does.

And no, I don't believe there were other gods, although those idolators apparently did.
Ah, the argument from authority again.

Well, if just saying "god says it's wrong, case closed" is all the moral justification that's necessary, I wonder why Christians ever try going any further than that and explain why certain actions are wrong, what harm could be caused by them. Don't get me wrong, I approve of the moral debate.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41He really has lost me here. Why would serving a different god mean someone has no desire to be bound by laws, or any "manner of virtue"?
They're just picking a different set, aren't they?

Why would anyone cease serving a God, knowing they would incur his wrath, if they were only changing a few things? If they weren't changing their laws or virtues, they'd be better off staying... That's not the original point... the original point was Henry's implication that someone serving a different god must mean the person does not want laws, does not want any virtue in his life. That's obviously nonsense.

But as to your question... why would anyone cease serving your God? Two major reasons spring to mind; either because they find it unconvincing or because they object to it on moral grounds.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Secondly, are non-theists thrown into the same category, I wonder?

Since atheists don't believe in a god, I'd say yes.
so presumably the same commandment would apply if there were some atheists in the city too, i expect?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41So it's ok to flatten an entire city if some of its inhabitants commit a crime, because anyone who was innocent would "no doubt" have already left.

If they knew what was going on in the city and didn't leave, they are at the least tolerating it, which hardly makes them innocent, does it?
Oh, dear.

So we're making the assumption that non-belief, or different religious viewpoints are crimes, and we're making the further assumption that everyone in the city is either committing these 'crimes' or knows about them.

What you're doing here is drawing a moral equivalence between the two. Both groups are going to get the same punishment, aren't they?

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And does he still expect that?

No, because it's no longer necessary today.

How do you know that? Or, if you prefer I rephrase the question, why do you think that?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:The faithful worshippers of the true God must take all occasions to show their just indignation against idolatry, much more against atheism, infidelity, and irreligion.

Ah, so that means someone who does not take all occasions to show their just indignation against atheism and idolatry is not a faithful worshipper of the true God?

Yes...

But how, do you think, is 'indignation' defined here?

Well, the severity of the punishment usually depends on how serious you think the crime is, doesn't it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:Lastly, Though we do not find this law put in execution in all the history of the Jewish church (Gibeah was destroyed, not for idolatry, but immorality)

I wasn't sure what was originally meant by Gibeah, so I looked that up. I do recognise the story, though not as 'Gibeah'. The one about the baying mob who want to rape the male visitor, and the decision by the men to throw the young women to the mob to save themselves. So the visitor's woman gets raped to death. That one. It's similar to the Lot story, isn't it? The similarity of the narrative, the almost identical speech reported, and the fact that modern Christians seem to draw some really odd moral lessons from it, i.e. homosexuality is evil, but if you find yourself faced by a mob of rapists, just throw a defenceless young girl at them and save yourself.

Are you implying that God OK'd this?

From what I read, this incident got the city destroyed by the Israelites shortly after.

am I implying god approved of that? no. however, i couldn't find any condemnation of the actions of the man who threw the defenceless young girls at the rape mob so the men would survive.

speaking of rape, i've got a question for christians. what, in your view and in the view of your church, is the worse act of these two:

- a man rapes a woman
- two men, consenting adults, choose to have a sexual relationship

i've got a few questions like this. for example, here's one for catholics, so you needn't answer it though i'd be interested in hearing Muad_Dib's response. what would be the worse of these two hypothetical situations?

- condoms became freely available all over the world
- one child, just one, is raped by a priest

(i'd love to ask the pope that, but i'd also like to see him dragged before an international court)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:yet for the neglect of the execution of it upon the inferior cities that served idols God himself, by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem, the head city, which, for is apostasy from God, was utterly destroyed and laid waste, and lay in ruins seventy years.

What's he saying here?

I think he's referencing a real or hypothetical situation where the Israelites didn't destroy a city of idolators, and that city rose up and destroyed the Israelite's Jerusalem.

i dunno, it's really unclear to me.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41So, idolatry, serving other gods etc, they're things which absolutely infuriate God. Yes, the old testament makes that clear... and it doesn't exactly work in his favour. There are plenty of evil actions he either doesn't mind or positively recommends - slavery, for example - but if you have a different religious opinion, you'd better watch out.

So there must be a law against this "crime" in the Old Testament. But as he says here, in the New Testament, the law is not binding anymore, but it still infuriates God and he'll still punish people who do it? So why repeal the law?

The 'no idols' law is one of the Ten Commandments, which are in effect today (except Sabbath). So Matthew Henry was wrong, then, to say it is no longer binding according to the gospels?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41This all assumes that the person doing the "tempting" has evil intentions... what if they're just someone like you, evangelising? Someone who genuinely believes in their God, and wants to spread the good news?

How does it 'assume evil intentions'? It only warns against those who'd turn you from God, no matter what approach.

Read the commandment and the commentary; the contempt is very clear. It doesn't attempt to find out why the person is saying this, and doesn't seek to make a distinction if that was known.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41as an aside, do you really believe that the snake in the garden was Satan?

Yes.

and where did you read that?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:Concerning the false gods proposed to be served

Define "false god", please.

I'm pretty sure you know what it means.

Feel free to make a point out of it if you were planning to.

I'll just repeat the question. Define a false god, please. It's not clear at all to me whether the god of the old testament knows of the existence of other gods or not. So what's a false god? Some entity that claims to be a god but isn't? Some entity that does have supernatural power but isn't "good"? Some entity that does have supernatural power but didn't create the whole world? I'd really like to know.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:II. It is our duty to prefer God and religion before the best friends we have in the world.

Including your children?

What would be your response to the Abraham test, do you think?

Same as Abraham's.

Thankfully, I gave never been commanded to sacrifice a child to God, in fact nobody has (except Abraham of course, but as you said, it was a test.)

oh dear.

you're the second christian i've asked this question to, and you're the second to give the wrong answer.

the right answer is telling god to go to hell, no i won't murder an innocent child for you, you evil, evil fuck. and if you want to punish me for disobedience, then go ahead, you twat, because i'd rather have that than murder an innocent child.

if that had been abraham's response, and god had then shone a beam of light down on him and said well done, that was the right answer, you've passed the test... then that would be a moral story i could actually respect.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Again, the author is recognising that people might, unbelievably, have a problem with this commandment. Their compassion might get in the way. I certainly hope so. I wonder why I've never heard a Christian say that compassion was a work of Satan.

Because it isn't. Compassion can compel towards sinful action, is the point here.

And why would compassion get in the way? Why are some of us wired so that would happen?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Suppose I said the following.

You, Altzan, are certainly my worst enemy that would thrust me from reason, my best friend.

Whatever draws me to religion, separates between myself and my reason, is a design upon my mind, to be resented accordingly.

Well, if you did say that to me, I'd be saddened by the fact.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41It's not actually so far from the truth, although I wouldn't say this would justify me killing you for trying.

We're agreed then?

no, because i'm not the one here justifying murder on the grounds of a religious disagreement.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41k, but the other opinion is crap, isn't it?

It's no more crap than yours. Opinions are just that, opinions. So naturally you'd think an opposing opinion is crap... heck, it's what I think of yours.

feel free to explain why, although remember what i said about arguments from authority.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41the catholic church is still spreading its evil doctrine against contraception even now.

Ahh.

You've only mentioned it in historical context up to this point, so I assumed it wasn't ongoing. not at all. anyone can mention the historical evils of the catholic church... the crusades, the inquisition, the forced conversion of indigenous populations, the enthusiastic collaboration with fascism... anyone can do that. but right now it's probably more worthwhile to talk about the evil things it's still doing. the most obvious two would be the systematic coverup of the child rapists, and its position on contraception.

Quote:In other words, you won't believe unless you have certain proof.

Is this the basis of your earlier argument? That some people simply cannot believe God's word because there's not enough evidence? The vast majority of the human population believe with faith, which shows it's NOT impossible (disregarding whether or not the faith in question is well founded, seeing as how you'd try and make that a counterpoint).

This is a point against your side, not mine.

It is probably true that the majority of the human population seem to believe religious things on faith. But the proportion of humanity who believe the same things you do are a minority. And that's talking about people who do think faith is a virtue. I've never heard a convincing argument that faith is ever a good thing, but consider those that do think faith is worthwhile. Even most of them don't believe, for example, that Jesus was the son of God. There are some things that are so ridiculous that even "people of faith" don't believe them. No doubt you don't believe for a moment that Mohammed was really inspired by your God, as he claimed to be. No doubt you don't believe that the Emperor Hirohito was a god, as he claimed to be. I could give you a great many more examples, but those two will suffice as religious claims you simply don't believe, so if you stop and think about why you don't believe them, you might begin to understand why someone else might not believe the same stuff as you.

Quote:If you've told yourself that it's impossible for you to believe in anything without proof

Uh, no, I didn't say that. My friend told me last night about his recent trip to Istanbul. I didn't ask him for proof.

Whether I want proof for a claim depends on its believability and its implications. If you just wanted to claim that there was a man called Jesus who had some radical ideas on morality and ended up getting crucified, then fine. I don't need proof of that, I'll be quite happy to read his ideas and judge them on their own merits. If instead you try telling me that he was the son of God, that he rose from the dead, and that if I believe in him I can get everlasting life after death and that if I

don't I'm in for an eternity of torture, then that needs proof.

Again, when a Muslim tells you that Islam is inspired by God, the God you already believe in, you don't believe that without proof. (although, i wonder if you would even seriously consider any proof that could be shown to you)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:I could use ANY exmple here if I wanted. I'm not talking about the act in particular. Let's change it to whatever law then - the lawbreaker disagrees with the law at hand, and doesn't think it's a proper law and should not be enforced. Should we punish him anyway, or should we let him be, since it isn't fair that we punish him for breaking a law he doesn't think is fair or right?

The contents of the bible aren't laws at all; nobody's ever demonstrated that they come from any position of authority.

Similar to what you said near the beginning of the post.
Well?

Here's what needs to happen before anything in the Bible can be seriously considered a 'law'.

1. Prove this god exists.
2. Prove this book is an accurate depiction of his views; i.e. prove he actually said what the bible says he said.
3. Successfully make the case that god is of such extraordinary moral brilliance that a dictatorship under him would be better than a democracy
4. Win the vote to discard our current democratic systems

all of the above need to happen, but i think only one of them ever could.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41That's the legal side. On to the moral side. What if the majority thinks the law is wrong? Can it be changed democratically?

If the majority is a part of the lawmaking process, then yes.
So basically no, then?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:Also, if we were made by a mad scientist, we'd be wherever he was (unless he was completely alone in the universe) and would be subject to his existence as well, so...
you've lost me there.

A 'mad scientist' would be in a lab, located in a universe where other beings existed with their own laws and morals. Wouldn't the people created by the mad scientist be subject to the laws of that universe?

ah. it was "his existence" that confused me.

well, i'll just repeat my earlier question about how you know the details of the genesis account of creation, and why it makes such a difference anyway.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 26 March 2010 11:53if instead you decide that you were created by your parents in the traditional way, do they rule you for your entire life?

No. Although they should take responsibility for your early life to insure survival.
well done.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 what do you think will happen to the other kinds of Christian after they die? i.e. everyone outside your denomination who says they're a Christian but, in your church's view, are mistaken.

If they've broken Biblical commandments, the same will happen to them as others who do the same.
so it's all about actions rather than beliefs, is it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41 firstly you don't seem to be challenging my statement that his moral standards are absolutely shit.
secondly it really is cryptic, or at least too cryptic for humans, otherwise the vast majority of the world wouldn't have a problem with it.

I won't challenge your 'statement' since it's your opinion and that would be pointless.
then i wonder why you went to the trouble of trying to answer my earlier criticism by posting the matthew henry crap.

Quote:And what's so cryptic about the 5-step plan or what God considers sin?
when i said cryptic, i was using the word to encompass all objections people - the majority of the human population - have against christianity.

what is the 5-step plan, though? i could look it up, i'm sure, but i may as well hear it from you.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2010 08:24:58 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 01:41 I don't know to what degree you're challenging what I said, but I wasn't intending to understate the benefits of science, just made a short and sweet message. Yea of course stating - science provides knowledge for the present isn't encompassing all that is science and the benefits it provides.

As for the after you die part, I wasn't saying you needed anything after you die, it was simply a comparison between what science "offers" you after death, and what religion "offers" you.
sure.

science tries to find out what actually happens to you after death and if it finds out for sure, will tell you based on what the evidence shows. religion simply tells you what it wants to tell you.

Quote:Again I wasn't arguing for either side nor did I say anyone had given any convincing reasons. The clear point I was making was that the potential future after death that religion offers is certainly brighter than the one science does. (I use the term religion loosely and I know there are differences between each)

i wouldn't say that it's brighter. i don't find it comforting to be told that this life is basically a qualifying period before the afterlife, and i haven't yet heard of a religion whose rules i like.

Quote:Finally, i can't see how you can come to the conclusion that I personally would prefer a comforting lie over truth. I simply made a general observation as to why I thought people believed in the promises made to you by religion after death.

ok, but it only boils down to wish-thinking in the end, doesn't it? and if i assumed that about you, then it was probably thanks to the "i know what I'd rather want"

Quote:And by the way, my granddad had toes and feet amputated. He eventually died of a stroke. My Grandmother suffers from severe parkinsons' disease at present. I myself was very sick as a child, and have come close to death many times.

Not trying to turn this into a self pity post or a "who knows more family members who've died or suffered" contest. Just pointing out your assumption was wrong.

i'm happy to be corrected in that case, although you do accept my general point, surely?

Quote:edit; off topic: i thought Spoony had passed away? Am I mistaken, or are you a friend / family member using his account?

I think you are thinking of Spoonplex, a member of the Jelly community who passed away a year or two ago.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2010 09:46:41 GMT

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Ah ok, I think he may have been called spoony by some as a nickname at some point.

Yea that was my bad with the " i know what I'd prefer statement" - sometimes I don't read my own shit properly. It was a loose statement, reinforcing the "brightness" (Yea i know you don't think it's bright. but I couldn't be fucked coming up with another adjective describing the vast contrast between heaven and a rotting corpse in the ground that you'd agree with) or better looking potential future.

and to tell you the truth, i can't really say whether I agree with you or not, because those massive quote walls just don't appeal to my eyes.

Just browsed over this now and then, and read HaTes statement and found it interesting.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

snpr1101 wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 03:46Ah ok, I think he may have been called spoony by some as a nickname at some point.

That's quite likely to have happened at some point.

Quote:Yea that was my bad with the " i know what I'd prefer statement" - sometimes I don't read my own shit properly. It was a loose statement, reinforcing the "brightness" (Yea i know you don't think it's bright. but I couldn't be fucked coming up with another adjective describing the vast contrast between heaven and a rotting corpse in the ground that you'd agree with) or better looking potential future.

no problem, but if the best argument is that heaven/hell is supposedly more comforting than the likelihood of death being final, regardless of whether it's true or not, if we're only talking about wish-thinking and not about truth, then let me respond by saying what *I* find comforting. for example, i've never been told by a religious person, never, that i will go to heaven. i've been told many times that i will go to hell. in every single one of these cases, the justification the person used was not "you deserve this because you did such-and-such evil action". in every case, it was "you deserve this because of what you believe or don't believe". well, like i said earlier and like starbuzz illustrated with an account of his own life, i could pretend i believed all this christianity crap. really, i could. i could also pretend i was morally okay with it. what i can't do is just flick a switch inside my mind and actually believe it, or make my moral objections to it go away. so i'm fucked, if it's true.

please don't tell me i'm supposed to find this comforting.. the only comforting thing about this is precisely the fact there is no reason to think it's true.

i'm a grown man and i can handle being spoken to in this manner, and i don't want anyone telling the religious person that they shouldn't say this to me if it's what they think, but it's plain evil to talk to children this way.

you say this wasn't your argument but what you think someone else might say... fine, i responded to it regardless.

back to altzan. i'd just like to repeat something so there's no way you can say you missed it.

Spoony wroteI'm going to emphasise a part of this quote, and then I'll throw it out here and we'll see whether you have anything to say about it.

"Children must be put to the sword."

you replied to the post containing this statement, and replied to most else of what i said, but did not seem to have anything to say about that part. let me tell you, if someone else had posted that, that is the part which would provoke the strongest moral objection from me, the part above all else i would absolutely make sure i replied to. so let's just exhaust the possibility that you didn't see me say it.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [HaTe](#) on Thu, 01 Apr 2010 00:47:46 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 03:46

Just browsed over this now and then, and read HaTe's statement and found it interesting.

What do you mean by "interesting?" As in you have never heard the theory/belief before, or as in you disagree, or only agree with parts of it? Just curious, because where i live, this is actually a more common belief than believing in a god, or being faithful to religion at all really. Even though everyone has their own personal opinion, and believes something very much their own, this is like a common ground for many peoples beliefs, believe it or not. It isn't highly publicized or anything, because, well, the law used to prohibit it in many places, and still does in many places (to teach the theory of evolution, that is).

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Thu, 01 Apr 2010 07:03:52 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 01 April 2010 01:40snpr1101 wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 03:46Ah ok, I think he may have been called spoony by some as a nickname at some point.

That's quite likely to have happened at some point.

Quote:Yea that was my bad with the "i know what I'd prefer statement" - sometimes I don't read my own shit properly. It was a loose statement, reinforcing the "brightness" (Yea i know you don't think it's bright. but I couldn't be fucked coming up with another adjective describing the vast contrast between heaven and a rotting corpse in the ground that you'd agree with) or better looking potential future.

no problem, but if the best argument is that heaven/hell is supposedly more comforting than the likelihood of death being final, regardless of whether it's true or not, if we're only talking about wish-thinking and not about truth, then let me respond by saying what *I* find comforting. for example, i've never been told by a religious person, never, that i will go to heaven. i've been told many times that i will go to hell. in every single one of these cases, the justification the person used was not "you deserve this because you did such-and-such evil action". in every case, it was "you deserve this because of what you believe or don't believe". well, like i said earlier and like starbuzz illustrated with an account of his own life, i could pretend i believed all this christianity crap. really, i could. i could also pretend i was morally okay with it. what i can't do is just flick a switch inside my mind and actually believe it, or make my moral objections to it go away. so i'm fucked, if it's true.

please don't tell me i'm supposed to find this comforting.. the only comforting thing about this is precisely the fact there is no reason to think it's true.

i'm a grown man and i can handle being spoken to in this manner, and i don't want anyone telling the religious person that they shouldn't say this to me if it's what they think, but it's plain evil to talk to children this way.

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Spoony wrote I'm going to emphasise a part of this quote, and then I'll throw it out here and we'll see whether you have anything to say about it.

"Children must be put to the sword."

you replied to the post containing this statement, and replied to most else of what i said, but did not seem to have anything to say about that part. let me tell you, if someone else had posted that, that is the part which would provoke the strongest moral objection from me, the part above all else i would absolutely make sure i replied to. so let's just exhaust the possibility that you didn't see me say it.

Hypothetical:

Think of it this way, paradise after death, (no religious strings attached) OR nothingness as your corpse rots in the ground. I would presume that you would pick paradise. NO religious criteria applies to this choice. I personally would find it comforting if I knew I could enter such a place after death, and I certainly would chose it over the latter. Just consider your answer with the hypothetical provided, don't challenge it, it doesn't need to be challenged. We're talking about what you'd find more comforting out of the two choices. I know that the promise of paradise does not make sense without religion, but make the choice anyway

Edit: @HaTe - I just found it interesting, period. It just sparked some thought and prompted me to add to what you said.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 01 Apr 2010 08:46:00 GMT

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are you saying that you would not need to meet any particular criteria to qualify for the paradise?

i.e. done good stuff, avoided doing bad stuff, happened to find certain myths convincing etc

i also think i ought to ask what the paradise is actually like...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Thu, 01 Apr 2010 08:50:15 GMT

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this is stupid.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [HaTe](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 02:32:23 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Thu, 01 April 2010 02:50

this is stupid.

If only there was a way to not read it all. Hm, that would be damn useful.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 05:18:05 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Let's call this concept what it is; a complete and unchallengeable dictatorship.

Dictatorship - a form of government where the single leader has sovereignty.

So yeah, it's a dictatorship.

Too bad that word comes with a negative connotation.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13The argument from authority doesn't fly with me, especially when nobody's even managed to demonstrate that there is any authority at all in this case.

Nobody's managed to prove God exists.

We all know that, yet you keep stating it repeatedly...

Why?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13But if you're going to take the "god says it, and that's all i need to know" line, then I have a hypothetical question for you. Let's say it was somehow proven that the Islamic revelation was correct. Mohammed claimed to be inspired by the same god you believe in. I expect you don't believe that any more than I do, but let's suppose it was conclusively proven. Would you then abide by the Islamic code of behaviour? Some of them aren't so pretty; there are hundreds of verses in the Islamic scriptures speaking of Allah's (same god, remember) fury and contempt towards non-believers, and quite a few instructions to fight non-Muslims and either convert them to Islam, subjugate them under Islamic rule, or kill them. So if it turned out that Mohammed really was inspired by god, you'd grab a sword and have at it, would you?

If it was proven that Islam's beliefs were fact, then yes, I would obey them.

Is that any worse than your statement that you'd challenge an almighty God, if you knew for fact he existed, because you don't like his authority? (In your case, I notice, you mainly rally against Old Testament authority.)

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13well, it doesn't really seem like we can just say that only applies to the israelites.

what's the justification? "god's obviously talking to the israelites because they're the people he gave this land to". well, a lot of christians say ad nauseum that god gave them whatever they have.

I don't know any Christians myself who claim that.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Well, if just saying "god says it's wrong, case closed" is all the moral justification that's necessary, I wonder why Christians ever try going any further than that and explain why certain actions are wrong, what harm could be caused by them. Don't get me wrong, I approve of the moral debate.

God didn't make up his moral code for giggles. He has reasons for his moral code. That's why Christians try to explain why - there is a why.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13That's not the original point... the original point was Henry's implication that someone serving a different god must mean the person does not want laws, does not want any virtue in his life. That's obviously nonsense.

Why?

As I said, these people wouldn't have served a different God if they didn't have a different idea of laws or virtue; the notion that they would is indeed nonsense.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13But as to your question... why would anyone cease serving your God? Two major reasons spring to mind; either because they find it unconvincing or because they object to it on moral grounds.

Another I can think of is wanting something that God can't give them or that God considers a sin. An addiction, for example... some people can get so attached to what God declares a sin that they decide it's easier to discard belief and keep what action they have... mainly because it's more physical and immediate than their belief.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13so presumably the same commandment would apply if there were some atheists in the city too, i expect?

Yes.

Do you think those ought to be spared?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41Quote:He expects that magistrates, having their honour and power from him, should be concerned for his honour, and use their power for terror to evil doers, else they bear the sword in vain.

And does he still expect that?

No, because it's no longer necessary today.

How do you know that? Or, if you prefer I rephrase the question, why do you think that?

The Israelites had to defend against those who would destroy them, and the faith was small at the time.

Nowadays, it would be pretty hard to destroy every Christian and wipe the story off the face of the Earth (not that some wouldn't want to try) so a defense isn't necessary.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13 Well, the severity of the punishment usually depends on how serious you think the crime is, doesn't it?

Yes.

Go on...

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13am I implying god approved of that? no. however, i couldn't find any condemnation of the actions of the man who threw the defenceless young girls at the rape mob so the men would survive.

I don't know for a fact that he was condemned for that action, but if he was caught and his crime known, I'm sure he was.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13 speaking of rape, i've got a question for christians. what, in your view and in the view of your church, is the worse act of these two:

- a man rapes a woman
- two men, consenting adults, choose to have a sexual relationship

No sin is worse than another.

Quote: yet for the neglect of the execution of it upon the inferior cities that served idols God himself

They didn't exact the punishment upon the idolaters as they were commanded

Quote: by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem

The Chaldeans instead were the attackers

Quote: the head city, which, for its apostasy from God, was utterly destroyed and laid waste, and lay in ruins seventy years.

The head city was destroyed by them alongsides.

Note that that's my guess as to what it means, I could be wrong.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13 So Matthew Henry was wrong, then, to say it is no longer binding according to the gospels?

I haven't seen him claim that.

He says we shouldn't be going around executing idolaters anymore, but idolatry is still a sin.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Read the commandment and the commentary; the contempt is very clear. It doesn't attempt to find out why the person is saying this, and doesn't seek to make a distinction if that was known.

Reasons are unimportant - it warns against false doctrine, nothing more. If a Catholic advocate tried to convert me, I'd either simply deny or I'd sit down with him and discuss why I don't believe in Catholicism.

No violent response is called for.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41as an aside, do you really believe that the snake in the garden was Satan?

Yes.

and where did you read that?

Genesis.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13I'll just repeat the question. Define a false god, please. It's not clear at all to me whether the god of the old testament knows of the existence of other gods or not. So what's a false god? Some entity that claims to be a god but isn't? Some entity that does have supernatural power but isn't "good"? Some entity that does have supernatural power but didn't create the whole world? I'd really like to know.

A false god is the god that is behind an idol being worshipped by a person or persons. If a group of Israelites decided to worship images of a God named "Balahama", then that "Balahama" would be a false god.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13you're the second christian i've asked this question to, and you're the second to give the wrong answer.

Who made you the judge of whether this answer was right or wrong? Since when do you have authority?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13the right answer is telling god to go to hell, no i won't murder an innocent child for you, you evil, evil fuck. and if you want to punish me for disobedience, then go ahead, you twat, because i'd rather have that than murder an innocent child.

Then you'd fail the test. TEST being key word.

Note that God has never required human sacrifice. Abraham was asked this as a test to see whether he was truly faithful to God. If he had said no, then that meant he wasn't faithful enough to obey.

It's not about what he was asked to do, it was about whether or not he would obey.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13And why would compassion get in the way? Why are some of us wired so that would happen?

We're all 'wired' to feel compassion. Unfortunately, compassion can compel us to do something

wrong - a temptation.

Example - your friend has finally broken his alcohol addiction, but he is miserable as a result, and keeps desiring just 'one more drink'. You might feel pity and wish to fulfill his wish just to make him happy again. After all, it's just one more drink right? And it'd make him feel better!
But it would be a sin.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13no, because i'm not the one here justifying murder on the grounds of a religious disagreement.

Good, because i have no desire to murder anyone because they don't share my belief.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41k, but the other opinion is crap, isn't it?

It's no more crap than yours. Opinions are just that, opinions. So naturally you'd think an opposing opinion is crap... heck, it's what I think of yours.

feel free to explain why, although remember what i said about arguments from authority.

Why should I explain it? You don't agree with my opinion, I don't agree with yours.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13those two will suffice as religious claims you simply don't believe, so if you stop and think about why you don't believe them, you might begin to understand why someone else might not believe the same stuff as you.

I have, thankfully.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:If you've told yourself that it's impossible for you to believe in anything without proof

Uh, no, I didn't say that. My friend told me last night about his recent trip to Istanbul. I didn't ask him for proof.

I guess I was too literal here.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Whether I want proof for a claim depends on its believability and its implications. If you just wanted to claim that there was a man called Jesus who had some radical ideas on morality and ended up getting crucified, then fine. I don't need proof of that, I'll be quite happy to read his ideas and judge them on their own merits. If instead you try telling me that he was the son of God, that he rose from the dead, and that if I believe in him I can get everlasting life after death and that if I don't I'm in for an eternity of torture, then that needs proof.

"Oh, dear."

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Again, when a Muslim tells you that Islam is inspired by God, the God you already believe in, you don't believe that without proof. (although, i wonder if you would even seriously consider any proof that could be shown to you)

I don't want conclusive proof to believe their claims.

However, I find the Biblical story more convincing than the Qoran's.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Here's what needs to happen before anything in the Bible can be seriously considered a 'law'.

1. Prove this god exists.
2. Prove this book is an accurate depiction of his views; i.e. prove he actually said what the bible says he said.
3. Successfully make the case that god is of such extraordinary moral brilliance that a dictatorship under him would be better than a democracy
4. Win the vote to discard our current democratic systems

Heh, if 3 was proven then 4 would be unnecessary.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:If the majority is a part of the lawmaking process, then yes.

So basically no, then?

I didn't say no, so what do you mean?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:If they've broken Biblical commandments, the same will happen to them as others who do the same.
so it's all about actions rather than beliefs, is it?

I didn't say that. You can easily break Biblical commandments with both actions and/or beliefs.

Stealing - breaks a commandment

Believing baptism is unnecessary - breaks a commandment

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13then i wonder why you went to the trouble of trying to answer my earlier criticism by posting the matthew henry crap.

You were quoting scripture. That wasn't an opinion of yours, that was a point of yours you tried to back up. That's why i responded.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13what is the 5-step plan, though? i could look it up, i'm sure, but i may as well hear it from you.

Strage, I'd have thought you'd be familiar with it, seeing as you're familiar with other scripture.

But OK:

1. Hear the message (Romans 10:17)
2. Believe it (Mark 16:16)
3. Repent of your past sins (Acts 2: 38)
4. State that you believe christ is the son of God (Romans 10:10)
5. Be baptized (Acts 2: 38)

Also, there's a sixth step I neglected to include (I really don't know why it isn't commonly called the 6-step plan)

6. Live faithfully until Death (Revelations 2: 10)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 12:45:14 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 01 April 2010 23:18 Dictatorship - a form of government where the single leader has sovereignty.

So yeah, it's a dictatorship.

Too bad that word comes with a negative connotation.

a negative meaning, not a negative connotation. dictatorship sucks by definition. and yet i don't know of any human dictatorship that managed to become as all-encompassing, unchallengeable and inescapable as the depiction in christianity.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13 The argument from authority doesn't fly with me, especially when nobody's even managed to demonstrate that there is any authority at all in this case.

Nobody's managed to prove God exists.

We all know that, yet you keep stating it repeatedly...

Why?

because until you've gotten past that square one, most of your assertions are at best a waste of time.

Quote:If it was proven that Islam's beliefs were fact, then yes, I would obey them.

so in a nutshell, the only reason you're not acting in the bloodthirsty, merciless way islam commands its followers to act is because you don't think it really came from God... there's no moral compunction holding you back, and there wouldn't be if it turned out you were wrong?

Quote:Is that any worse than your statement that you'd challenge an almighty God, if you knew for fact he existed, because you don't like his authority?

yes, it is. i'm objecting to christianity because -a- i don't believe any of it and -b- i don't want a dictatorship and -c- i think his rules are absolutely shit.

your only objection to following islam's rules is you don't believe it. well, it's good you've laid out for us what at least two people reading this thread had already guessed... i.e. that you have no morals.

Quote:(In your case, I notice, you mainly rally against Old Testament authority.)

not really, the most evil thing in the bible is probably the doctrine of hell.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13 well, it doesn't really seem like we can just say that only applies to the israelites.

what's the justification? "god's obviously talking to the israelites because they're the people he gave this land to". well, a lot of christians say ad nauseum that god gave them whatever they

have.

I don't know any Christians myself who claim that.

my word. i hear it all the time. saying that god gave them the world, saying they have god-given rights (such a stupid thing to say, but nvm for now), saying grace before a meal...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Well, if just saying "god says it's wrong, case closed" is all the moral justification that's necessary, I wonder why Christians ever try going any further than that and explain why certain actions are wrong, what harm could be caused by them. Don't get me wrong, I approve of the moral debate.

God didn't make up his moral code for giggles. He has reasons for his moral code. That's why Christians try to explain why - there is a why.
not a very good one, clearly.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13That's not the original point... the original point was Henry's implication that someone serving a different god must mean the person does not want laws, does not want any virtue in his life. That's obviously nonsense.

Why?

As I said, these people wouldn't have served a different God if they didn't have a different idea of laws or virtue; the notion that they would is indeed nonsense.

henry implied that if a person serves a different god, than that means they have NO virtues and wants NO laws. he didn't say it means they have different moral values... he said it means they have NO moral values.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13But as to your question... why would anyone cease serving your God? Two major reasons spring to mind; either because they find it unconvincing or because they object to it on moral grounds.

Another I can think of is wanting something that God can't give them or that God considers a sin. An addiction, for example... some people can get so attached to what God declares a sin that they decide it's easier to discard belief and keep what action they have... mainly because it's more physical and immediate than their belief.

"wanting something god can't give you" sounds like a pretty good reason to turn away from religion; if it can't give you basic human rights, democracy, and intellectual freedom, for example. wanting something god won't give you doesn't put the person at fault instead of the god.
nor does wanting to do something god considers a sin.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13so presumably the same commandment would apply if there were some atheists in the city too, i expect?

Yes.

Do you think those ought to be spared?

i'm not sure why you felt you needed to ask that, i thought i'd made two things quite clear

-1- it's immoral to punish someone for the crime of someone else

-2- having a different religious opinion is not even a crime at all

it's not really important that i am an atheist; if the intended slaughter victim was a muslim (a religion i find even more repellent than christianity), i'd still be against it.

Quote:The Israelites had to defend against those who would destroy them, and the faith was small at the time. Nowadays, it would be pretty hard to destroy every Christian and wipe the story off the face of the Earth (not that some wouldn't want to try) so a defense isn't necessary.
odd to use the word "defense" to explain the supposed behaviour of the israelites...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Well, the severity of the punishment usually depends on how serious you think the crime is, doesn't it?

Yes.

Go on...

we were talking about how all truly faithful followers of god must show their "just indignation" to idolators, atheists etc. well, you've said that these things are actually crimes that can justify not only the slaughter of anyone doing it, but the slaughter of anyone in the same city, including children.

must be pretty heinous, then, as crimes go. sounds worse than murder; i don't recall there being a story in the bible where god destroys an entire city (or orders his followers to destroy it) because someone in the city was a murderer.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13am I implying god approved of that? no. however, i couldn't find any condemnation of the actions of the man who threw the defenceless young girls at the rape mob so the men would survive.

I don't know for a fact that he was condemned for that action, but if he was caught and his crime known, I'm sure he was.

why are you sure? i didn't find god saying the guy shouldn't have done it. you'd think a book perpetually trumpeted as an ultimate moral authority might have something to say against someone who throws a defenceless girl to a mob of rapists to save himself.

but speaking of rape...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13speaking of rape, i've got a question for christians. what, in your view and in the view of your church, is the worse act of these two:

- a man rapes a woman
- two men, consenting adults, choose to have a sexual relationship

No sin is worse than another.

well, firstly punishments differ. the punishment for homosexual sex is death. the punishment for a man who rapes a woman is that he must marry her and pay her father off. so if one sin has a more severe punishment than another, doesn't that imply that one sin is more grievous than the other?

secondly, you don't think there's anything wrong with that rape rule? the man has to marry the woman and pay off her father. doesn't seem like a terribly severe punishment for the man. more to the point, it makes the woman's predicament even worse. she's just been raped, and then she's told she must marry the bastard who attacked and violated her. is it safe to assume you don't

know any women who have been raped? who, in a modern civilised country, would seriously hold a moral position as shitty as this if they didn't get it from religion?

thirdly, you basically said that an adult man who enters into a consenting sexual relationship with another man is just as bad as a man who rapes a woman. i guess you don't know any gay people either. it really is sad to see someone's moral compass completely destroyed by religion.

Quote:Quote:yet for the neglect of the execution of it upon the inferior cities that served idols God himself

They didn't exact the punishment upon the idolaters as they were commanded

Quote:by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem

The Chaldeans instead were the attackers

Quote:the head city, which, for is apostasy from God, was utterly destroyed and laid waste, and lay in ruins seventy years.

The head city was destroyed by them alongsides.

Note that that's my guess as to what it means, I could be wrong.

i think i'm beginning to follow it, it's worded terribly... it seems like because the people of jerusalem didn't carry out the punishment, god punished the people of jerusalem.

"God himself, by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem"

fair assessment? or if you prefer we can just leave this passage out, cos it really is incoherent

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13So Matthew Henry was wrong, then, to say it is no longer binding according to the gospels?

I haven't seen him claim that.

"Though idolaters may escape punishment from men (nor is this law in the letter of it binding now, under the gospel), yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgements."

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Read the commandment and the commentary; the contempt is very clear. It doesn't attempt to find out why the person is saying this, and doesn't seek to make a distinction if that was known.

Reasons are unimportant - it warns against false doctrine, nothing more. If a Catholic advocate tried to convert me, I'd either simply deny or I'd sit down with him and discuss why I don't believe in Catholicism.

No violent response is called for.

uh, the bible actually intructs an extremely violent response, and you quoted matthew henry's tripe to try to justify it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41as an aside, do you really believe that the snake in the garden was Satan?

Yes.
and where did you read that?

Genesis.
did you really?

perhaps you could quote the verse(s) in Genesis, the first book in the bible, that explain just who this Satan is and make it clear that the snake who tempted eve is indeed this character Satan.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13I'll just repeat the question. Define a false god, please. It's not clear at all to me whether the god of the old testament knows of the existence of other gods or not. So what's a false god? Some entity that claims to be a god but isn't? Some entity that does have supernatural power but isn't "good"? Some entity that does have supernatural power but didn't create the whole world? I'd really like to know.

A false god is the god that is behind an idol being worshipped by a person or persons. If a group of Israelites decided to worship images of a God named "Balahama", then that "Balahama" would be a false god. doesn't necessarily exist at all, then?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13you're the second christian i've asked this question to, and you're the second to give the wrong answer.

Who made you the judge of whether this answer was right or wrong? Since when do you have authority?

my moral authority is higher than your god's. for starters, you haven't even proven he exists at all, let alone that he is supremely "good". it's also higher than yours. i'll justify that just by reminding everyone that you have

-a- justified the slaughter of innocent people for the crimes of others

-b- been given two clear opportunities to register any objection to the slaughter of innocent children

-c- asserted that a homosexual who has sex with another consenting adult is as bad as a man who forcibly rapes a woman

don't get me wrong, i don't claim to be some ultimate moral authority. i will however claim that my morals are better than your god's and better than yours.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13the right answer is telling god to go to hell, no i won't murder an innocent child for you, you evil, evil fuck. and if you want to punish me for disobedience, then go ahead, you twat, because i'd rather have that than murder an innocent child.

Then you'd fail the test. TEST being key word. Note that God has never required human sacrifice. Abraham was asked this as a test to see whether he was truly faithful to God. If he had said no, then that meant he wasn't faithful enough to obey.

It's not about what he was asked to do, it was about whether or not he would obey.

oh, if it's a test of whether you will do whatever your boss tells you no matter how evil it is, then sure, abraham passes and i emphatically won't. but like i said, some of us actually have morals.

also, "god has never required human sacrifice"? how are you defining "sacrifice"? according to the bible he wipes all huge numbers of innocent people, including children, and also instructs his followers to do the same.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13And why would compassion get in the way? Why are some of us wired so that would happen?

We're all 'wired' to feel compassion. Unfortunately, compassion can compel us to do something wrong - a temptation.

compassion can compel us to do something wrong, like refrain from murdering a close friend or family member who tells us their religious views.

three cheers for compassion, i say.

Quote:Example - your friend has finally broken his alcohol addiction, but he is miserable as a result, and keeps desiring just 'one more drink'. You might feel pity and wish to fulfill his wish just to make him happy again. After all, it's just one more drink right? And it'd make him feel better! uh no, because moral considerations are based on a little more than just immediate happiness.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13no, because i'm not the one here justifying murder on the grounds of a religious disagreement.

Good, because i have no desire to murder anyone because they don't share my belief. and yet when i say these particular bible verses are evil, you justify them.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 29 March 2010 02:41k, but the other opinion is crap, isn't it?

It's no more crap than yours. Opinions are just that, opinions. So naturally you'd think an opposing opinion is crap... heck, it's what I think of yours.

feel free to explain why, although remember what i said about arguments from authority.

Why should I explain it? You don't agree with my opinion, I don't agree with yours. indeed. anyone reading this thread can see the difference between our moral standards.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:If you've told yourself that it's impossible for you to believe in anything without proof

Uh, no, I didn't say that. My friend told me last night about his recent trip to Istanbul. I didn't ask him for proof.

I guess I was too literal here.

no, i don't think the problem was that you were too literal, i think the problem is that you don't understand how the mind works.

remember the first religious debate between you and i? you kept saying that if you won't believe anything without proof, you're a "hopeless case". you said that anyone who finds your religion unconvincing is "desperately trying to find an excuse because they want an easier path".

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Whether I want proof for a claim depends on its believability and its implications. If you just wanted to claim that there was a man called Jesus who had some radical ideas on morality and ended up getting crucified, then fine. I don't need proof of that, I'll be quite happy to read his ideas and judge them on their own merits. If instead you try telling me that he was the son of God, that he rose from the dead, and that if I believe in him I can get everlasting life after death and that if I don't I'm in for an eternity of torture, then that needs proof.

"Oh, dear."

oh dear what? you don't see my point? saying that there was this guy who had these moral ideas, that doesn't need much evidence. the moral ideas can be considered on their own merits, and that could happen even if the entire jesus story was entirely made up and someone just wrote down the story including the moral teachings from their own imagination.

but that's not what christians claim, is it?

whether proof is required depends upon the believability of the story and the importance of its implications. in the case of christianity we have an absurd story that isn't even internally consistent and whose authorship is dubious, and we have monumentally large implications. with that combination, extraordinary proof is required.

we don't even have ordinary proof. however, earlier you said there was... that didn't go very well, did it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Again, when a Muslim tells you that Islam is inspired by God, the God you already believe in, you don't believe that without proof. (although, i wonder if you would even seriously consider any proof that could be shown to you)

I don't want conclusive proof to believe their claims.

However, I find the Biblical story more convincing than the Qoran's.

so muslims have greater faith than you, basically?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Here's what needs to happen before anything in the Bible can be seriously considered a 'law'.

1. Prove this god exists.
2. Prove this book is an accurate depiction of his views; i.e. prove he actually said what the bible says he said.
3. Successfully make the case that god is of such extraordinary moral brilliance that a dictatorship under him would be better than a democracy
4. Win the vote to discard our current democratic systems

Heh, if 3 was proven then 4 would be unnecessary.

so you basically think yourself above democratic laws?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:If the majority is a part of the lawmaking process, then yes.

So basically no, then?

I didn't say no, so what do you mean?

my question was: if the majority of us don't want to live under a religious dictatorship, can we change it? you answer: if the majority is part of the lawmaking process, then yes. well, the whole concept of a dictatorship is that what the majority wants is entirely irrelevant. it's what the boss wants that counts.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Quote:If they've broken Biblical commandments, the same will happen to them as others who do the same.
so it's all about actions rather than beliefs, is it?

I didn't say that. You can easily break Biblical commandments with both actions and/or beliefs.

Stealing - breaks a commandment

Believing baptism is unnecessary - breaks a commandment

blast. i thought you were on the verge of actually improving your morals there. no such luck.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13then i wonder why you went to the trouble of trying to answer my earlier criticism by posting the matthew henry crap.

You were quoting scripture. That wasn't an opinion of yours, that was a point of yours you tried to back up. That's why i responded.

i have absolutely no idea what you're trying to say here.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13what is the 5-step plan, though? i could look it up, i'm sure, but i may as well hear it from you.

Strage, I'd have thought you'd be familiar with it, seeing as you're familiar with other scripture. We'll put this down to the sheer incompetence and absurdity of the revelation.

Quote:But OK:

1. Hear the message (Romans 10:17)
2. Believe it (Mark 16:16)
3. Repent of your past sins (Acts 2: 38)
4. State that you believe christ is the son of God (Romans 10:10)
5. Be baptized (Acts 2: 38)

Also, there's a sixth step I neglected to include (I really don't know why it isn't commonly called the 6-step plan)

6. Live faithfully until Death (Revelations 2: 10)
- hmm.

1. Hear the message (Romans 10:17)
- So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
what exactly is the message?

2. Believe it (Mark 16:16)
- Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

carrot and stick! shame we're talking about thoughtcrime here. see my earlier objections. and shall we be really clear about what is meant by "saved" and by "condemned"?

3. Repent of your past sins (Acts 2: 38)

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

what if the sins themselves are bullshit?

what if i do do something wrong, but i don't accept that god or jesus has any place to forgive me?

i'm reminded again of our earlier religious debate. you said that you'd done things which you would deserve to go to hell for if you hadn't "repented". well, that's quite a daring admission, telling us that you'd done something so evil that it would justify the most horrific punishment of all. (unless you're arguing that god and his punishments are unjust, and you've never seemed to think that)

well, i couldn't help but ask what those things were. what were these horrific crimes you committed? you wouldn't say. i also asked how you define "repented". you said that it basically means asking for forgiveness in private prayer or in church.

interesting, that. if i thought i had done something so appalling evil, so damaging to the world around me that it would justify me receiving the very worst punishment imaginable, i can't imagine how just saying sorry in a church could possibly make up for it.

finally... "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". what's that then?

4. State that you believe christ is the son of God (Romans 10:10)

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

well, i don't believe that. i do have a question, though.

what would you prefer?

person A doesn't believe this, and says so honestly.

person B says he believes this, and you don't have any way of really knowing whether he's telling the truth or just wants you to shut the fuck up.

5. Be baptized (Acts 2: 38)

uh, same as step 3?

6. Live faithfully until Death (Revelations 2: 10)

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

it's 'Revelation', not 'Revelations.' i'm not usually this pedantic, but it's astonishing how many times christians wrongly use the plural.

anyway.

is this only addressed to people who are about to be thrown into prison, or about to encounter the devil? or can we ignore the first two sentences and it's the third that applies to everyone at all

times?

well, "be faithful". define that for me, please. you'd also better explain what "the crown of life" is.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 13:59:24 GMT

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move along

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 02:53:24 GMT

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I'll see your ducks and raise you acrocoduck.

That one system of belief, no matter how popular, should be able to impose its will on the rest of society... anybody ever heard the phrase "tyranny of the majority?" To say that Christianity is the one true faith simply because it's been a dominant force in the world since Constantine is as silly a notion as the poor little nonexistent critter I just linked you to.

Religions rise and fall. So do nations. The only thing that matters is that we treat other human beings like the human beings that they are. There aren't any cases of a child flipping their shit and committing heinous crimes just because they were raised by two mommies or two daddies or six daddies and three mommies or any other combination of consenting adults... so what business does any construct so transient as a church have saying that's not to be permitted?

We'd do well to remember that human beings in one form or another have been kicking around on this dirtball for hundreds of thousands of years. None of the major religions in the world today have been around for even the tiniest fraction of our collective history as a species. There's nothing wrong with believing in a higher power, if it helps you put the world in context and treat others with respect and decency, but to use it as justification to deny anything to anyone is utter and complete arrogance.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 09:48:38 GMT

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I'll see your crocoduck and raise you the saddest dog in the world.

His sadness shall make you realise how stupid and irrelevant this discussion is. surely anyone with half a brain will agree with homophobia being, you know, bad?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 10:02:34 GMT

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Less image macros please, the last one is making me cry. :'(

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 10:38:11 GMT

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k, this one is happier.

ps: my derailing is just as pointless as spoonys posts and that guy who opposes him, so I will continue if thats okay with you?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 11:30:34 GMT

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Unfortunately it isn't, sorry. (It's the image macros that are doing it, Nukelt15 has the right idea...)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 11:37:33 GMT

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but... but... just look at that cat and that dog! they're more human than anyone in this fictional tube room! :[

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 13:56:03 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 05:37but... but... just look at that cat and that dog! they're more human than anyone in this fictional tube room! :[

i have some news for you:

you're not cool

you should be sad now

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 14:12:34 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 07:56Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 05:37but... but... just look at that cat and that dog! they're more human than anyone in this fictional tube room! :[

i have some news for you:

you're not cool

you should be sad now

snpr1101 wrote on Tue, 30 March 2010 01:16

lol, chillax mate. i love being evaluated based on what i write on the internet.

and a nice day to you.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [HaTe](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 16:16:56 GMT

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Someone doesn't get out much.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 00:43:06 GMT

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ah, do I dare derail the thread further; nah.

something on topic - I don't think anybody is going to prove anyone wrong here (Altzan vs Spooky). It's the same old contest. By the looks of it, the only way the original argument about Catholic adoption agencies and homo's will be won will be to prove or disprove God himself.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spooky](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 02:07:49 GMT

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um, no.

a religion is yet again saying they shouldn't have to follow the law. it would take a lot more than just proving there was a god to justify that position. and to refute it, we don't have to prove there

isn't a god.

as for neither altzan nor myself proving each other wrong, maybe read the entirety of the thread; it would also be worth reading the first debate (him on one side, basically me and dover on the other).

for example, on this page he's basically said that two adult guys who love each other and want to have a consenting relationship is every bit as bad as a man who rapes a woman. do you have a comment to make about that? i honestly felt like slapping him twice at that point.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 02:35:30 GMT

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yea it might help if I read it all I guess the general gist I got of it was wrong. ah well, carry on.

edit: Yea I can comment on that, it might be wrong but here it is anyway. The disagreement in this case lies within Altzans' belief in God and the Bible; and your apparent lack of belief (I think?). I'd presume it's common knowledge that the bible speaks out against homosexuality, to put it lightly; and obviously against rape too. Now I'm not really sure as to how Altzan came to the conclusion that one is worse than the other (maybe there's some sort of point system in the bible that i missed aka 10 points for rape, yay I win!), but I think in his view, they are both sins. Thus, anything that goes against the teachings, or laws of the bible is either a sin; or something that may impede on the apparent goal of living by the bible, acknowledging Jesus as the Lord and Savior business and getting into heaven. - (I presume that's the gist of it).

But on the other hand, your apparent lack of belief in the Bible negates the homosexuality part. Therefore, you see rape as wrong (which it is), and two homosexual men who "love" each other (prove that exists while your at it) as normal (debatable - disprove God and the Bible and you'll win it)

So in conclusion, you can't debate or tell someone that they're wrong about something like that without looking at the root of it. He believes in God, you don't. He believes in the Bible, you don't. The reason Altzans' opinion differs against yours isn't due to just his own sole reasons; they have a strong link to the Bible and to God. Therefore, disprove the Bible and God, and you will win the argument.

Now the chances of someone doing that on the Renegade Forums is pretty low (lol); so like Ziggy said, I think this argument while not pointless - is pretty close.

I realise I made alot of assumptions in there and I apologise if I mis-represented anyone's views or offended anyone. Without reading the whole thing, that is the gist of what i've got out of it.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 04:35:24 GMT

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The Bible has so much rape and incest in it that it stops being funny by the end of Genesis. It never specifically says "this is ok" as far as I remember, but neither is anyone ever punished for either act- at least not in the canon. Several times, women are handed over by their families to be abused because either the home was under threat or the rapist was a guest in the home- the tradition of hospitality being held as more sacred than the woman.

Matter of fact, according to a literal interpretation of the Old Testament, the entire human race would never have existed but for much "begatting" amongst fathers and their daughters- and it's important to note here that the ages at which women became fair play in the ancient world were well below what any first-world nation would today consider statutory rape.

I have nothing against the Bible, I really don't- it is not only one of the most influential books ever compiled, but also a stupendously valuable anthropological resource that can grant us great insight into how people thought and worshiped in the ancient Middle East. It is not, however, a very good morality guide for modern society if taken literally- not even the New Testament, which throws out the OT's fire-and-brimstone approach to dealing with sinners. Anyone who chooses to believe is free to do so, but to impress those beliefs on others who don't is no less wrong than any other sort of religious persecution. To codify those beliefs into law or to claim them as outside or above the law is a terrible step backwards for any nation that allows it to happen. Law and religion ought never to mix.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 04:41:51 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45a negative meaning, not a negative connotation. dictatorship sucks by definition. and yet i don't know of any human dictatorship that managed to become as all-encompassing, unchallengeable and inescapable as the depiction in christianity.

Why does it suck by definition? And under what circumstances?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45because until you've gotten past that square one, most of your assertions are at best a waste of time.

Then yours are too, because you haven't proved he doesn't exist. And I see no reason why anyone's assertions are valid until one or the other is proven... based on what you said anyway.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45so in a nutshell, the only reason you're not acting in the bloodthirsty, merciless way islam commands its followers to act is because you don't think it really came from God... there's no moral compunction holding you back, and there wouldn't be if it turned out you were wrong?

One of the main reasons I don't think it came from God is the morals themselves.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:Is that any worse than your statement that you'd challenge an almighty God, if you knew for fact he existed, because you don't like his authority? yes, it is. i'm objecting to christianity because -a- i don't believe any of it and -b- i don't want a dictatorship and -c- i think his rules are absolutely shit.

-a- OK

-b- That's been plainly obvious for awhile... even if there's a higher power, you want to be in control.

-c- I've only heard you challenge OT rules so far.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45your only objection to following islam's rules is you don't believe it. well, it's good you've laid out for us what at least two people reading this thread had already guessed... i.e. that you have no morals.

No, that you THINK I have no morals, which is helped along by you twisting my words so often.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45my word. i hear it all the time. saying that god gave them the world, saying they have god-given rights (such a stupid thing to say, but nvm for now), saying grace before a meal...

I see no problem with saying grace, but the others I don't agree with.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45"wanting something god can't give you" sounds like a pretty good reason to turn away from religion; if it can't give you basic human rights, democracy, and intellectual freedom, for example.

"basic human rights"

Which ones do you think he denies?

"democracy"

Mmm-hmm.

"intellectual freedom"

And what would that be?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45wanting something god won't give you doesn't put the person at fault instead of the god.

nor does wanting to do something god considers a sin.

It is if you shouldn't want it at all, if it is wrong.

Of course, you probably don't think they're wrong... ah, morals.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45having a different religious opinion is not even a crime at all

You still haven't answered my question regarding that...

Why should anyone go free of a law, ANY law, just because they don't agree with it?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45odd to use the word "defense" to explain the supposed behaviour of the israelites...

Why? Do you think the other groups wanted to live in peaceful tolerance with them?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45why are you sure? i didn't find god saying the guy shouldn't have done it. you'd think a book perpetually trumpeted as an ultimate moral authority might have something to say against someone who throws a defenceless girl to a mob of rapists to save himself.

Right, the Bible really has space to say things about every sinner in history. Besides... man throws girl to save self, girl dies... how is that NOT murder?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, firstly punishments differ. the punishment for homosexual sex is death. the punishment for a man who rapes a woman is that he must marry her and pay her father off. so if one sin has a more severe punishment than another, doesn't that imply that one sin is more grievous than the other?

In Old Testament, yes. Sins we do today won't have a ranking system in judgement.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45secondly, you don't think there's anything wrong with that rape rule? the man has to marry the woman and pay off her father. doesn't seem like a terribly severe punishment for the man. more to the point, it makes the woman's predicament even worse. she's just been raped, and then she's told she must marry the bastard who attacked and violated her. is it safe to assume you don't know any women who have been raped? who, in a modern civilised country, would seriously hold a moral position as shitty as this if they didn't get it from religion?

Who today holds that moral position?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45thirdly, you basically said that an adult man who enters into a consenting sexual relationship with another man is just as bad as a man who rapes a woman. i guess you don't know any gay people either.

No, I did not say that. I said that God won't rate either act a worse sin than the other in judgement. I didn't say I thought neither act was worse in itself than the other.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45i think i'm beginning to follow it, it's worded terribly... it seems like because the people of jerusalem didn't carry out the punishment, god punished the people of jerusalem.

"God himself, by the army of the Chaldeans, put it in execution upon Jerusalem"
fair assessment? or if you prefer we can just leave this passage out, cos it really is incoherent

Incoherent it is... yeah, let's just leave it out.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45"Though idolaters may escape punishment from men (nor is this law in the letter of it binding now, under the gospel), yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgements."

Yeah, it's no longer a law to put idolaters to the sword.
But it's still a sin, and they'll be judged by it.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45perhaps you could quote the verse(s) in Genesis, the first book in the bible, that explain just who this Satan is and make it clear that the snake who tempted eve is indeed this character Satan.

Genesis 3 explains it pretty well, especially the prophecy made in verse 15.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45oh, if it's a test of whether you will do whatever your boss tells you no matter how evil it is, then sure, abraham passes and i emphatically won't. but like i said, some of us actually have morals.

Yet you think that morals came from basically nowhere in particular... and that that isn't ridiculous.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45compassion can compel us to do something wrong, like refrain from murdering a close friend or family member who tells us their religious views.
three cheers for compassion, i say.

Kinda conflicts with your above quote...
So much for morals.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:Example - your friend has finally broken his alcohol addiction, but he is miserable as a result, and keeps desiring just 'one more drink'. You might feel pity and wish to fulfill his wish just to make him happy again. After all, it's just one more drink right? And it'd make him feel better!
uh no, because moral considerations are based on a little more than just immediate happiness.

Once again, you read too far into the example to avoid acknowledging it.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45remember the first religious debate between you and i? you kept saying that if you won't believe anything without proof, you're a "hopeless case".

I was wrong to say that.
Also, I said it once, not "kept saying".

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45you said that anyone who finds your religion unconvincing is "desperately trying to find an excuse because they want an easier path".

Quote me, since I have no idea what you're referring to.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45in the case of christianity we have an absurd story
Opinion.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45that isn't even internally consistent

I have yet to see evidence it isn't...

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45and whose authorship is dubious

I'll give you that, but it's safe to say any ancient writing has dubious authorship.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45and we have monumentally large implications.

What?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45we don't even have ordinary proof. however, earlier you said there was... that didn't go very well, did it?

No, it didn't. Because you didn't even read the entire thing. You skipped all the -ology sections.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45so muslims have greater faith than you, basically?

Implying that less proof = more faith?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 31 March 2010 02:13Here's what needs to happen before anything in the Bible can be seriously considered a 'law'.

1. Prove this god exists.
 2. Prove this book is an accurate depiction of his views; i.e. prove he actually said what the bible says he said.
 3. Successfully make the case that god is of such extraordinary moral brilliance that a dictatorship under him would be better than a democracy
 4. Win the vote to discard our current democratic systems
- Heh, if 3 was proven then 4 would be unnecessary.
so you basically think yourself above democratic laws?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45my question was: if the majority of us don't want to live under a religious dictatorship, can we change it? you answer: if the majority is part of the lawmaking process, then yes.

That wasn't what you asked, unless I misread you.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45it's what the boss wants that counts.

And you've basically said you want to be that boss, or at least one of them.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:You were quoting scripture. That wasn't an opinion of yours, that was a point of yours you tried to back up. That's why i responded.
i have absolutely no idea what you're trying to say here.

You quoting scripture and pointing at it is NOT an opinion, it's a point you were trying to make.
So I replied in kind.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:451. Hear the message (Romans 10:17)
So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
what exactly is the message?

Basically, the plan.
And the Bible as a whole.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:452. Believe it (Mark 16:16)
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
carrot and stick! shame we're talking about thoughtcrime here. see my earlier objections.

I have, believe me.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:453. Repent of your past sins (Acts 2: 38)
And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

i'm reminded again of our earlier religious debate. you said that you'd done things which you would deserve to go to hell for if you hadn't "repented". well, that's quite a daring admission, telling us that you'd done something so evil that it would justify the most horrific punishment of all. (unless you're arguing that god and his punishments are unjust, and you've never seemed to think that)

"so evil"? It doesn't have to be "So evil" to trigger that.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, i couldn't help but ask what those things were. what were these horrific crimes you committed? you wouldn't say.

Well, if someone asked you to list the morally unjust things you've done that have violated your moral code, would you list them all?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45 i also asked how you define "repented". you said that it basically means asking for forgiveness in private prayer or in church. interesting, that. if i thought i had done something so appalling evil, so damaging to the world around me that it would justify me receiving the very worst punishment imaginable, i can't imagine how just saying sorry in a church could possibly make up for it.

"appallingly evil"? "So damaging to the world"?
Your whole sentence hangs on those two vague and unexplained phrases.
Care to interpret?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45finally... "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".
what's that then?

Heaven?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:454. State that you believe christ is the son of God
(Romans 10:10)

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
well, i don't believe that. i do have a question, though.

what would you prefer?

person A doesn't believe this, and says so honestly.

person B says he believes this, and you don't have any way of really knowing whether he's telling the truth or just wants you to shut the fuck up.

What I'd prefer?

Person A, myself.

Because with Person B, I don't even have a chance to save them.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45. Be baptized (Acts 2: 38)

uh, same as step 3?

Same verse, yeah, but not same step.

There are other verses though.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45[b]6. Live faithfully until Death (Revelations 2: 10)

is this only addressed to people who are about to be thrown into prison, or about to encounter the devil? or can we ignore the first two sentences and it's the third that applies to everyone at all times?

He was speaking to the imminent prisoners at the time, but the message is not addressed to just specifically them, but to everyone.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, "be faithful". define that for me, please. you'd also better explain what "the crown of life" is.

"be faithful"

Follow the commandments in the Bible, like weekly worship, Lord's Supper, behaviour and conduct, avoidance of sins...

"crown of life"

Same as "gift of the Holy Spirit".

snpr1101 wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Now I'm not really sure as to how Altzan came to the conclusion that one is worse than the other (maybe there's some sort of point system in the bible that i missed aka 10 points for rape, yay I win!), but I think in his view, they are both sins.

Yeah, Spoony didn't give me much of a chance to justify my statement, did he? Jumped all over it and spread it around before I could tell him he was wrong.

As I said earlier, "I said that God won't rate either act a worse sin than the other in judgement. I didn't say I thought neither act was worse in itself than the other."

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 05:08:49 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 20:35edit: Yea I can comment on that, it might be wrong but here it is anyway. The disagreement in this case lies within Altzans' belief in God and the Bible; and your apparent lack of belief (I think?).

no. if it turned out that god was real and the bible was accurate, i'd still think the bible is an absolutely shitty source of morals. if anything i would be horrified to find out that it was true; it's very comforting to me that nobody has given any good reason to think there is any truth to christianity.

Quote:I'd presume it's common knowledge that the bible speaks out against homosexuality, to put it lightly; and obviously against rape too.

actually, rape is positively recommended quite a few times (as is genocide, slavery, and the slaughter of innocent children). really, the only prohibition of rape is the verse i mentioned earlier. and its rule on rape is absolutely appalling. the man simply has to pay off the woman's father and then marry the woman. not really a terrible punishment for the man. more importantly, it makes things so very much worse for the woman. she's just been raped by this bastard, and what happens to her next? she's forced to marry the mean lady. never mind her desires in all of this; she, an innocent victim of a sickening crime, is punished by being forced to live the rest of her life as the wife of the bastard who raped her.

let's not mince words: this is despicable. it would be despicable even if god was real and the bible was true. how fortunate there's no reason to think it is.

Quote:Now I'm not really sure as to how Altzan came to the conclusion that one is worse than the other (maybe there's some sort of point system in the bible that i missed aka 10 points for rape, yay I win!)

well, the punishment for homosexuality is death; worse than the punishment for rape.

Quote:But on the other hand, your apparent lack of belief in the Bible negates the homosexuality part. Therefore, you see rape as wrong (which it is), and two homosexual men who "love" each other (prove that exists while your at it) as normal (debatable - disprove God and the Bible and you'll win it)

So in conclusion, you can't debate or tell someone that they're wrong about something like that without looking at the root of it. He believes in God, you don't. He believes in the Bible, you don't. The reason Altzans' opinion differs against yours isn't due to just his own sole reasons; they have a strong link to the Bible and to God. Therefore, disprove the Bible and God, and you will win the argument.

it's plain ridiculous to say i need to disprove the existence of god or the accuracy of the bible to take part in a moral debate like this.

what are your religious views, may i ask?

Quote:I realise I made alot of assumptions in there and I apologise if I mis-represented anyone's views or offended anyone. Without reading the whole thing, that is the gist of what i've got out of it.so read the whole thing.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 05:47:43 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 22:41 Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45a negative meaning, not a negative connotation. dictatorship sucks by definition. and yet i don't know of any human dictatorship that managed to become as all-encompassing, unchallengeable and inescapable as the depiction in christianity.

Why does it suck by definition? And under what circumstances?

why does dictatorship suck? because you exist at the whim of an unchallengeable authority.

because you have no way of determining your conditions. because you only have the rights the boss chooses to give you.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45because until you've gotten past that square one, most of your assertions are at best a waste of time.

Then yours are too, because you haven't proved he doesn't exist. And I see no reason why anyone's assertions are valid until one or the other is proven... based on what you said anyway. um, what? none of my moral assertions have required the non-existence of a god, nor would they be disproven if this god of yours turned out to be real after all.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45so in a nutshell, the only reason you're not acting in the bloodthirsty, merciless way islam commands its followers to act is because you don't think it really came from God... there's no moral compunction holding you back, and there wouldn't be if it turned out you were wrong?

One of the main reasons I don't think it came from God is the morals themselves.
go on, if you like.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:Is that any worse than your statement that you'd challenge an almighty God, if you knew for fact he existed, because you don't like his authority?

yes, it is. i'm objecting to christianity because -a- i don't believe any of it and -b- i don't want a dictatorship and -c- i think his rules are absolutely shit.

-a- OK

-b- That's been plainly obvious for awhile... even if there's a higher power, you want to be in control.

-c- I've only heard you challenge OT rules so far.

-b- uh, no. i argued against dictatorship from the very beginning, and argued in favour of democracy. i'd love to know how "i want to have a vote" translates into "i want to be in control" in your mind?

-c- then you haven't read many of the things i've said to you. goodness knows i've tried to get you to understand that it's evil to threaten someone, especially a child, with the most horrific punishment imaginable just because they don't agree with your religion. and that comes from the new.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45your only objection to following islam's rules is you

don't believe it. well, it's good you've laid out for us what at least two people reading this thread had already guessed... i.e. that you have no morals.

No, that you THINK I have no morals, which is helped along by you twisting my words so often. and in what instance did i "twist your words"? you said you would murder your innocent child if god instructed you to. you justified the slaughter of innocent children if someone else in the city had a different religious opinion. you said homosexuality is as bad as rape. i don't need to twist anything here.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45my word. i hear it all the time. saying that god gave them the world, saying they have god-given rights (such a stupid thing to say, but nvm for now), saying grace before a meal...

I see no problem with saying grace, but the others I don't agree with.
did god give you anything? life, health, prosperity etc?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45"wanting something god can't give you" sounds like a pretty good reason to turn away from religion; if it can't give you basic human rights, democracy, and intellectual freedom, for example.

"basic human rights"

Which ones do you think he denies?

"democracy"

Mmm-hmm.

"intellectual freedom"

And what would that be?

for starters, the right to freely think and inquire and speak. christianity doesn't even permit freedom of thought, let alone speech.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45wanting something god won't give you doesn't put the person at fault instead of the god.
nor does wanting to do something god considers a sin.

It is if you shouldn't want it at all, if it is wrong.

Of course, you probably don't think they're wrong... ah, morals.

i really feel sorry for you... i really, really do. you've been completely corrupted by religion.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45having a different religious opinion is not even a crime at all

You still haven't answered my question regarding that...

Why should anyone go free of a law, ANY law, just because they don't agree with it?
i did answer that, actually.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45odd to use the word "defense" to explain the supposed behaviour of the israelites...

Why? Do you think the other groups wanted to live in peaceful tolerance with them?
i don't think peaceful tolerance with a group as debauched as the israelites, ruled as they were by an entity as downright evil as yahweh, would be even possible let alone desirable.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45why are you sure? i didn't find god saying the guy shouldn't have done it. you'd think a book perpetually trumpeted as an ultimate moral authority might have something to say against someone who throws a defenceless girl to a mob of rapists to save himself.

Right, the Bible really has space to say things about every sinner in history.
so you're saying the only reason the bible does not condemn this man is thanks to lack of space?
well, firstly the bible rambles on and on and on and on. secondly the story basically happens twice (this one, and lot/sodom and gomorrah), and the man who decided to throw defenceless girls at the mob of rapists got off without so much as a slap on the wrist both times.

Quote:Besides... man throws girl to save self, girl dies... how is that NOT murder?
you're admitting the guy was morally wrong, so why doesn't the bible condemn it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45secondly, you don't think there's anything wrong with that rape rule? the man has to marry the woman and pay off her father. doesn't seem like a terribly severe punishment for the man. more to the point, it makes the woman's predicament even worse. she's just been raped, and then she's told she must marry the bastard who attacked and violated her. is it safe to assume you don't know any women who have been raped? who, in a modern civilised country, would seriously hold a moral position as shitty as this if they didn't get it from religion?

Who today holds that moral position?
answer the question at the beginning of the paragraph. do you think that is a good rule for cases of rape? do you think god did a good job making that rule? do you still think god is the ultimate supreme source of good morals?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45thirdly, you basically said that an adult man who enters into a consenting sexual relationship with another man is just as bad as a man who rapes a woman. i guess you don't know any gay people either.

No, I did not say that. I said that God won't rate either act a worse sin than the other in judgement. I didn't say I thought neither act was worse in itself than the other.
don't try to wriggle out of this one, champ.

here's what i asked.

"what, in your view and in the view of your church, is the worse act of these two:

- a man rapes a woman
- two men, consenting adults, choose to have a sexual relationship"

you answered:

"No sin is worse than another."

and that's all you said on the subject. you said neither was worse than the other. it's right there.

and if your god won't say that one of them IS worse than the other, then that's another thing i have

against your god. if he judges two gay guys to be the same as a rapist, then he's morally bankrupt. but then, i've been saying that all along.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45perhaps you could quote the verse(s) in Genesis, the first book in the bible, that explain just who this Satan is and make it clear that the snake who tempted eve is indeed this character Satan.

Genesis 3 explains it pretty well, especially the prophecy made in verse 15.
quote it all, hmm? everything in genesis explaining who satan is and explaining that the snake was satan.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45oh, if it's a test of whether you will do whatever your boss tells you no matter how evil it is, then sure, abraham passes and i emphatically won't. but like i said, some of us actually have morals.

Yet you think that morals came from basically nowhere in particular... and that that isn't ridiculous. nowhere? the human species has existed for hundreds of thousands of years. we learn more all the time. for example, our moral standards are a lot better than they were two thousand years ago. just look at how crappy the morals were of the men who wrote the bible, look at what shitty ideas they had.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45compassion can compel us to do something wrong, like refrain from murdering a close friend or family member who tells us their religious views.

three cheers for compassion, i say.

Kinda conflicts with your above quote...
So much for morals.
??

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:Example - your friend has finally broken his alcohol addiction, but he is miserable as a result, and keeps desiring just 'one more drink'. You might feel pity and wish to fulfill his wish just to make him happy again. After all, it's just one more drink right? And it'd make him feel better!

uh no, because moral considerations are based on a little more than just immediate happiness.

Once again, you read too far into the example to avoid acknowledging it.
uh no, i responded to what you said.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45remember the first religious debate between you and i? you kept saying that if you won't believe anything without proof, you're a "hopeless case".

I was wrong to say that.

Also, I said it once, not "kept saying".

you kept trying to justify it. dover and i repeatedly tried to get you to open your eyes. it's good that you admit you were wrong in that case; you didn't in the thread and it went on for quite a while.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45you said that anyone who finds your religion

unconvincing is "desperately trying to find an excuse because they want an easier path".

Quote me, since I have no idea what you're referring to.
this was the same post or nearby as the "hopeless case" remark

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45that isn't even internally consistent

I have yet to see evidence it isn't...
the gospels can't agree on almost anything.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45and whose authorship is dubious

I'll give you that, but it's safe to say any ancient writing has dubious authorship.
yes, but most ancient books don't claim to be infallible. and yet the bible's history of collation is entirely political.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45and we have monumentally large implications.

What?
heaven and hell?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45we don't even have ordinary proof. however,
earlier you said there was... that didn't go very well, did it?

No, it didn't. Because you didn't even read the entire thing. You skipped all the -ology sections.
lol? i replied to everything i saw, and all of it horribly feeble.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45so muslims have greater faith than you, basically?

Implying that less proof = more faith?
well, yeah. their religion is even more incomprehensible and absurd than yours, so they must
have more faith if they believe in it, right?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45it's what the boss wants that counts.

And you've basically said you want to be that boss, or at least one of them.
again, i'd love to know how you got from "i want democracy instead of dictatorship" to "i want to be
the boss or at least one of them"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Quote:You were quoting scripture. That wasn't an
opinion of yours, that was a point of yours you tried to back up. That's why i responded.
i have absolutely no idea what you're trying to say here.

You quoting scripture and pointing at it is NOT an opinion, it's a point you were trying to make.
So I replied in kind.
i'm still confused as to your point

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So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
what exactly is the message?

Basically, the plan.
And the Bible as a whole.
shrug

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:452. Believe it (Mark 16:16)
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
carrot and stick! shame we're talking about thoughtcrime here. see my earlier objections.

I have, believe me.
well, then your five-step plan falls at point 2 in my case, because i don't believe it, and because i don't believe it i am going to be "condemned". what a shitty moral system.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45i'm reminded again of our earlier religious debate.
you said that you'd done things which you would deserve to go to hell for if you hadn't "repented".
well, that's quite a daring admission, telling us that you'd done something so evil that it would justify the most horrific punishment of all. (unless you're arguing that god and his punishments are unjust, and you've never seemed to think that)

"so evil"? It doesn't have to be "So evil" to trigger that.
and doesn't that suck?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, i couldn't help but ask what those things were. what were these horrific crimes you committed? you wouldn't say.

Well, if someone asked you to list the morally unjust things you've done that have violated your moral code, would you list them all?
whoah there. i didn't say i'd done anything so bad that it would justify me receiving the very worst punishment imaginable. even if i had committed murder, the penalty would be less harsh than hell.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45 i also asked how you define "repented". you said that it basically means asking for forgiveness in private prayer or in church. interesting, that. if i thought i had done something so appalling evil, so damaging to the world around me that it would justify me receiving the very worst punishment imaginable, i can't imagine how just saying sorry in a church could possibly make up for it.

"appallingly evil"? "So damaging to the world"?
Your whole sentence hangs on those two vague and unexplained phrases.
Care to interpret?
sorry, i guess i'm just trying to be generous and make the assumption that your god is just, in spite of the bible making it clear that he isn't.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45finally... "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". what's that then?

Heaven?

k, well, obviously i'm not gonna get that but may as well ask

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:454. State that you believe christ is the son of God (Romans 10:10)

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. well, i don't believe that. i do have a question, though.

what would you prefer?

person A doesn't believe this, and says so honestly.

person B says he believes this, and you don't have any way of really knowing whether he's telling the truth or just wants you to shut the fuck up.

What I'd prefer?

Person A, myself.

Because with Person B, I don't even have a chance to save them. save them from what?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45[b]6. Live faithfully until Death (Revelations 2: 10) is this only addressed to people who are about to be thrown into prison, or about to encounter the devil? or can we ignore the first two sentences and it's the third that applies to everyone at all times?

He was speaking to the imminent prisoners at the time, but the message is not addressed to just specifically them, but to everyone. how do you know? remember, you said earlier that a particular verse is only applicable to the israelites.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, "be faithful". define that for me, please. you'd also better explain what "the crown of life" is.

"be faithful"

Follow the commandments in the Bible, like weekly worship, Lord's Supper, behaviour and conduct, avoidance of sins...

are you sure that's what "faithful" means? usually "faith" seems more to do with believing stuff without evidence.

Quote:snpr1101 wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45Now I'm not really sure as to how Altzan came to the conclusion that one is worse than the other (maybe there's some sort of point system in the bible that i missed aka 10 points for rape, yay I win!), but I think in his view, they are both sins.

Yeah, Spoony didn't give me much of a chance to justify my statement, did he? Jumped all over it and spread it around before I could tell him he was wrong.

i think i can see you're beginning to realise you made a terrible fuckup in your statement about rape vs homosexuality. it's cool if you want to retract it, but do yourself a favour and don't act like i'm at fault for asking the question and then finding your very clear response to be appalling.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 16:55:27 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 20:35:yea it might help if I read it all

this is good advice.

snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 20:35:Therefore, you see rape as wrong (which it is), and two homosexual men who "love" each other (prove that exists while your at it) as normal (debatable - disprove God and the Bible and you'll win it)

Had you talked to homosexual couples in real life? Their love is no different than the love of a heterosexual couple.

As for it being normal, it is as normal as a black man loving and marrying a white woman...which btw was seen as wrong and illegal just a few decades ago.

You are gonna have to get over this and you will get over it just as those who were against interracial marriage got over it.

snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 20:35:Therefore, disprove the Bible and God, and you will win the argument.

I don't think you realise what a asinine request this is. What will be your response if a hindu asked you that same question regarding his gods?

The bible and the christian god are already disproved just as the ancient greek gods, the hindu vedic texts, and allah.

btw, I find it sad you think this is another "argument" to "win"

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2010 17:04:05 GMT

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my god, the yellow lobster called jeremy, says raping children is a good idea.

snpr1101, you think that sucks? then YOU HAVE TO PROVE THE YELLOW LOBSTER DOESN'T EXIST!

rollseyes

even if he did exist, god or not, if that was one of his commandments then he'd be a twat. just as the bible's rules on rape are evil, just as so much else of christianity is evil. we don't need to disprove the existence of a god to make a moral case against a religion.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Mon, 05 Apr 2010 04:27:40 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 04 April 2010 11:55snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 20:35yea it might help if I read it all

this is good advice.

snpr1101 wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 20:35Therefore, you see rape as wrong (which it is), and two homosexual men who "love" eachother (prove that exists while your at it) as normal (debatable - disprove God and the Bible and you'll win it)

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The bible and the christian god are already disproved just as the ancient greek gods, the hindu vedic texts, and allah.

btw, I find it sad you think this is another "argument" to "win"

I think you're misunderstanding some things here. What exactly do I have to get over? I don't judge homosexual couples, nor do I think it's wrong. I was just pointing what I saw as the difference in thinking between a person who believes in the Bible and God; and a person who does not. Yes I realise there may be some who support homosexual couples whilst having this belief; but I am speaking from a standpoint of those who are religious and are strictly against homosexuality. All you seem to be doing is taking what I said, and stating things that seem contrary to it that I already agree with.

And about disproving God and the Bible etc. Alot of the reasons behind the arguments presented here are based upon, or have a strong link to teachings in the Bible, or a lack of. If you're a person who has an immense belief in the Bible and your God; and somebody starts to argue against certain points of it - how can the believer accept they are wrong without accepting their God does not exist - hence the teachings and everything that fuels their argument is moot? That, I believe, is the only way to prove someone wrong in this case.

The same thing goes for the non-believer. How can they be proven wrong when they simply do

not accept that the other persons' God does not exist; and the teachings and arguments in the Bible that fuel their arguments are false or do not pertain to what they perceive as right, or wrong.

And no, I don't think this is "another" argument to "win". I thought you might of observed how I made reference to God, the Bible etc. I didn't make light of this debate. I simply saw a way, in my opinion, whether it be wrong or not, to allow someone to accept another's thinking as truth over their own. Perhaps I should of written it as above to avoid confusion. But did you really think I saw it as the "Victor" of this debate could stand up on the "podium" and give an "acceptance speech" whilst I handed him his "First Place Trophy"?

Quote:my god, the yellow lobster called jeremy, says raping children is a good idea.

snpr1101, you think that sucks? then YOU HAVE TO PROVE THE YELLOW LOBSTER DOESN'T EXIST!

rollseyes

even if he did exist, god or not, if that was one of his commandments then he'd be a twat. just as the bible's rules on rape are evil, just as so much else of christianity is evil. we don't need to disprove the existence of a god to make a moral case against a religion.

My god, the almighty yellow lobster God called Jeremy, for which I have no belief in - nor do I believe in the Lobsters little book called the Lobster Bible, says theres nothing wrong with rape, or anything else I care to debate. HOW DARE THIS GOD CHALLENGE MY THINKING! SURELY I MUST KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT OVER A GOD. Oh wait, maybe he doesn't exist. If I can prove this, then surely the argument of the lobster is wrong; and mine is right.

Yea ok, so I wasn't as serious about that, but I aside the little chuckle it gave me, I think it holds some relevance. Sure, using rape in that sarcastic example doesn't really get the message across that easily, but insert another word or debatable topic that isn't as strong as the word.

Look, I'm not saying rape is fine, but look at the words you're using. Evil, Moral etc. What is your definition of Evil? Where do your morals stem from? What is Evil really? - something morally objectionable? Morals are quite a personal belief (Although many are shared), almost as personal as a belief in God.

Do you see what I'm getting at? Everything we argue about based upon morals, belief, religion, God - or subjects we argue about that draw upon these is linked to a bigger picture; it Stems from a greater Issue and debate, in my opinion. You cannot debate smaller topics and arrive at an agreed conclusion, or shared argument, unless there is a shared mutual agreement in the accuracy of the morals and beliefs that govern the topic you're arguing about.

I could elaborate on that more, but my above posts cover it, I think.

_.-+| As I finish writing this I feel regretful for getting into this argument. I think what I said is too

broad and could form an entirely different argument all together. But It's just my opinion, feel free to challenge it and prove my thinking wrong (which I have no doubt someone will). I don't mean to take the piss out of anyones views too much, as I've only been in this world 18 years and could learn alot from those who've been here longer |+-._

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 05 Apr 2010 12:40:57 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 04 April 2010 23:27 And about disproving God and the Bible etc. Alot of the reasons behind the arguments presented here are based upon, or have a strong link to teachings in the Bible, or a lack of. If you're a person who has an immense belief in the Bible and your God; and somebody starts to argue against certain points of it - how can the believer accept they are wrong without accepting their God does not exist - hence the teachings and everything that fuels their argument is moot? That, I believe, is the only way to prove someone wrong in this case.

actually, no, it's not.

if their entire argument is "it's wrong because god disapproves of it" (and that's what it always boils down to), then this doesn't deserve to be taken seriously UNTIL the following things have been successfully demonstrated.

1. that this god exists at all
2. that the bible is an accurate depiction of god's character
3. that god is so morally superior that his wishes overrule our ideas on human rights

nobody's done any of the above. they need to do all three before they can expect to be taken seriously.

Quote: The same thing goes for the non-believer. How can they be proven wrong when they simply do not accept that the other persons' God does not exist; and the teachings and arguments in the Bible that fuel their arguments are false or do not pertain to what they perceive as right, or wrong.

for the non-believer, it's totally different. i have never justified my thoughts on, for example, the rights of homosexuals by saying "and the reason i think this is because i don't think your god is real". i'd think it even if god turned out to be real. even if god was real i'd still think his moral

standards are appalling. you cannot disprove my moral assertions by proving there's a god, because they were never the reason for me saying them.

secondly, another reason why you're totally wrong here: there is a huge difference between an atheist's position and a christian's position. it's not a case of "the atheist thinks there isn't a god, the christian thinks there is one". you might draw a parallel between thinking there is one and thinking there probably isn't one, but that's not where the goalposts are here. the christian says: there is a god, and I know the details about him. that's not at all equivalent to my position, which is: i've never seen any convincing evidence or heard any convincing logic that there is a god. that would be square one. even if someone could show that, they would still have all their work ahead of them to prove that any particular book is the accurate source of what god expects from us, AND they would still have to successfully argue that god's wishes trump our principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Quote:My god, the almighty yellow lobster God called Jeremy, for which I have no belief in - nor do I believe in the Lobsters little book called the Lobster Bible, says theres nothing wrong with rape, or anything else I care to debate. HOW DARE THIS GOD CHALLENGE MY THINKING! SURELY I MUST KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT OVER A GOD. Oh wait, maybe he doesn't exist. If I can prove this, then surely the argument of the lobster is wrong; and mine is right.

Yea ok, so I wasn't as serious about that, but I aside the little chuckle it gave me, I think it holds some relevance. Sure, using rape in that sarcastic example doesn't really get the message across that easily, but insert another word or debatable topic that isn't as strong as the word. If you understand how ridiculous it would be if someone seriously held the yellow lobster/child rape position, it ought to be apparent how ridiculous the "homosexuality is wrong because the judeo-christian god says so" position is.

Quote:Look, I'm not saying rape is fine

Answer my earlier question. What do you think about the Bible's rules on rape? I've asked that two or three times now.

Here's what the Bible says. If a man rapes a woman, he must marry her and pay off her father. Two points of commentary about this. Firstly it doesn't seem like much of a punishment to the man, as opposed to the death penalty for gay people who choose to have relationship with a consenting adult.

Secondly, look how fucked up it is from the woman's perspective. She's just been raped - I struggle to imagine what that's like - she probably needs the comfort and understanding of her family and friends, and she ought to know that the law is totally on her side and she ought never to have to look at the rapist ever again.

But what happens? She has to marry him! The bastard who raped her, she is now confined to a life attached to him as an inferior partner (the bible makes it quite clear that women are men's property, which was probably the general view at the time it was written). Never mind what she had in mind for her future, maybe she was in love with a different man and wanted to marry him, maybe she doesn't want to get married at all. No. She's got to marry a rapist who attacked and violated her.

So answer my question, and so must Altzan... do you think there's anything morally wrong with this law? Never mind whether God exists. Even if he does exist and he really did inspire this law,

it's still horrendous and it would just mean God was an immoral piece of shit.

Quote:but look at the words you're using. Evil, Moral etc. What is your definition of Evil? Where do your morals stem from? What is Evil really? - something morally objectionable? Morals are quite a personal belief (Although many are shared), almost as personal as a belief in God.

Morals stem from human solidarity, the principles of human rights, freedom under the rule of law, democracy, etc etc etc. They develop gradually, we learn more all the time.

As for where evil comes from? Religion

before anyone objects too hard to that, it's just intended to be snappy and simplistic, don't read too much into it

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Tue, 06 Apr 2010 03:27:56 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:No, that you THINK I have no morals, which is helped along by you twisting my words so often.

and in what instance did i "twist your words"? you said you would murder your innocent child if god instructed you to. you justified the slaughter of innocent children if someone else in the city had a different religious opinion. you said homosexuality is as bad as rape. i don't need to twist anything here.

You just did.

I did not, NOT, say homosexuality is as bad as rape.

I'll get to that later.

You also asked what I believe I should do if I sinned. I replied saying I'd make a public confession at church. Next, you describe me as someone who thinks they can do horrible actions and not have to apologize to anyone but my congregation and God, and not to whoever I might have harmed or wronged.

You twisted my words there, since you did not mention anyone else in your question... if I wronged somebody, then a sincere apology and request for forgiveness from them is due and needed. But you represented me as one who did not think that.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47did god give you anything? life, health, prosperity etc?

I don't think God has given me anything more than what he has given others... I don't get special treatment from him, physical-wise, just for my faith in him.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45wanting something god won't give you doesn't put the person at fault instead of the god.

nor does wanting to do something god considers a sin.

It is if you shouldn't want it at all, if it is wrong.

Of course, you probably don't think they're wrong... ah, morals.

i really feel sorry for you... i really, really do. you've been completely corrupted by religion.

Maybe you should reply to my point instead of making mocking comments.
If something is morally wrong, then why is it God's fault for condemning it?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:You still haven't answered my question regarding that...

Why should anyone go free of a law, ANY law, just because they don't agree with it?
i did answer that, actually.

You didn't, really. You first made a point out of the specific situation, and I replied by generalizing it. Then you started asking me questions about democracy.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47so you're saying the only reason the bible does not condemn this man is thanks to lack of space? well, firstly the bible rambles on and on and on and on. secondly the story basically happens twice (this one, and lot/sodom and gomorrah), and the man who decided to throw defenceless girls at the mob of rapists got off without so much as a slap on the wrist both times.

Lot (the Sodom/Gomorrah man) didn't 'throw defenseless girls at mobs of rapists'... although he came close to. And he was wrong to make the offer.
I also wonder how you know the other man didn't get punished.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Besides... man throws girl to save self, girl dies... how is that NOT murder?
you're admitting the guy was morally wrong, so why doesn't the bible condemn it?

He committed murder, yes? (I don't see how it couldn't be.) God condemns murder.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47do you think that is a good rule for cases of rape?

Of course not, we live in different times now. Civilization was a lot different back then.
I have never lived in those times so I can't say how good or bad that law was.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47here's what i asked.

"what, in your view and in the view of your church, is the worse act of these two:

- a man rapes a woman
- two men, consenting adults, choose to have a sexual relationship"

you answered:

"No sin is worse than another."

and that's all you said on the subject. you said neither was worse than the other. it's right there.

You asked what was worse in terms of sin.

I said that God will not condemn a man for one act more than over another.

I made no comment regarding which act was worse.

How can you confuse the two?

Do you think it makes sense to 'rank' sins?

But let me satisfy your curiosity. Sins and laws aside... which do I think is worse? Definitely rape.
By far.
Nothing to twist there.

And if you in all honesty misinterpreted my post, or did not make your query clear, I will admit it could be my fault as much as yours that it happened. But there are my views, and I will clarify if needed.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47quote it all, hmm? everything in genesis explaining who satan is and explaining that the snake was satan.

The Bible does not explicitly name the snake as Satan, but basic logic confirms it.
For one, animals couldn't talk, and no human possessed the snake and made it speak.
That leaves three options, God, Satan, or some other diety. Obviously it wasn't God. And if another diety existed, the Bible either would have made no mention of it at all or would have gone on in further detail.
So it must have been Satan.

Also, the prophecy made (not that you believe they're valid, but anyway) said, as God was cursing the snake, 'You and man are now enemies, and man will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.'
The bruised heel represents Jesus dying on the cross, and the bruised head represents Jesus' resurrection.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47nowhere? the human species has existed for hundreds of thousands of years. we learn more all the time. for example, our moral standards are a lot better than they were two thousand years ago. just look at how crappy the morals were of the men who wrote the bible, look at what shitty ideas they had.

You didn't say anything about the origin of morals. They didn't just 'appear' when humans did, did they?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45you said that anyone who finds your religion unconvincing is "desperately trying to find an excuse because they want an easier path".

Quote me, since I have no idea what you're referring to.
this was the same post or nearby as the "hopeless case" remark

That doesn't help much.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45that isn't even internally consistent

I have yet to see evidence it isn't...
the gospels can't agree on almost anything.

I've read from each many times and I have no idea what you might be referring to.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45and we

have monumentally large implications.
What?
heaven and hell?

Ah, I suppose that was obvious, sorry.
I'll use the dictionary next time.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47lol? i replied to everything i saw, and all of it horribly feeble.

"Everything you saw" didn't include hyperlinks in the article?
But Okay, here you go.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47well, yeah. their religion is even more incomprehensible and absurd than yours, so they must have more faith if they believe in it, right?

Faith isn't a measurable concept, you know.
You can't have more or less faith. You have it or you don't.
What you have faith IN, is a different matter.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:You quoting scripture and pointing at it is NOT an opinion, it's a point you were trying to make.
So I replied in kind.
i'm still confused as to your point

sigh Let me try once more.
I said I wouldn't attempt to refute an opinion.
You asked why I tried to refute your verses/claim with Matthew Henry.
I said it was because your verses/claim was not an opinion.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45i'm reminded again of our earlier religious debate. you said that you'd done things which you would deserve to go to hell for if you hadn't "repented". well, that's quite a daring admission, telling us that you'd done something so evil that it would justify the most horrific punishment of all. (unless you're arguing that god and his punishments are unjust, and you've never seemed to think that) "so evil"? It doesn't have to be "So evil" to trigger that.
and doesn't that suck?

Duh, no.
"OK, don't sin or you'll suffer the consequences!...well, unless it's a really small sin, you know, those don't count."

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, i couldn't help but ask what those things were. what were these horrific crimes you committed? you wouldn't say.
Well, if someone asked you to list the morally unjust things you've done that have violated your moral code, would you list them all?
whoah there. i didn't say i'd done anything so bad that it would justify me receiving the very worst

punishment imaginable. even if i had committed murder, the penalty would be less harsh than hell.

Ok, but...

Why am I a bad person for not wanting to list actions I have done that I don't feel proud of?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:454. State that you believe christ is the son of God (Romans 10:10)

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

well, i don't believe that. i do have a question, though.

what would you prefer?

person A doesn't believe this, and says so honestly.

person B says he believes this, and you don't have any way of really knowing whether he's telling the truth or just wants you to shut the fuck up.

What I'd prefer?

Person A, myself.

Because with Person B, I don't even have a chance to save them.

save them from what?

Hell?

In other words, if you outright said no, I don't believe this, I'd try and talk to you about it, and if you continued to decline and ask me not to bother you anymore with it, etc, I'd do so.

But if you said you did believe, got baptized, worshipped with us and so forth, but you really didn't, I would have no way of knowing, and couldn't do anything.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:He was speaking to the imminent prisoners at the time, but the message is not addressed to just specifically them, but to everyone.

how do you know? remember, you said earlier that a particular verse is only applicable to the israelites.

Right, because they were in different circumstances. They had to move about and interact with other groups, and that was one of God's commands regarding that.

Here, he was speaking to them about how to remain faithful and be saved. Seeing as how that is the same thing we are to do today, the statement applies to us in today's time as well.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, "be faithful". define that for me, please. you'd also better explain what "the crown of life" is.

are you sure that's what "faithful" means? usually "faith" seems more to do with believing stuff without evidence.

I meant in terms of "be faithful and obey". Yes, faith does involve belief in the unseen, which is included in the meaning of the verse, but it also means obeying his commandments, such as what I listed above.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Tue, 06 Apr 2010 15:14:55 GMT

Altzan wrote on Mon, 05 April 2010 22:27Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:No, that you THINK I have no morals, which is helped along by you twisting my words so often. and in what instance did i "twist your words"? you said you would murder your innocent child if god instructed you to. you justified the slaughter of innocent children if someone else in the city had a different religious opinion. you said homosexuality is as bad as rape. i don't need to twist anything here.

You just did.

I did not, NOT, say homosexuality is as bad as rape.

of the three really sick moral opinions of yours i posted, you only seem to feel defensive about one of them...

Quote:You also asked what I believe I should do if I sinned. I replied saying I'd make a public confession at church. Next, you describe me as someone who thinks they can do horrible actions and not have to apologize to anyone but my congregationa nd God, and not to whoever I might have harmed or wronged.

You twisted my words there, since you did not mention anyone else in your question... if I wronged somebody, then a sincere apology and request for forgiveness from them is due and needed. But you represented me as one who did not think that.

dude, do yourself a favour, don't lie. don't act like i twisted your words, don't act like i misrepresented your statement. you won't get away with it and you make yourself look much worse by trying.

i asked you very clearly how you define "repenting" if you do something wrong. you said: ask forgiveness in church if it's a public sin, ask forgiveness through prayer if it's a private sin. i immediately responded by saying: what, so nothing about apologising to the actual people you affected, nothing about trying to rectify a situation you made worse? you didn't reply with ANY indication that you thought either of those was important.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47did god give you anything? life, health, prosperity etc?

I don't think God has given me anything more than what he has given others... I don't get special treatment from him, physical-wise, just for my faith in him. what has he given others?

Quote:Maybe you should reply to my point instead of making mocking comments.

If something is morally wrong, then why is it God's fault for condemning it?

and what if it's not morally wrong? what if it's a basic human right god is condemning? it's not automatically bad just because your monster of a god doesn't like it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47so you're saying the only reason the bible does not condemn this man is thanks to lack of space? well, firstly the bible rambles on and on and on and on. secondly the story basically happens twice (this one, and lot/sodom and gomorrah), and the man who decided to throw defenceless girls at the mob of rapists got off without so much as a slap on the wrist both times.

Lot (the Sodom/Gomorrah man) didn't 'throw defenseless girls at mobs of rapists'... although he came close to. And he was wrong to make the offer.
on what basis do you say he was wrong to make the offer?

Quote:I also wonder how you know the other man didn't get punished.
i found no report that he did, and neither did you.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Besides... man throws girl to save self, girl dies... how is that NOT murder?
you're admitting the guy was morally wrong, so why doesn't the bible condemn it?

He committed murder, yes? (I don't see how it couldn't be.) God condemns murder.
actually, the bible gives plenty of situations when murder is positively recommended and a few when it's flat-out ordered. same goes for slavery and rape.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47do you think that is a good rule for cases of rape?

Of course not, we live in different times now. Civilization was a lot different back then.
I have never lived in those times so I can't say how good or bad that law was.
what a cowardly, euphemistic answer.

the law is sick and immoral, there's no two ways about it. and if it came from god, then god's sick and immoral too.

yes, civilisation was different back then. they had really shitty morals. you can tell just by reading books written at the time, most obviously the bible. thank god we don't have huge numbers of people trying to live their lives based on the moral standards of primitive middle-east barbarians.

oh wait, we do, don't we

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47here's what i asked.
"what, in your view and in the view of your church, is the worse act of these two:

- a man rapes a woman
- two men, consenting adults, choose to have a sexual relationship"

you answered:

"No sin is worse than another."

and that's all you said on the subject. you said neither was worse than the other. it's right there.
You asked what was worse in terms of sin.

I said that God will not condemn a man for one act more than over another.

I made no comment regarding which act was worse.

How can you confuse the two?

firstly, god condemns homosexuality worse than rape. the punishment ordered for homosexuality is worse than rape, and the punishment for the woman victim of rape is worse than for the male offender.

secondly, do you really want to say your god condemns all sins equally? that would not put god in a good light.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47quote it all, hmm? everything in genesis explaining who satan is and explaining that the snake was satan.

The Bible does not explicitly name the snake as Satan, but basic logic confirms it.
rollseyes

it's time to admit you were totally wrong again, dude.

Quote:For one, animals couldn't talk, and no human possessed the snake and made it speak. That leaves three options, God, Satan, or some other diety. Obviously it wasn't God. And if another diety existed, the Bible either would have made no mention of it at all or would have gone on in further detail.

So it must have been Satan.

there's no mention of satan at all in genesis, and very little mention in the entire old testament. it isn't until at least a thousand years later than men decide to invent the idea of "satan" as you probably think of him now. you really have to try very hard to apply the much later inventions to the much earlier passages, and like you said about deities, if the writers of genesis said the snake was possessed by insert-power-here, they would have said so. what was all that about don't add anything into the bible?

Quote:Also, the prophecy made (not that you believe they're valid, but anyway) said, as God was cursing the snake, 'You and man are now enemies, and man will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.'

The bruised heel represents Jesus dying on the cross, and the bruised head represents Jesus' resurrection.

again, you're trying way too hard here. god's obviously just pissed at the snake, and he's punishing all snakes, not just the one who was there. as, of course, is his unjust and vindictive nature.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47nowhere? the human species has existed for hundreds of thousands of years. we learn more all the time. for example, our moral standards are a lot better than they were two thousand years ago. just look at how crappy the morals were of the men who wrote the bible, look at what shitty ideas they had.

You didn't say anything about the origin of morals. They didn't just 'appear' when humans did, did they?

if you read the statement you just quoted you'll see i actually did answer the question.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45you said that anyone who finds your religion unconvincing is "desperately trying to find an excuse because they want an easier path".

Quote me, since I have no idea what you're referring to.

this was the same post or nearby as the "hopeless case" remark

That doesn't help much.

here it is:

"Actually, the people wanting proof are those desperately looking for a reason not to believe

something they don't want to believe because they want an easier path."

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45that isn't even internally consistent
I have yet to see evidence it isn't...
the gospels can't agree on almost anything.

I've read from each many times and I have no idea what you might be referring to.
are you kidding?

i'll be generous and give you a version of events from someone claiming to be a christian.
http://www.religioustolerance.org/xmas_lib.htm

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47lol? i replied to everything i saw, and all of it
horribly feeble.

"Everything you saw" didn't include hyperlinks in the article?
But Okay, here you go.
sigh... this is nearly as bad as the stuff i've already debunked. there's nothing there that some
other book couldn't have said. for a lot of it you really have to struggle to "interpret" (the christian
euphemism for "it looks wrong, let's see if we can change it so we get the answer we wanted"),
plus there are plenty of cases where the scientific assertions of the bible are flat out wrong, like
when it says pi is 3, for example.

finally, all this dodges the most important question i asked. if you find something in the bible that
turns out to be useful knowledge, why does that vindicate the entire bible?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47well, yeah. their religion is even more
incomprehensible and absurd than yours, so they must have more faith if they believe in it, right?

Faith isn't a measurable concept, you know.
You can't have more or less faith. You have it or you don't.
that doesn't answer my question.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:You quoting scripture and pointing at it is
NOT an opinion, it's a point you were trying to make.
So I replied in kind.
i'm still confused as to your point

sigh Let me try once more.
I said I wouldn't attempt to refute an opinion.
You asked why I tried to refute your verses/claim with Matthew Henry.
I said it was because your verses/claim was not an opinion.
you're talking complete bullshit here, dude. it seems very obvious to me you're just trying to avoid
the fact that there were a lot of things i said you simply couldn't think of an answer to.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010
06:45i'm reminded again of our earlier religious debate. you said that you'd done things which you

would deserve to go to hell for if you hadn't "repented". well, that's quite a daring admission, telling us that you'd done something so evil that it would justify the most horrific punishment of all. (unless you're arguing that god and his punishments are unjust, and you've never seemed to think that)

"so evil"? It doesn't have to be "So evil" to trigger that.
and doesn't that suck?

Duh, no.

"OK, don't sin or you'll suffer the consequences!...well, unless it's a really small sin, you know, those don't count."

and yet you admitted that you did "sin"...

Quote:Ok, but...

Why am I a bad person for not wanting to list actions I have done that I don't feel proud of?
that's not the part that makes you a bad person.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:454. State that you believe christ is the son of God (Romans 10:10)

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
well, i don't believe that. i do have a question, though.

what would you prefer?

person A doesn't believe this, and says so honestly.

person B says he believes this, and you don't have any way of really knowing whether he's telling the truth or just wants you to shut the fuck up.

What I'd prefer?

Person A, myself.

Because with Person B, I don't even have a chance to save them.

save them from what?

Hell?

i.e. the thing you originally threatened them with? calling that "saved" is like using the word "protection" to describe a mafia give-us-money-and-we-won't-kill-you deal.

Quote:In other words, if you outright said no, I don't believe this, I'd try and talk to you about it, and if you continued to decline and ask me not to bother you anymore with it, etc, I'd do so.

But if you said you did believe, got baptized, worshipped with us and so forth, but you really didn't, I would have no way of knowing, and couldn't do anything.

Do you seriously believe that everyone claiming to be a Christian actually is?

Don't you think that the endless threats and bullying and intimidation might be a big part of why so many people don't feel secure being honest about their religious views?

And don't you think that this would be an evil climate to perpetuate, since it would mean that a huge number of people would end up going to hell just because they were too scared to actually speak up about their doubts?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:He was speaking to the imminent prisoners at the time, but the message is not addressed to just specifically them, but to everyone.
how do you know? remember, you said earlier that a particular verse is only applicable to the

israelites.

Right, because they were in different circumstances. They had to move about and interact with other groups, and that was one of God's commands regarding that.

Here, he was speaking to them about how to remain faithful and be saved. Seeing as how that is the same thing we are to do today, the statement applies to us in today's time as well.

You are entirely choosing for yourself, on no basis whatsoever, which parts of the bible apply to you. Just be honest with yourself and admit that this is what you are doing.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45well, "be faithful". define that for me, please. you'd also better explain what "the crown of life" is. are you sure that's what "faithful" means? usually "faith" seems more to do with believing stuff without evidence.

I meant in terms of "be faithful and obey". Yes, faith does involve belief in the unseen, which is included in the meaning of the verse, but it also means obeying his commandments, such as what I listed above.

k.

so, you asked earlier what i thought of the five-step plan? it's shit.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 04:00:57 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14dude, do yourself a favour, don't lie. don't act like i twisted your words, don't act like i misrepresented your statement. you won't get away with it and you make yourself look much worse by trying.

i asked you very clearly how you define "repenting" if you do something wrong. you said: ask forgiveness in church if it's a public sin, ask forgiveness through prayer if it's a private sin. i immediately responded by saying: what, so nothing about apologising to the actual people you affected, nothing about trying to rectify a situation you made worse? you didn't reply with ANY indication that you thought either of those was important.

You never gave me a chance.

I didn't mention apologies to people because you didn't ask. I focused on the sin itself and not on who I might have committed it against - it never even crossed my mind, to be honest, since you gave no indication whatsoever that one was involved.

After I replied, you didn't ASK anything. You said this:

Quote:This is what I expected, which only reaffirms my earlier statement that you really don't know right from wrong. You say nothing of actually apologising to people you wronged, nor of trying to make amends for a situation you affected. No, never mind that - you just try to please your imaginary friend.

That's not a query, it's a label, and a wrong one. You can't call me out on something you NEVER MENTIONED.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:I don't think God has given me anything more than what he has given others... I don't get special treatment from him, physical-wise, just for my faith in him.

what has he given others?

No, no, I meant that I don't get anything extra compared to others, based on belief.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Lot (the Sodom/Gomorrah man) didn't 'throw defenseless girls at mobs of rapists'... although he came close to. And he was wrong to make the offer.

on what basis do you say he was wrong to make the offer?

Those morals you mention?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:You asked what was worse in terms of sin.

I said that God will not condemn a man for one act more than over another.

I made no comment regarding which act was worse.

How can you confuse the two?

firstly, god condemns homosexuality worse than rape. the punishment ordered for homosexuality is worse than rape, and the punishment for the woman victim of rape is worse than for the male offender.

I'm not understanding what you're getting at here.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14secondly, do you really want to say your god condemns all sins equally? that would not put god in a good light.

I'd love to hear why you think he should condemn certain sins less than others.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14there's no mention of satan at all in genesis, and very little mention in the entire old testament. it isn't until at least a thousand years later than men decide to invent the idea of "satan" as you probably think of him now. you really have to try very hard to apply the much later inventions to the much earlier passages, and like you said about deities, if the writers of genesis said the snake was possessed by insert-power-here, they would have said so. what was all that about don't add anything into the bible?

He's mentioned in the Old Testament more than 'very little'. God even has a conversation with him regularly, in Job.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Also, the prophecy made (not that you believe they're valid, but anyway) said, as God was cursing the snake, 'You and man are now enemies, and man will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.'

The bruised heel represents Jesus dying on the cross, and the bruised head represents Jesus' resurrection.

again, you're trying way too hard here. god's obviously just pissed at the snake, and he's punishing all snakes, not just the one who was there. as, of course, is his unjust and vindictive nature.

Defending the snakes? How appropriate.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:You didn't say anything about the origin of morals. They didn't just 'appear' when humans did, did they?
if you read the statement you just quoted you'll see i actually did answer the question.

You explained how they evolved over time. Not their origin.
Unless you are saying man made up morals as he went along...
But how does that make sense?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14here it is:
"Actually, the people wanting proof are those desperately looking for a reason not to believe something they don't want to believe because they want an easier path."

I am wrong with that statement too, then.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14i'll be generous and give you a version of events from someone claiming to be a christian.
http://www.religioustolerance.org/xmas_lib.htm

He sure seems to comment a lot on Jesus' birth... but nothing concrete.
One gospel says Joseph was his father, another that he was the son of a virgin. Well, calling Joseph his father hardly means his biological one, does it?
Another doesn't even mention the birth... well, how does that indicate that they didn't believe in it?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14sigh... this is nearly as bad as the stuff i've already debunked. there's nothing there that some other book couldn't have said.

Yet they didn't.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14all this dodges the most important question i asked. if you find something in the bible that turns out to be useful knowledge, why does that vindicate the entire bible?

I never said it would.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Fait'h isn't a measurable concept, you know. You can't have more or less faith. You have it or you don't.
that doesn't answer my question.

I did. The answer is no, because faith isn't measurable.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010 23:47Quote:You quoting scripture and pointing at it is NOT an opinion, it's a point you were trying to make.
So I replied in kind.
i'm still confused as to your point

sigh Let me try once more.

I said I wouldn't attempt to refute an opinion.

You asked why I tried to refute your verses/claim with Matthew Henry.

I said it was because your verses/claim was not an opinion.

you're talking complete bullshit here, dude. it seems very obvious to me you're just trying to avoid the fact that there were a lot of things i said you simply couldn't think of an answer to.

What tangent are you running off to now?

You've gone and lost me now. I think we're on two different pages...

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 03 April 2010

23:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 02 April 2010 06:45i'm reminded again of our earlier religious debate. you said that you'd done things which you would deserve to go to hell for if you hadn't "repented". well, that's quite a daring admission, telling us that you'd done something so evil that it would justify the most horrific punishment of all. (unless you're arguing that god and his punishments are unjust, and you've never seemed to think that)

"so evil"? It doesn't have to be "So evil" to trigger that.

and doesn't that suck?

Duh, no.

"OK, don't sin or you'll suffer the consequences!...well, unless it's a really small sin, you know, those don't count."

and yet you admitted that you did "sin"...

Yes, I did.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14i.e. the thing you originally threatened them with? calling that "saved" is like using the word "protection" to describe a mafia give-us-money-and-we-won't-kill-you deal.

How? The mafia's the one setting up the danger they'll protect you from. And they don't have a reason to, other than money.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Don't you think that the endless threats and bullying and intimidation might be a big part of why so many people don't feel secure being honest about their religious views?

Don't you think I'm just as opposed to these types of bullies as you are?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14And don't you think that this would be an evil climate to perpetuate, since it would mean that a huge number of people would end up going to hell just because they were too scared to actually speak up about their doubts?

Yes, I do.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Right, because they were in different circumstances. They had to move about and interact with other groups, and that was one of God's commands regarding that.

Here, he was speaking to them about how to remain faithful and be saved. Seeing as how that is

the same thing we are to do today, the statement applies to us in today's time as well. You are entirely choosing for yourself, on no basis whatsoever, which parts of the bible apply to you. Just be honest with yourself and admit that this is what you are doing.

I won't 'admit' that because it's wrong.
So, go on if you like.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 10:00:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Altzan wrote on Wed, 07 April 2010 23:00 You never gave me a chance.
I didn't mention apologies to people because you didn't ask. I focused on the sin itself and not on who I might have committed it against - it never even crossed my mind, to be honest, since you gave no indication whatsoever that one was involved.
Of course it didn't cross your mind, and that says it all.

Quote:After I replied, you didn't ASK anything. You said this:

Quote:This is what I expected, which only reaffirms my earlier statement that you really don't know right from wrong. You say nothing of actually apologising to people you wronged, nor of trying to make amends for a situation you affected. No, never mind that - you just try to please your imaginary friend.

That's not a query, it's a label, and a wrong one. You can't call me out on something you NEVER MENTIONED.
And you didn't challenge it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14 Quote:I don't think God has given me anything more than what he has given others... I don't get special treatment from him, physical-wise, just for my faith in him.
what has he given others?

No, no, I meant that I don't get anything extra compared to others, based on belief.
just answer the question.... what has god given your average person?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14 Quote:Lot (the Sodom/Gomorrah man) didn't 'throw defenseless girls at mobs of rapists'... although he came close to. And he was wrong to make the offer.

on what basis do you say he was wrong to make the offer?

Those morals you mention?

which come from you, not the bible. there's no condemnation of his action in the bible, and plenty of opportunity to. remember, lot's basically saved from the destruction of the city on the grounds that he's the only righteous man there, right?

incidentally, i recall they were told to just get the hell out of there without looking back at the carnage. lot's wife turned back to look, and for this terrible crime she was turned into a pillar of salt

(?!)

if god can take the time to kill (presumably) a woman just because she took a glance back while fleeing from a collapsing city, you'd think he could take the time to say "lot, you shouldn't have offered those girls to the rape mob to save yourself"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:You asked what was worse in terms of sin.

I said that God will not condemn a man for one act more than over another.

I made no comment regarding which act was worse.

How can you confuse the two?

firstly, god condemns homosexuality worse than rape. the punishment ordered for homosexuality is worse than rape, and the punishment for the woman victim of rape is worse than for the male offender.

I'm not understanding what you're getting at here.

i don't know why.

you keep saying god won't punish one sin worse than another even if one act is worse. the bible seems to contradict this view. homosexual sex, never mind if it's consenting adults (the idea that this makes no difference shows just how crap the bible's authors' morals were), entails a much worse penalty than the penalty for a man who rapes a woman.

(indeed, it seems like a man who particularly wants to marry a woman doesn't need to worry about whether she or her family approves of the marriage. he can just rape her, and then boom, she's forced to marry him. all he's gotta do is pay off her dad.)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14secondly, do you really want to say your god condemns all sins equally? that would not put god in a good light.

I'd love to hear why you think he should condemn certain sins less than others.

basic moral sense?

shouldn't the jail term for murdering a child be longer than for smoking a joint in the privacy of your own home?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14there's no mention of satan at all in genesis, and very little mention in the entire old testament. it isn't until at least a thousand years later than men decide to invent the idea of "satan" as you probably think of him now. you really have to try very hard to apply the much later inventions to the much earlier passages, and like you said about deities, if the writers of genesis said the snake was possessed by insert-power-here, they would have said so. what was all that about don't add anything into the bible?

He's mentioned in the Old Testament more than 'very little'. God even has a conversation with him regularly, in Job.

of course, and the depiction there is not at all like the current idea of satan. he comes across as like a prosecutor in a heavenly court, who needs god's permission to do anything to torment the faithful job. god freely and repeatedly gives it, f course.

Quote:Quote:again, you're trying way too hard here. god's obviously just pissed at the snake, and he's punishing all snakes, not just the one who was there. as, of course, is his unjust and vindictive nature.

Defending the snakes? How appropriate.

"the snakes"... tell me, why are all snakes guilty of a crime committed by one snake?

i'm not really defending snakes, i'm criticising the idea of punishing innocents for the crimes of someone else, which happens over and over and over again in the bible. need an example? when the ten commandments are given, it is stated that god won't just punish people who break them, he'll punish their succeeding generations, their sons, grandsons etc. what the fuck is moral about that?

in the old testament it says that a child born out of wedlock can't enter the kingdom. well, why's that the child's fault?

and do you believe in the concept of original sin?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:You didn't say anything about the origin of morals. They didn't just 'appear' when humans did, did they?
if you read the statement you just quoted you'll see i actually did answer the question.

You explained how they evolved over time. Not their origin.
read what you just said there buddy

Quote:Unless you are saying man made up morals as he went along...
But how does that make sense?

why doesn't it make sense? the men who wrote the bible did the same, and our modern understanding of morality is a hell of a lot better than theirs was.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14here it is:
"Actually, the people wanting proof are those desperately looking for a reason not to believe something they don't want to believe because they want an easier path."

I am wrong with that statement too, then.
good of you to acknowledge that.

Quote:He sure seems to comment a lot on Jesus' birth... but nothing concrete.
One gospel says Joseph was his father, another that he was the son of a virgin. Well, calling Joseph his father hardly means his biological one, does it?
Another doesn't even mention the birth... well, how does that indicate that they didn't believe in it? you'd think they could at least get the details of Jesus' life right, considering how crucial they must have thought it was.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14sigh... this is nearly as bad as the stuff i've already debunked. there's nothing there that some other book couldn't have said.

Yet they didn't.

how do you know? the christian authorities went on a rampage against the greek schools of philosophy, for example...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14all this dodges the most important question i asked. if you find something in the bible that turns out to be useful knowledge, why does that vindicate the entire bible?

I never said it would.

then my original question still remains unanswered: where's the evidence supporting the account as reported in Genesis?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Quote:Faith isn't a measurable concept, you know.

You can't have more or less faith. You have it or you don't.
that doesn't answer my question.

I did. The answer is no, because faith isn't measurable.

surely you'd need more faith to believe something if there was less evidence for it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14i.e. the thing you originally threatened them with? calling that "saved" is like using the word "protection" to describe a mafia give-us-money-and-we-won't-kill-you deal.

How? The mafia's the one setting up the danger they'll protect you from.
BINGO!

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Don't you think that the endless threats and bullying and intimidation might be a big part of why so many people don't feel secure being honest about their religious views?

Don't you think I'm just as opposed to these types of bullies as you are?
how often and how loudly do you say so?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14And don't you think that this would be an evil climate to perpetuate, since it would mean that a huge number of people would end up going to hell just because they were too scared to actually speak up about their doubts?

Yes, I do.

i'm glad you agree.

Quote:Quote:You are entirely choosing for yourself, on no basis whatsoever, which parts of the bible apply to you. Just be honest with yourself and admit that this is what you are doing.

I won't 'admit' that because it's wrong.

So, go on if you like.

Of course it's true.

I hear all the time from Christians that certain parts of the Bible are either "metaphors" (meaning "we used to take it literally but it's just too ridiculous for modern people to believe), or "don't apply to modern life" (meaning "it's morally repulsive, we get that now")

They usually don't all come to the same conclusion about each thing, though.

Take the rape rule, for example. The really sick one, that forces a rape victim to spend the rest of her life as the semi-property of the bastard who violated her. Tell me, at what part in the New Testament does Jesus say "by the way, that old rape rule, well, god's really embarrassed at inflicting such an evil doctrine upon you. it doesn't count now and i hope you'll forgive god for enforcing such a repulsive law upon you, and we're incredibly sorry for the women's lives that have been completely ruined by it", because I must have missed that in the gospels.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sat, 10 Apr 2010 02:18:45 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:That's not a query, it's a label, and a wrong one. You can't call me out on something you NEVER MENTIONED. And you didn't challenge it.

Again, because you never gave me the chance.

Or perhaps it's better to say you set the impression that I couldn't... it was awhile ago. But I distinctly remember reading that accusation and wanting to reply to it, yet could not.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00just answer the question.... what has god given your average person?

...Whatever the average man gets today?

I know it varies greatly, thanks to combination of ancestors' actions and plain luck, though.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00which come from you, not the bible. there's no condemnation of his action in the bible, and plenty of opportunity to.

'Plenty of opportunity to'. I don't see how you came to that conclusion. If there was, there'd be plenty of opportunity to condemn every sinful action, not just particular ones.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00remember, lot's basically saved from the destruction of the city on the grounds that he's the only righteous man there, right?

Yes, him and his family.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00if god can take the time to kill (presumably) a woman just because she took a glance back while fleeing from a collapsing city, you'd think he could take the time to say "lot, you shouldn't have offered those girls to the rape mob to save yourself"

He wasn't trying to save himself, he was trying to save the angels that were visiting him (although

I wonder why he thought angels needed saving).

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00you keep saying god won't punish one sin worse than another even if one act is worse. the bible seems to contradict this view. homosexual sex, never mind if it's consenting adults (the idea that this makes no difference shows just how crap the bible's authors' morals were), entails a much worse penalty than the penalty for a man who rapes a woman.

That's physical punishment, not spiritual. Hell isn't a Dante's inferno, with specific levels for each magnitude of sin.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00shouldn't the jail term for murdering a child be longer than for smoking a joint in the privacy of your own home?

Yes, provided it is a jail term.
The Spiritual jail won't have terms, though...

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00i'm not really defending snakes, i'm criticising the idea of punishing innocents for the crimes of someone else, which happens over and over and over again in the bible. need an example? when the ten commandments are given, it is stated that god won't just punish people who break them, he'll punish their succeeding generations, their sons, grandsons etc. what the fuck is moral about that?

I assume you're referring to this verse?

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;"

That's referring to idols.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00and do you believe in the concept of original sin?

I looked it up, and assuming it means "we inherit the sins of our ancestors, including Adam, along with our own", then no, I do not.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:You didn't say anything about the origin of morals. They didn't just 'appear' when humans did, did they?
if you read the statement you just quoted you'll see i actually did answer the question.

The chicken lays the egg, yes. Morals grow over time, improve over time (I hope). But there has to be an origin.

So are you saying that when man was created/born/whatever, they started out with a basic sense of morals already implanted within his conscience?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14sigh... this is nearly as bad as the stuff i've already debunked. there's nothing there that some other book couldn't have said.

Yet they didn't.

how do you know? the christian authorities went on a rampage against the greek schools of philosophy, for example...

I was going to say, because they just haven't, but you did just raise an interesting point here.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14all this dodges the most important question i asked. if you find something in the bible that turns out to be useful knowledge, why does that vindicate the entire bible?

I never said it would.

then my original question still remains unanswered: where's the evidence supporting the account as reported in Genesis?

Well, what about the rock layers where literally thousands of fossils are all in the same area, as if they had all died at once, or created at once?

What about the flood fossils?

Dr. John R. Horner in Digging for Dinosaurs stated,

"Judging from the concentration of bones in various pits, there were 30 million fossil fragments in that area. At a conservative estimate, we had discovered the tomb of 10,000 dinosaurs. There was a flood. This was no ordinary spring flood from one of the streams in the area but a catastrophic inundation. . . That's our best explanation. It seems to make the most sense, and on the basis of it we believe that this was a living, breathing group of dinosaurs destroyed in one catastrophic moment."

Or,

"When the carbon-14 dating method is "correctly" calibrated, and 25-thousand radiocarbon dates are graphed, the result shows evidence of a great peak of deaths about 4-thousand years ago."

Or,

"Thousands and millions of fish fossils which retain all the body parts indicating very rapid burial. Under normal conditions, fish do not fossilize. Dead fish are torn apart by scavengers and disintegrated by bacteria. There are the existence of fossils with soft tissue like jellyfish and sponges. There are the preservation of animal tracts, fish odors, amino acids, proteins, epidermal bark in plants, cell details, chlorophyll, etc."

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00surely you'd need more faith to believe something if there was less evidence for it?

No, you would need faith but not more faith.

Still, I'm not the authority on faith and measurement, so I guess faith can be considered measurable.

But that's not how I view it, because then the question remains of how much is enough? What amount of faith just doesn't cut it?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14i.e. the thing you originally threatened them with? calling that "saved" is like using the word "protection" to describe a mafia give-us-money-and-we-won't-kill-you deal.

How? The mafia's the one setting up the danger they'll protect you from.
BINGO!

The analogy still makes no sense. The mafia in this case isn't the only danger out there, there's many other dangers that can happen that are totally unrelated to the mafia.
And the mafia aren't the ruling body in the situation.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 06 April 2010 10:14Don't you think that the endless threats and bullying and intimidation might be a big part of why so many people don't feel secure being honest about their religious views?
Don't you think I'm just as opposed to these types of bullies as you are?
how often and how loudly do you say so?

I have little opportunity, since those types of radicals are rare around here. The closest one I know of (different state too) is the Baptist group in Kansas (Fred Phelps) who state that the deaths of US soldiers in Iraq was caused by God as punishment for committing homosexuality (which is ridiculous).

They've also said that the recent mining accident was caused by God because of America's "tolerance".

Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00I hear all the time from Christians that certain parts of the Bible are either "metaphors" (meaning "we used to take it literally but it's just too ridiculous for modern people to believe), or "don't apply to modern life" (meaning "it's morally repulsive, we get that now")

They usually don't all come to the same conclusion about each thing, though.

I did some looking into this.

One man I found said that the laws can be viewed in different lights... such as the "civil" view, where the laws of the time don't apply today because they were for a specific people of a specific time, like today's taxes, road laws, and such.

Another view was the "moral" one, where the only laws from the OT we should obey are ones not repealed by the NT and the Ten Commandments (Except Sabbath which was repealed).

He also said that the OT was mostly for our understanding while the NT was for application... and that "All of the Bible is FOR us but not all of it is TO us".

I'm not specifically siding with his views, although I think the "moral" view sounds the most plausible.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 10 Apr 2010 05:29:33 GMT
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Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00just answer the question.... what has god given your average person?

...Whatever the average man gets today?

I know it varies greatly, thanks to combination of ancestors' actions and plain luck, though.
do you think you have god to thank for your life, for example?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00which come from you, not the bible. there's no condemnation of his action in the bible, and plenty of opportunity to.

'Plenty of opportunity to'. I don't see how you came to that conclusion.

see re: god has time to turn lot's wife into a pillar of salt (wtf? plenty of god's punishments are creatively vicious, but that one's just weird) just because she looked behind her.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00remember, lot's basically saved from the destruction of the city on the grounds that he's the only righteous man there, right?

Yes, him and his family.

so after god and the angels save him, don't you think god ought to say hang on lot, i got you out of there because you were the only good man in the city, now i find you throwing defenceless girls at a mob of rapists so the men will survive?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00if god can take the time to kill (presumably) a woman just because she took a glance back while fleeing from a collapsing city, you'd think he could take the time to say "lot, you shouldn't have offered those girls to the rape mob to save yourself"

He wasn't trying to save himself, he was trying to save the angels that were visiting him (although I wonder why he thought angels needed saving).

not much of a difference, it's just an indicator of how backward the men who wrote the bible were.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00you keep saying god won't punish one sin worse than another even if one act is worse. the bible seems to contradict this view. homosexual sex, never mind if it's consenting adults (the idea that this makes no difference shows just how crap the bible's authors' morals were), entails a much worse penalty than the penalty for a man who rapes a woman.

That's physical punishment, not spiritual. Hell isn't a Dante's inferno, with specific levels for each magnitude of sin.

give me a complete description of hell, please.

i.e. tell me everything you 'know' about it.

[quote]Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00shouldn't the jail term for murdering a child be longer than for smoking a joint in the privacy of your own home?

Yes, provided it is a jail term.

The Spiritual jail won't have terms, though...[/quote]
why?

Quote:"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;"

That's referring to idols.

yes. punishment of innocents for the crime of someone else, assuming that worshipping something other than this particular god actually is a crime.

plus the other example i mentioned (i.e. children can't enter the kingdom of god if their parents were not married. it's hardly the kid's fault, is it?). plus the egyptian firstborn, there's another example...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00and do you believe in the concept of original sin?

I looked it up, and assuming it means "we inherit the sins of our ancestors, including Adam, along with our own", then no, I do not.
good

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00Quote:You didn't say anything about the origin of morals. They didn't just 'appear' when humans did, did they?
if you read the statement you just quoted you'll see i actually did answer the question.

The chicken lays the egg, yes. Morals grow over time, improve over time (I hope). But there has to be an origin.

So are you saying that when man was created/born/whatever, they started out with a basic sense of morals already implanted within his conscience?

well, consider morals like intelligence. some animals are more intelligent than others, right? some animals are also more 'moral' than others, i.e. concerned for their family, for their fellow creatures acting in a group, etc.

it seems quite likely that the reason for that is simply evolutionary. it suits them to work as a team so they become naturally pre-disposed to thinking that way. same with us... most of us generally have a sense of human solidarity.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00

then my original question still remains unanswered: where's the evidence supporting the account as reported in Genesis?

Well, what about the rock layers where literally thousands of fossils are all in the same area, as if they had all died at once, or created at once?

Exactly... what about them? If you're trying to vindicate noah's flood, that wouldn't vindicate the rest of genesis... creation is what i was asking about.

still...

Quote:What about the flood fossils?

Dr. John R. Horner in Digging for Dinosaurs stated,

"Judging from the concentration of bones in various pits, there were 30 million fossil fragments in that area. At a conservative estimate, we had discovered the tomb of 10,000 dinosaurs. There

was a flood. This was no ordinary spring flood from one of the streams in the area but a catastrophic inundation. . . That's our best explanation. It seems to make the most sense, and on the basis of it we believe that this was a living, breathing group of dinosaurs destroyed in one catastrophic moment."

"catastrophic inundation" \neq "deliberate flooding of the whole world, covering the entire planet up to the highest mountains, with a few of each animal and a handful of humans intentionally permitted to survive by the psycho who carried out the genocide"

Quote:Or,

"When the carbon-14 dating method is "correctly" calibrated, and 25-thousand radiocarbon dates are graphed, the result shows evidence of a great peak of deaths about 4-thousand years ago." even more vague

Quote:Or,

"Thousands and millions of fish fossils which retain all the body parts indicating very rapid burial. Under normal conditions, fish do not fossilize. Dead fish are torn apart by scavengers and disintegrated by bacteria. There are the existence of fossils with soft tissue like jellyfish and sponges. There are the preservation of animal tracts, fish odors, amino acids, proteins, epidermal bark in plants, cell details, chlorophyll, etc."

fish were killed in the flood? first time i've heard that from someone who actually believes in it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 08 April 2010 05:00surely you'd need more faith to believe something if there was less evidence for it?

No, you would need faith but not more faith.

Still, I'm not the authority on faith and measurement, so I guess faith can be considered measurable.

But that's not how I view it, because then the question remains of how much is enough? What amount of faith just doesn't cut it?

it's a stupid question about an extremely stupid subject, really, isn't it?

Quote:The analogy still makes no sense. The mafia in this case isn't the only danger out there, there's many other dangers that can happen that are totally unrelated to the mafia. you said the danger that you need "saving" from is hell.

two questions.

1: who created hell, and who is responsible for deciding whether we go there?

2: who is telling us about this punishment?

Quote:And the mafia aren't the ruling body in the situation.

hey, might makes right doesn't cut it for me, but earlier on in the thread it seemed to be good enough for you...

Quote:the Baptist group in Kansas (Fred Phelps) who state that the deaths of US soldiers in Iraq was caused by God as punishment for committing homosexuality (which is ridiculous).

They've also said that the recent mining accident was caused by God because of America's "tolerance".

Well, I can easily call that ridiculous, but on what basis do you call it ridiculous? in the bible,

natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues are always because god's pissed at something. when did god announce he was not going to do that anymore?

Quote:I did some looking into this.

One man I found said that the laws can be views in different lights... such as the "civil" view, where the laws of the time don't apply today because they were for a specific people of a specific time, like today's taxes, road laws, and such.

Another view was the "moral" one, where the only laws from the OT we should obey are ones not repealed by the NT and the Ten Commandments (Except Sabbath which was repealed).

He also said that the OT was mostly for our understanding while the NT was for application... and that "All of the Bible is FOR us but not all of it is TO us".

I'm not specifically siding with his views, although I think the "moral" view sounds the most plausible.

this just brings me back to my earlier point. there are differing views, and you don't seem entirely clear yourself... so couldn't the "revelation" have been made a bit more clear?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Majid123](#) on Sat, 10 Apr 2010 06:55:26 GMT

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Pretty heated debate here.

Hi Spoony!

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Sun, 11 Apr 2010 07:07:51 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Mon, 05 April 2010 07:40snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 04 April 2010 23:27And about disproving God and the Bible etc. A lot of the reasons behind the arguments presented here are based upon, or have a strong link to teachings in the Bible, or a lack of. If you're a person who has an immense belief in the Bible and your God; and somebody starts to argue against certain points of it - how can the believer accept they are wrong without accepting their God does not exist - hence the teachings and everything that fuels their argument is moot? That, I believe, is the only way to prove someone wrong in this case.
actually, no, it's not.

if their entire argument is "it's wrong because god disapproves of it" (and that's what it always boils down to), then this doesn't deserve to be taken seriously UNTIL the following things have been successfully demonstrated.

1. that this god exists at all

2. that the bible is an accurate depiction of god's character
3. that god is so morally superior that his wishes overrule our ideas on human rights

nobody's done any of the above. they need to do all three before they can expect to be taken seriously.

I would like to add to Spoony's reply to this.

It's very inhumane to ask to disprove the existence of a god for you to stop shoving your beliefs on others.

Here's an example of an ancient Aztec human sacrifice:

Aztec priest: alright now hold his hands and legs...

Atheist: fuck stop NOW you brutes

Aztec priest: this sacrifice will repay the gods!

Atheist: how fucking wrong is this? no human deserves to die even if your bloody gods are real.

snpr1101: you're wrong atheist! Prove the gods are not real. Only if you prove so will the sacrifice be stopped.

So there it is.

btw, all gods are proved or disproved on the basis of probability. What is the probability of Zeus being true? None right now though it was 100% back in ancient times. The same logic is applied for all the gods today, including the christian god. So the existence of the christian god is highly improbable along with the existence of allah or the mormon god though their followers claim otherwise.

snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 04 April 2010 23:27

And no, I don't think this is "another" argument to "win". I thought you might of observed how I made reference to God, the Bible etc. I didn't make light of this debate. I simply saw a way, in my opinion, whether it be wrong or not, to allow someone to accept another's thinking as truth over their own. Perhaps I should of written it as above to avoid confusion. But did you really think I saw it as the "Victor" of this debate could stand up on the "podium" and give an "acceptance speech" whilst I handed him his "First Place Trophy"?

I was getting at how high the stakes are now in real life. And it's worrying to see such bankruptcy of reason.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 11 Apr 2010 10:57:28 GMT

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why is this thread still alive?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 04:12:58 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29do you think you have god to thank for your life, for example?

Well, since I believe that God created life, then yes, I believe I wouldn't be alive without him.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29see re: god has time to turn lot's wife into a pillar of salt (wtf? plenty of god's punishments are creatively vicious, but that one's just weird) just because she looked behind her.

That isn't proof that he had room and initiative to record other acts he condemns.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29so after god and the angels save him, don't you think god ought to say hang on lot, i got you out of there because you were the only good man in the city, now i find you throwing defenceless girls at a mob of rapists so the men will survive?

So thinking of doing the act is just as bad as committing it?

If you're so mad at someone you want to murder them, should you be arrested for attempted murder?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29give me a complete description of hell, please. i.e. tell me everything you 'know' about it.

We know what the Bible tells us.

Toggle SpoilerPSA 139:8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

PRO 15:24 The path of life leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down to the grave.

MATT 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

13:38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.

41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous

50 and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

LUKE 16:23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

2TH 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

JAM 3:6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

2PE 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

JUD 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Yes, provided it is a jail term.
The Spiritual jail won't have terms, though...
why?

After Judgement, there's only 2 places to go, Heaven or Hell. Whichever you go to, you stay in.
Thta's how he designed it.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29plus the other example i mentioned (i.e. children can't enter the kingdom of god if their parents were not married. it's hardly the kid's fault, is it?).

I've never heard this one to be honest. Is it a Biblical verse?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Well, what about the rock layers where literally thousands of fossils are all in the same area, as if they had all died at once, or created at once? Exactly... what about them? If you're trying to vindicate noah's flood, that wouldn't vindicate the rest of genesis... creation is what i was asking about.

Read the bold...

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Or,
"When the carbon-14 dating method is "correctly" calibrated, and 25-thousand radiocarbon dates are graphed, the result shows evidence of a great peak of deaths about 4-thousand years ago."
even more vague

I don't see how this is vague.
Although it concerns the flood and not creation.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Or,
"Thousands and millions of fish fossils which retain all the body parts indicating very rapid burial. Under normal conditions, fish do not fossilize. Dead fish are torn apart by scavengers and disintegrated by bacteria. There are the existence of fossils with soft tissue like jellyfish and sponges. There are the preservation of animal tracts, fish odors, amino acids, proteins, epidermal bark in plants, cell details, chlorophyll, etc."
fish were killed in the flood? first time i've heard that from someone who actually believes in it.

I sincerely doubt all fish can survive in every type of water at any depth...

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:No, you would need faith but not more faith. Still, I'm not the authority on faith and measurement, so I guess faith can be considered measurable.

But that's not how I view it, because then the question remains of how much is enough? What amount of faith just doesn't cut it?
it's a stupid question about an extremely stupid subject, really, isn't it?

Factually, no.
But you're entitled to your own opinion, even if it's about a question you originally asked...

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29you said the danger that you need "saving" from is hell. two questions.

1: who created hell, and who is responsible for deciding whether we go there?

2: who is telling us about this punishment?

1&2) God

Which is my point.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Well, I can easily call that ridiculous, but on what basis do you call it ridiculous? in the bible, natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues are always because god's pissed at something. when did god announce he was not going to do that anymore?

New Testament?

When Jesus established his church and ascended to Heaven, God's direct influence ceased and won't return until the second coming.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29this just brings me back to my earlier point. there are differing views, and you don't seem entirely clear yourself... so couldn't the "revelation" have been made a bit more clear?

It could if he provided an explicit list of OT rules to remain and OT rules to replace or do away with.

That's about the only way.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 11 April 2010 01:07all gods are proved or disproved on the basis of probability. What is the probability of Zeus being true? None right now though it was 100% back in ancient times. The same logic is applied for all the gods today, including the christian god. So the existence of the christian god is highly improbable along with the existence of allah or the mormon god though their followers claim otherwise.

Isn't the probability always 50-50? The diety either exists or doesn't.

The only thing that can sway it is proof toward either, of which there is none.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 04:34:04 GMT

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longest

thread

ever

(I also probably agree with most of what Spoony has to say)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 05:01:43 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 11 April 2010 23:12 Isn't the probability always 50-50? The diety either exists or doesn't.

The only thing that can sway it is proof toward either, of which there is none.

You oversimplified it while avoiding history.

Let's see how many different races/tribes/peoples/cultures have come up with a thousand different gods. So in light of this established historical record of isolated groups of people forming their own religions (hence the varied religions of the past and present; not said gods "coming down" and revealing themselves) AND how the movement of people and ideas throughout history through conquests and travel combined, generated, and consolidated new ideas, the need for "proof toward either" is not required because the chances of said claims being true are absolutely low at best if even none.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 05:49:07 GMT

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God loves everyone

that's why his only one and true religion was started in America, the episcopalian church

everyone else is wrong

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

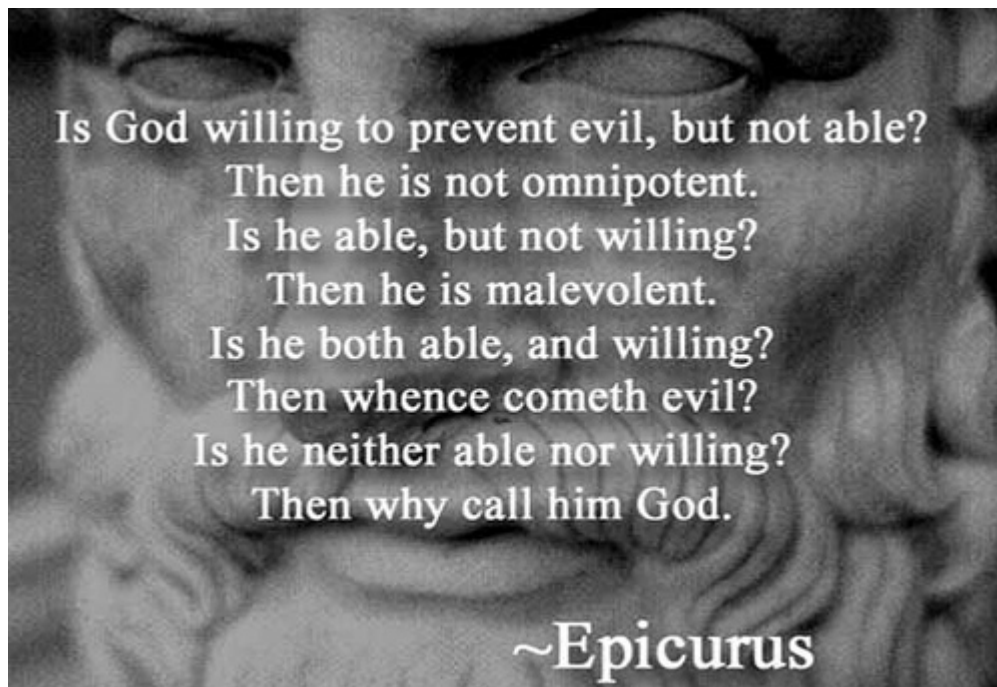
Posted by [Dover](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 06:28:14 GMT

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Can we go back to making fun of people who get caught cheating and making fun of Atomix now?

File Attachments

1) [Epicurus.jpg](#), downloaded 872 times



Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 15:13:40 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 11 April 2010 23:12Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29do you think you have god to thank for your life, for example?

Well, since I believe that God created life, then yes, I believe I wouldn't be alive without him. then the "so this part doesn't apply now because he was talking to the israelites" point is nonsense.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29see re: god has time to turn lot's wife into a pillar of salt (wtf? plenty of god's punishments are creatively vicious, but that one's just weird) just because she looked behind her.

That isn't proof that he had room and initiative to record other acts he condemns. indeed, he's not perfect and neither is the bible. this could simply be yet another example of the contempt shown towards women, or it could be yet another example of the general incompetence and fallibility of the 'revelations'

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29so after god and the angels save him, don't you think god ought to say hang on lot, i got you out of there because you were the only good man in the city, now i find you throwing defenceless girls at a mob of rapists so the men will survive?

So thinking of doing the act is just as bad as committing it?
If you're so mad at someone you want to murder them, should you be arrested for attempted murder?

the bible says yes, doesn't it?

still, lot didn't just "think" of throwing the girls to the rape mob; he addressed them and specifically made the offer.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29give me a complete description of hell, please.
i.e. tell me everything you 'know' about it.

We know what the Bible tells us.

so, to summarise:

- hell is worse than losing an eye or a hand
- your soul and body can both be destroyed there
- "all who do evil" end up there
- it's a "fiery furnace" where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
- it's everlasting
- angels can end up there too

does it follow that one particular crime will have the same punishment as a less heinous one?
quite possibly, if it's everlasting.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Yes, provided it is a jail term.
The Spiritual jail won't have terms, though...
why?

After Judgement, there's only 2 places to go, Heaven or Hell. Whichever you go to, you stay in.
Thta's how he designed it.
then he's an immoral mean lady with no sense of justice.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29plus the other example i mentioned (i.e. children
can't enter the kingdom of god if their parents were not married. it's hardly the kid's fault, is it?).

I've never heard this one to be honest. Is it a Biblical verse?
yeah... it's something like "bastard children can't enter the presence of the lord for the next ten
generations" or something.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Well, what about the rock layers where
literally thousands of fossils are all in the same area, as if they had all died at once, or created at
once?

Exactly... what about them? If you're trying to vindicate noah's flood, that wouldn't vindicate the
rest of genesis... creation is what i was asking about.

Read the bold...

you're suggesting the fossils were created, and that vindicates genesis?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:Or,
"When the carbon-14 dating method is "correctly" calibrated, and 25-thousand radiocarbon dates
are graphed, the result shows evidence of a great peak of deaths about 4-thousand years ago."
even more vague

I don't see how this is vague.

Although it concerns the flood and not creation.

how does this even prove the flood is true? there was a catastrophic event and lots of animals died? that's happened quite a few times.

Quote:Quote:fish were killed in the flood? first time i've heard that from someone who actually believes in it.

I sincerely doubt all fish can survive in every type of water at any depth...

me too, but that only happens if you try to think scientifically. i don't remember god making any particular intention clear to wipe out fish. the result of the flood as far as the fish are concerned seem to depend on how lucky they are... for every other animal - including humans - it's only the ones in the ark who will survive.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Quote:No, you would need faith but not more faith.

Still, I'm not the authority on faith and measurement, so I guess faith can be considered measurable.

But that's not how I view it, because then the question remains of how much is enough? What amount of faith just doesn't cut it?

it's a stupid question about an extremely stupid subject, really, isn't it?

Factually, no.

But you're entitled to your own opinion, even if it's about a question you originally asked...

well, i may as well try clarifying what is meant by "faith", since nobody's ever, ever come up with a rational explanation for it or made the case that it's a good thing.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29you said the danger that you need "saving" from is hell.

two questions.

1: who created hell, and who is responsible for deciding whether we go there?

2: who is telling us about this punishment?

1&2) God

Which is my point.

so it's the same as the mafia protection, then. we're being "saved" by the guy who put us in the danger in the first place.

the second question was simply to remind you that god is not telling us about the punishment. men wrote the bible.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29Well, I can easily call that ridiculous, but on what basis do you call it ridiculous? in the bible, natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues are always because god's pissed at something. when did god announce he was not going to do that anymore?

New Testament?

When Jesus established his church and ascended to Heaven, God's direct influence ceased and won't return until the second coming.
First time I've heard this from a Christian...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29this just brings me back to my earlier point. there are differing views, and you don't seem entirely clear yourself... so couldn't the "revelation" have been made a bit more clear?

It could if he provided an explicit list of OT rules to remain and OT rules to replace or do away with.

That's about the only way.

or he could make it a bit easier to believe, have given all people alive at the time a reasonable chance of reading it (it took centuries to spread across the world, remember, and by the time that had happened the book had been translated and re-translated, altering many meanings in the process, and the churches themselves had schismed)

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 11 April 2010 01:07all gods are proved or disproved on the basis of probability. What is the probability of Zeus being true? None right now though it was 100% back in ancient times. The same logic is applied for all the gods today, including the christian god. So the existence of the christian god is highly improbable along with the existence of allah or the mormon god though their followers claim otherwise.

Isn't the probability always 50-50? The diety either exists or doesn't.

The only thing that can sway it is proof toward either, of which there is none.

wow, lol... so if i say unicorns are real, you'd have to accept there is a 50% probability that they actually are?

if you're making no distinction as to the actual likelihood of the claim, i'm not sure on what grounds you say one god is real and all the others aren't.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2010 23:20:55 GMT

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GEORGE ZIMMER wrote on Sun, 11 April 2010 23:34longest

thread

ever

No no no... I'm fairly certain the last one was over 8 pages after the same amount of time.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [raven](#) on Tue, 13 Apr 2010 06:35:25 GMT

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Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Wed, 14 Apr 2010 04:21:34 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Altzan wrote on Sun, 11 April 2010 23:12Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29do you think you have god to thank for your life, for example? Well, since I believe that God created life, then yes, I believe I wouldn't be alive without him. then the "so this part doesn't apply now because he was talking to the israelites" point is nonsense.

How does that relate to what I said at all?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13does it follow that one particular crime will have the same punishment as a less heinous one? quite possibly, if it's everlasting.

Very possibly.

I don't see any passage hinting at a person going from one to the other after they've arrived (remember the gulf).

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010 00:29plus the other example i mentioned (i.e. children can't enter the kingdom of god if their parents were not married. it's hardly the kid's fault, is it?).

I've never heard this one to be honest. Is it a Biblical verse?

yeah... it's something like "bastard children can't enter the presence of the lord for the next ten generations" or something.

Deu 23:2 A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

From what I found as I researched this, there are disputes as to the original meaning of the phrase, 'enter into the congregation of the LORD'.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010

00:29Quote:Well, what about the rock layers where literally thousands of fossils are all in the same area, as if they had all died at once, or created at once?

Exactly... what about them? If you're trying to vindicate noah's flood, that wouldn't vindicate the rest of genesis... creation is what i was asking about.

Read the bold...

you're suggesting the fossils were created, and that vindicates genesis?

Fossils created? No, the living beings they used to be...

If life slowly spread over Earth and not just suddenly appeared, there wouldn't be fossils just mass-appearing in groups. They'd be showing up in small but increasing numbers.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 10 April 2010

00:29Quote:Or,

"When the carbon-14 dating method is "correctly" calibrated, and 25-thousand radiocarbon dates are graphed, the result shows evidence of a great peak of deaths about 4-thousand years ago." even more vague

I don't see how this is vague.

Although it concerns the flood and not creation.

how does this even prove the flood is true? there was a catastrophic event and lots of animals died? that's happened quite a few times.

On this scale?

There were other events that killed off nearly the entire planet?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13so it's the same as the mafia protection, then. we're being "saved" by the guy who put us in the danger in the first place.

We're always 'in the danger' as it is from the start, then, because there are no other options other than accept or refuse... in this case, you're blaming him for not 'saving' people from punishment who've done nothing in return.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13the second question was simply to remind you that god is not telling us about the punishment. men wrote the bible.

Well, as I have already stated, I don't believe that.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Quote:When Jesus established his church and ascended to Heaven, God's direct influence ceased and won't return until the second coming. First time I've heard this from a Christian...

I'm surprised...

What do the Catholics/Christians in your area think, then?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13wow, lol... so if i say unicorns are real, you'd have to accept there is a 50% probability that they actually are?

At base, yes. Then you look at the evidence and proof.

And yes, I get the reference, hehe.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13if you're making no distinction as to the actual likelihood of the claim, i'm not sure on what grounds you say one god is real and all the others aren't.

My grounds is my belief, I'm not trying to declare it as absolute fact.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 14 Apr 2010 12:44:57 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Tue, 13 April 2010 23:21Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13then the "so this part doesn't apply now because he was talking to the israelites" point is nonsense.

How does that relate to what I said at all?

you said that these particular verses only apply to the israelites, because god's talking to this group whom he gave land to. it's only the people to whom god gave such a large gift who need to pay attention.

well, if he gave all of us life, that would seem to qualify as well.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13does it follow that one particular crime will have the same punishment as a less heinous one? quite possibly, if it's everlasting.

Very possibly.

I don't see any passage hinting at a person going from one to the other after they've arrived (remember the gulf).

well, there you go. the punishment for any "sin" is the same as another. for my honest criticism of christianity, i'm in for the same punishment as any mass murderer you care to name.

that's justice, is it?

Quote:Deu 23:2 A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

From what I found as I resarched this, there are disputes as to the original meaning of the phrase, 'enter into rhe congregation of the LORD'.

then there's another critique of the incompetence of the revelation.

Quote:Fossils created? No, the living beings they used to be...

If life slowly spread over Earth and not just suddenly appeared, there wouldn't be fossils just mass-appearing in groups. They'd be showing up in small but increasing numbers.

i've never heard anybody suggest that the population (in animal terms) of the earth at 4000 BC was very small.

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I don't see how this is vague.

Although it concerns the flood and not creation.

how does this even prove the flood is true? there was a catastrophic event and lots of animals died? that's happened quite a few times.

On this scale?

There were other events that killed off nearly the entire planet?

on what basis does he claim that this thing 4 thousand years ago killed off nearly the entire planet?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13so it's the same as the mafia protection, then. we're being "saved" by the guy who put us in the danger in the first place.

We're always 'in the danger' as it is from the start, then, because there are no other options other than accept or refuse...
...and who put us into that situation?

Quote:in this case, you're blaming him for not 'saving' people from punishment who've done nothing in return.
'saving' seems to be a euphemism for 'deciding not to inflict horrific punishment after all'

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13the second question was simply to remind you that god is not telling us about the punishment. men wrote the bible.

Well, as I have already stated, I don't believe that.
you already acknowledged that the bible was written by men. and who's spreading the bible around? who's spreading the word of god? men. it's no different to islam.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Quote:When Jesus established his church and ascended to Heaven, God's direct influence ceased and won't return until the second coming. First time I've heard this from a Christian...

I'm surprised...
What do the Catholics/Christians in your area think, then?
i hear all the time that god is intervening in world affairs... every time a natural disaster happens, for example. there's no "christians in my area" about this; we get it from christians all over the world all the time. you're the first christian i've ever heard suggest that god does not interfere in current events.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13wow, lol... so if i say unicorns are real, you'd have to accept there is a 50% probability that they actually are?

At base, yes. Then you look at the evidence and proof.
well, let's just say you're not the first person i've actually pressed for evidence.

half of the people i've asked this said evidence is not applicable, the other half tried to prove it and failed.

the second half are more honest and respectable, fyi.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13if you're making no distinction as to the actual likelihood of the claim, i'm not sure on what grounds you say one god is real and all the others aren't.

My grounds is my belief, I'm not trying to declare it as absolute fact.
you don't really believe it, then?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 14 Apr 2010 15:25:25 GMT

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back to the catholic church for a moment. i hope the catholic church will be prosecuted for this, and i hope it'll have to face some kind of justice for its actions on AIDS as well, but here are the defences i've heard from catholic spokesmen in the last couple of weeks re: child rape and the ensuing systematic coverups

- the problem is homosexuality
- the problem is secularism
- the problem is a jewish conspiracy

haven't heard any catholics say the problem might just be that the pope ordered a conspiracy of silence around cases of sexual assault, and threatened to excommunicate anybody who talked to anyone outside the church - the law, for example. (i'm not aware of anybody who's been threatened with excommunication for actually raping a defenceless child)

it's very ironic that this is going to happen on his state visit to britain. his plan is to come here and lecture us on stuff like sexual morality, which would be a bit like robert mugabe lecturing us on democracy. and it's a disgrace that nobody has seriously suggested prosecuting the catholic church until now.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 00:02:41 GMT

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update- another excuse to the list offered by a catholic priest on fox news: it's the fault of the sexual revolution, we should never have let these filth into the church

(the priest who said that was earlier on bill o'reilly's show publicly calling for kids to be booted out of school if they happened to have homosexual parents.)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [raven](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 05:08:59 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 19:02(the priest who said that was earlier on bill o'reilly's show publicly calling for kids to be booted out of school if they happened to have homosexual parents.)

sigh.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 08:17:17 GMT

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yeah. it's just another example of the problem all along; the view that the catholic doctrine trumps the welfare of actual human beings, especially children.

everyone ought to ask themselves: does religion exist for the benefit of humanity, or do humans exist for the benefit of religion? if you say it's the second premise then you might have missed the point of it, if there ever was one in the first place.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sat, 17 Apr 2010 01:03:26 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Altzan wrote on Tue, 13 April 2010 23:21Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13then the "so this part doesn't apply now because he was talking to the israelites" point is nonsense.

How does that relate to what I said at all?

you said that these particular verses only apply to the israelites, because god's talking to this group whom he gave land to. it's only the people to whom god gave such a large gift who need to pay attention.

well, if he gave all of us life, that would seem to qualify as well.

"it's only the people to whom god gave such a large gift who need to pay attention."

That's not it at all. It had to do with their situation, not their material wealth or reward.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44well, there you go. the punishment for any "sin" is the same as another. for my honest criticism of christianity, i'm in for the same punishment as any mass murderer you care to name.

that's justice, is it?

He created it all, and he set the standards. There is punishment for those who don't follow.

If there was a sign warning people not to stray near thin ice, it wouldn't matter who walked over it: a punk who wants to show off, a man who thinks it's safe enough, a person who doesn't think that the ice will break if he's careful - if they walk that ice, it will break.

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From what I found as I researched this, there are disputes as to the original meaning of the phrase, 'enter into the congregation of the LORD'.

then there's another critique of the incompetence of the revelation.

It's a small detail. It's obvious that the phrase has to do with the culture in some way, it doesn't mean that bastards aren't going to heaven.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Fossils created? No, the living beings they used to be...

If life slowly spread over Earth and not just suddenly appeared, there wouldn't be fossils just mass-appearing in groups. They'd be showing up in small but increasing numbers.

i've never heard anybody suggest that the population (in animal terms) of the earth at 4000 BC was very small.

Isn't that the point?

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We're always 'in the danger' as it is from the start, then, because there are no other options other than accept or refuse...

...and who put us into that situation?

I already answered that.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:in this case, you're blaming him for not 'saving' people from punishment who've done nothing in return.

'saving' seems to be a euphemism for 'deciding not to inflict horrific punishment after all'

If you don't do 'A', then 'B' will occur. If you do, 'C' will occur.

Why blame the system for allowing 'B'? Why should the system care if you don't think it's proper?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13the second question was simply to remind you that god is not telling us about the punishment. men wrote the bible.

Well, as I have already stated, I don't believe that.

you already acknowledged that the bible was written by men. and who's spreading the bible around? who's spreading the word of god? men. it's no different to islam.

I acknowledged it was written by men, but not that man was its author.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44i hear all the time that god is intervening in world affairs... every time a natural disaster happens, for example. there's no "christians in my area" about this; we get it from christians all over the world all the time. you're the first christian i've ever heard suggest that god does not interfere in current events.

That's really strange. Practically nobody around here suggests that.

That Baptist Group I mentioned was the first I've heard in awhile.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44half of the people i've asked this said evidence is not applicable

Depends on the evidence... some aspects of historical data can be, but some things in the past have virtually no trace remaining in today's time.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44the other half tried to prove it and failed.

That's the problem, it can't be proven... otherwise, virtually everyone would be Christians. Even God knew that wasn't going to happen. (Follow the strait and narrow path, there will be few who walk it.)

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My grounds is my belief, I'm not trying to declare it as absolute fact.
you don't really believe it, then?

I just said I did...

But to clarify, what is 'it'?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 17 Apr 2010 09:55:57 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Fri, 16 April 2010 20:03"it's only the people to whom god gave such a large gift who need to pay attention."

That's not it at all. It had to do with their situation, not their material wealth or reward.
again, you're deciding for yourself which parts apply to you. the bible itself does not give you a list of which bits don't apply any more.

for example, i'll still waiting to hear in which part of the new testament we hear a repudiation of the disgusting laws on rape, and an apology for inflicting such a sick system upon us and an even greater apology for all the womens' lives that have been completely ruined by its application.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44well, there you go. the punishment for any "sin" is the same as another. for my honest criticism of christianity, i'm in for the same punishment as any mass murderer you care to name.

that's justice, is it?

He created it all, and he set the standards. There is punishment for those who don't follow.
the same feeble defence could be offered for any dictatorship with crappy laws.

Quote:If there was a sign warning people not to stray near thin ice, it wouldn't matter who walked over it: a punk who wants to show off, a man who thinks it's safe enough, a person who doesn't think that the ice will break if he's careful - if they walk that ice, it will break.
then what will you say when you stand before god and he asks you why you didn't follow his more recent revelation to you through his prophet Mohammed?

you didn't think the ice was real? it's still gonna break!

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It's a small detail. It's obvious that the phrase has to do with the culture in some way, it doesn't mean that bastards aren't going to heaven.

it's not clear at all that this is not what it means. obviously you aren't sure what it does mean.

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Isn't that the point?

uh no, it's the opposite of the point.

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...and who put us into that situation?

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If you don't do 'A', then 'B' will occur. If you do, 'C' will occur.

Why blame the system for allowing 'B'? Why should the system care if you don't think it's proper?

why should the system not be an unchallengeable dictatorship?

why should the system not have such appalling laws?

well, these are very old questions. i'm by no means the first to ask them. asking them is basically the beginning of the road to freedom, and freedom starts when religion ends.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13the second question was simply to remind you that god is not telling us about the punishment. men wrote the bible.

Well, as I have already stated, I don't believe that.

you already acknowledged that the bible was written by men. and who's spreading the bible

around? who's spreading the word of god? men. it's no different to islam.

I acknowledged it was written by men, but not that man was its author.

ah, "inspired by god"... shame there's absolutely no good reason to think that's true.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44i hear all the time that god is intervening in world affairs... every time a natural disaster happens, for example. there's no "christians in my area" about this; we get it from christians all over the world all the time. you're the first christian i've ever heard suggest that god does not interfere in current events.

That's really strange. Practically nobody around here suggests that.

That Baptist Group I mentioned was the first I've heard in awhile.

shrug

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44half of the people i've asked this said evidence is not applicable

Depends on the evidence... some aspects of historical data can be, but some things in the past have virtually no trace remaining in today's time.

actually, the usual justification is what you say in a minute: "it can't be proven, duhhh"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44the other half tried to prove it and failed.

That's the problem, it can't be proven... otherwise, virtually everyone would be Christians. Even God knew that wasn't going to happen. (Follow the strait and narrow path, there will be few who walk it.)

it's very easy to notice that the only reason christians keep saying this is because the "evidence" is so laughably feeble. if they did have proof of christianity, they'd raise the roof and everybody knows it.

the "evidence doesn't apply here, duhhh" (aka 'faith') is the biggest con trick mankind ever played on itself, it's extremely easy to see through but it's astonishing how many people have fallen for it.

and if god chose to set up a system that will reward "faith" (i.e. believing things for which you have no reason to believe, and abandoning your own morality) and will punish anyone who exercises their scepticism or moral objections, then there's another reason to think he's an evil piece of shit, and why it's so comforting that there's no reason at all to think any of it is true.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13if you're making no distinction as to the actual likelihood of the claim, i'm not sure on what grounds you say one god is real and all the others aren't.

My grounds is my belief, I'm not trying to declare it as absolute fact.

you don't really believe it, then?

I just said I did...

i don't find that very convincing. if you don't think it's a fact i don't see how you can say you believe it.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 19 Apr 2010 00:11:19 GMT

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Spoony said:Quote:He created it all, and he set the standards. There is punishment for those who don't follow.

the same feeble defence could be offered for any dictatorship with crappy laws.

Mmm-hmm.

Yet it still hasn't been shown that every single dictatorship is wrong. The only seemingly-bad aspect is how the people don't have equal status.

Spoony said:Quote:If there was a sign warning people not to stray near thin ice, it wouldn't matter who walked over it: a punk who wants to show off, a man who thinks it's safe enough, a person who doesn't think that the ice will break if he's careful - if they walk that ice, it will break.

then what will you say when you stand before god and he asks you why you didn't follow his more recent revelation to you through his prophet Mohammed?

you didn't think the ice was real? it's still gonna break!

I'd rather believe in a sign that has evidence of being placed there by someone who knew what they were talking about, and not a sign placed by one man who had a vision.

Spoony said:it's not clear at all that this is not what it means. obviously you aren't sure what it does mean.

Oh, its obvious it doesn't mean what you were trying to pass it off as.

Spoony said:Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Fossils created? No, the living beings they used to be...

If life slowly spread over Earth and not just suddenly appeared, there wouldn't be fossils just mass-appearing in groups. They'd be showing up in small but increasing numbers.

i've never heard anybody suggest that the population (in animal terms) of the earth at 4000 BC was very small.

Isn't that the point?

uh no, it's the opposite of the point.

How? If nobody ever hinted at the animal population starting small, that's against evolution and for creation.

Spoony said:Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13so it's the same as the mafia protection, then. we're being "saved" by the guy who put us in the danger in the first place.

We're always 'in the danger' as it is from the start, then, because there are no other options other than accept or refuse...

...and who put us into that situation?

I already answered that.

sure, but you didn't seem to hear what you were saying.

the mafia protection analogy still holds.

I hear what you're saying, and I made a response for it.
Then you tunneled into one specific aspect...

Spoony said:why should the system not be an unchallengeable dictatorship?

Why can't it be? What is it about the basic definition of a dictatorship that's so horrible?

Spoony said:why should the system not have such appalling laws?

If the system decided to conform to anyone's standards, you can bet there will be people arguing against it just as vehemently as you are now.

Spoony said:well, these are very old questions. i'm by no means the first to ask them. asking them is basically the beginning of the road to freedom, and freedom starts when religion ends.

Right, the freedom to believe that you can do whatever you want in this world... and when you die, you will cease to exist.

People will forget you, your actions will have been for nothing.

Spoony said:ah, "inspired by god"... shame there's absolutely no good reason to think that's true.

Correction: you think there's absolutely no good reason to think that's true.

Spoony said:it's very easy to notice that the only reason christians keep saying this is because the "evidence" is so laughably feeble. if they did have proof of christianity, they'd raise the roof and everybody knows it.

I've been studying something called "The Case for the Existence of God", and the "evidence" is anything but laughable - a lot of it makes sense.

Spoony said:the "evidence doesn't apply here, duhhh" (aka 'faith') is the biggest con trick mankind ever played on itself, it's extremely easy to see through but it's astonishing how many people have fallen for it.

Let me ask you then: do you think man as a whole is rational?

Spoony said:Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13if you're making no distinction as to the actual likelihood of the claim, i'm not sure on what grounds you say one god is real and all the others aren't.

My grounds is my belief, I'm not trying to declare it as absolute fact.

you don't really believe it, then?

I just said I did...

i don't find that very convincing. if you don't think it's a fact i don't see how you can say you believe it.

I'm not trying to declare it as absolute fact to whoever I mention it to. I acknowledge it as unproven. But that does NOT translate to "I don't believe it."

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 19 Apr 2010 01:44:03 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 19:11Spoony said:Quote:He created it all, and he set the standards. There is punishment for those who don't follow.

the same feeble defence could be offered for any dictatorship with crappy laws.

Mmm-hmm.

Yet it still hasn't been shown that every single dictatorship is wrong. The only seemingly-bad aspect is how the people don't have equal status.

perhaps you can name one true dictatorship that worked out well?

Quote:Spoony said:Quote:If there was a sign warning people not to stray near thin ice, it wouldn't matter who walked over it: a punk who wants to show off, a man who thinks it's safe enough, a person who doesn't think that the ice will break if he's careful - if they walk that ice, it will break. then what will you say when you stand before god and he asks you why you didn't follow his more recent revelation to you through his prophet Mohammed? you didn't think the ice was real? it's still gonna break!

I'd rather believe in a sign that has evidence of being placed there by someone who knew what they were talking about, and not a sign placed by one man who had a vision. you still fall into the "doesn't think the ice will break" category by saying that.

Quote:Spoony said:it's not clear at all that this is not what it means. obviously you aren't sure what it does mean.

Oh, its obvious it doesn't mean what you were trying to pass it off as.

actually, what i "tried to pass it off as" was one of the many examples in the bible of god holding one person accountable for the actions of others, which shows just how crappy his morals are (or, rather, how crappy are the morals of the men who invented this fictional character)

if god takes the view that having a child out of wedlock is sinful, then the people to punish would be the parents, right? the child was not consulted in the matter, could not have possibly avoided the conditions of his/her birth.

Quote:Spoony said:Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Fossils created? No, the living beings they used to be...

If life slowly spread over Earth and not just suddenly appeared, there wouldn't be fossils just mass-appearing in groups. They'd be showing up in small but increasing numbers.

i've never heard anybody suggest that the population (in animal terms) of the earth at 4000 BC was very small.

Isn't that the point?

uh no, it's the opposite of the point.

How? If nobody ever hinted at the animal population starting small, that's against evolution and for creation.

i said nobody said that the population of the earth at 4000 BC was small. life's been on this planet for a lot longer than that.

Quote:Spoony said:Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13so it's the same as the mafia protection, then. we're being "saved" by the guy who put us in the danger in the first place.

We're always 'in the danger' as it is from the start, then, because there are no other options other than accept or refuse...

...and who put us into that situation?

I already answered that.

sure, but you didn't seem to hear what you were saying.

the mafia protection analogy still holds.

I hear what you're saying, and I made a response for it.

Then you tunneled into one specific aspect...

the fact the whole "saved" concept is a tendentious and immoral racket?

Quote:Spoony said:why should the system not be an unchallengeable dictatorship?

Why can't it be? What is it about the basic definition of a dictatorship that's so horrible?

you said that you find islamic morality objectionable. it doesn't seem like you need this explained to you.

Quote:Spoony said:why should the system not have such appalling laws?

If the system decided to conform to anyone's standards, you can bet there will be people arguing against it just as vehemently as you are now.

...which is precisely why we need democracy, free inquiry and freedom of speech.

Quote:Right, the freedom to believe that you can do whatever you want in this world... and when you die, you will cease to exist.

If this life is the only one we have (and nobody has made a good case that it is otherwise), then it would make our life even more precious.

As for doing whatever we want, no. We do want laws, to uphold the basic human rights, to protect citizens, their rights and their property. But when it comes to the laws, we want the right to decide them democratically.

Quote:People will forget you, your actions will have been for nothing.

You don't think anything in your life is worthwhile?

Quote:Spoony said:ah, "inspired by god"... shame there's absolutely no good reason to think that's true.

Correction: you think there's absolutely no good reason to think that's true.

I've gone to extraordinary lengths to allow your side to support your claims, and I'm still open to evidence.

No rush.

Quote:Spoony said:it's very easy to notice that the only reason christians keep saying this is

because the "evidence" is so laughably feeble. if they did have proof of christianity, they'd raise the roof and everybody knows it.

I've been studying something called "The Case for the Existence of God", and the "evidence" is anything but laughable - a lot of it makes sense.

And why did the author write and publish this book?

Quote:Spoony said:the "evidence doesn't apply here, duhhh" (aka 'faith') is the biggest con trick mankind ever played on itself, it's extremely easy to see through but it's astonishing how many people have fallen for it.

Let me ask you then: do you think man as a whole is rational?

Partially. Our brains are more advanced than animals, but they're still evolving; they're far from perfect.

Quote:I'm not trying to decare it as absolute fact to whoever I mention it to. I acknowledge it as unproven.

But that does NOT translate to "I don't believe it."

Whatever.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 19 Apr 2010 19:47:28 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010

10:13Quote:When Jesus established his church and ascended to Heaven, God's direct influence ceased and won't return until the second coming.

First time I've heard this from a Christian...

I'm surprised...

What do the Catholics/Christians in your area think, then?

i hear all the time that god is intervening in world affairs... every time a natural disaster happens, for example. there's no "christians in my area" about this; we get it from christians all over the world all the time. you're the first christian i've ever heard suggest that god does not interfere in current events.

Muslims too.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/apr/19/women-blame-earthquakes-iran-cleric>

Where do you think they got this idea? Quite obviously the old testament.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Tue, 20 Apr 2010 18:42:22 GMT

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@ Altzan,

Religion, like ideas, progress in different levels. The type of christianity that I see widely practiced in America is what I call "phoney religion." It is nowhere close to what was practiced 200 years ago. The fact that only a few renegade churches remain as a remnant of the past shows how much your religion has "modernised" itself by discarding anything that seems absurd.

The "new age" type christians that go to the mega non-denominational churches simply prove this point beyond doubt.

Most of the silly parts of christianity are outright rejected because it is just plain absurd. For example, saying out loud that you got sick because god is judging you for your sins won't fly here (anymore). But it is absolutely accepted back among Indians over there (btw, they think they are the real christians compared to American christians). They are just not advanced enough yet in their thinking. Give it a hundred more years and future generations of Indian christians will be just like American christians....i.e, clueless phoney religious folks enjoying life under christian branding.

I am only saying this because you (2nd time I believe in this thread) have tried to shake off this important aspect from your religion in a way that suggests to me "that because we don't do it over here, what they do over there doesn't count and is not part of my religion." Sorry, but that is just incorrect.

Many christians I have spoken seem to understand this and say that atheists cannot blame the past versions of christianity because, similar to what you said here earlier, life was different back then. They are just too thick to understand what this really means; that this is a man made story that has been garbled and re-garbled over and over again.

In fact this is true of all religions. I had an opportunity to observe the lifestyle of some younger Hindu friends when I stayed over at their place couple weeks ago; they are basically modernized Hindus. Their religion is also undergoing the same generational changes as yours.

Quote:(Follow the strait and narrow path, there will be few who walk it.)

This is another spin off the ancient superstitious practice of sacrifice and self-sacrifice to obtain certain rewards. "If you give up this and that, you have greater reward blah blah."

Let's see if this "narrow path" was all worth it a thousand years from now...it will be as worthy as the actions of misinformed priests throwing away their lives and vowing to a life of celibacy for the greater [illusionary] reward.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 19 April 2010 14:47Spoony wrote on Wed, 14 April 2010 07:44Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 12 April 2010 10:13Quote:When Jesus established his church and ascended to Heaven, God's direct influence ceased and won't return until the second coming. First time I've heard this from a Christian...

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world all the time. you're the first christian i've ever heard suggest that god does not interfere in current events.

Muslims too.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/apr/19/women-blame-earthquakes-iran-cleric>

Where do you think they got this idea? Quite obviously the old testament.

It's a big deal when a christian tells that god doesn't interfere.

I was told the entire opposite and instead of listing everything, the impression of the christian god given to me was that of a cosmic Big Brother. Enough said. I would instantly reject anything that says he is not because its obvious that's just another "interpretation" from the new age christians. So obvious how bogus these new age christians are...modernized folks who are keeping up with the times.

The other side of this is how much undeserving credit this god gets for no reason whatsoever.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [kadoosh](#) on Wed, 21 Apr 2010 17:16:50 GMT

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Remembered seeing this and thought it was kinda funny. Also seeing as how this has gone from adoption to "Religion - an opinion piece", figured it would help, or humor.

Link

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 22 Apr 2010 01:55:48 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44perhaps you can name one true dictatorship that worked out well?

Seeing as how every dictatorship I know of was run by fallible human beings, no.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I'd rather believe in a sign that has evidence of being placed there by someone who knew what they were talking about, and not a sign placed by one man who had a vision.

you still fall into the "doesn't think the ice will break" category by saying that.

Correct, yes.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44i said nobody said that the population of the earth at 4000 BC was small. life's been on this planet for a lot longer than that.

Well, I don't think the Earth has been around longer than over 8 millenia or so.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I hear what you're saying, and I made a response for it.

Then you tunneled into one specific aspect...

the fact the whole "saved" concept is a tendentious and immoral racket?

No, the aspect of "God's the one who set up the punishment."

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:Why can't it be? What is it about the basic definition of a dictatorship that's so horrible?

you said that you find islamic morality objectionable. it doesn't seem like you need this explained to you.

Islamic morality hardly involves the definition of dictatorship being wrong.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44If this life is the only one we have (and nobody has made a good case that it is otherwise), then it would make our life even more precious.

I believe our life is precious, of course.

For different reasons than its finality, however.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44As for doing whatever we want, no. We do want laws, to uphold the basic human rights, to protect citizens, their rights and their property. But when it comes to the laws, we want the right to decide them democratically.

The system can be as perfect or corrupt as it can or will.

That doesn't chenge the fact that once it and the people within it are gone, they're gone for good... if there's no afterlife.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:People will forget you, your actions will have been for nothing.

You don't think anything in your life is worthwhile?

Of course I do. What I do in life determines where I go in death.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44I've gone to extraordinary lengths to allow your side to support your claims, and I'm still open to evidence. No rush.

So you're ignoring the other stuff I mentioned earlier?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I've been studying something called "The Case for the Existence of God", and the "evidence" is anything but laughable - a lot of it makes sense. And why did the author write and publish this book?

Do I really have to explain? It's obvious as to why he published an article of that nature.

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duhhh" (aka 'faith') is the biggest con trick mankind ever played on itself, it's extremely easy to see through but it's astonishing how many people have fallen for it.
Let me ask you then: do you think man as a whole is rational?
Partially. Our brains are more advanced than animals, but they're still evolving; they're far from perfect.

Well, man has been naturally religious for quite some time. The vast majority of every tribe or civilization has had some sort of higher power in their beliefs.
Do you believe then, that man is irrational in this aspect?

Also, here's another question:
"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience."
(David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42 Religion, like ideas, progress in different levels. The type of christianity that I see widely practiced in America is what I call "phoney religion." It is nowhere close to what was practiced 200 years ago. The fact that only a few renegade churches remain as a remnant of the past shows how much your religion has "modernised" itself by discarding anything that seems absurd.

Yes, religion does progress. Seeing as how customs, technology, and dialect change over time, it would be hard for religion to stay exactly the same in terms of buildings to worship in, proper attire, and so on.
What should NOT change is what is practiced and what is believed. Unfortunately, many seem to think changing beliefs or practices in order to blend into the modern world is perfectly OK.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42 The "new age" type christians that go to the mega non-denominational churches simply prove this point beyond doubt.

Those types of churches surely have some sort of mutual belief system, unless they all believe that faith is all you need, and they go to that church to praise God for the heck of it.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42 I am only saying this because you (2nd time I believe in this thread) have tried to shake off this important aspect from your religion in a way that suggests to me "that because we don't do it over here, what they do over there doesn't count and is not part of my religion." Sorry, but that is just incorrect.

Why?
Why should I be blamed for the belief choices made by other "Christians"?
Are you telling me that I'm to be associated with Catholics, for example, because they call themselves Christians?
Because that is just absurd.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42 Many christians I have spoken seem to understand this and say that atheists cannot blame the past versions of christianity because, similar to what

you said here earlier, life was different back then. They are just too thick to understand what this really means; that this is a man made story that has been garbled and re-garbled over and over again.

What?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42Quote:(Follow the strait and narrow path, there will be few who walk it.)

This is another spin off the ancient superstitious practice of sacrifice and self-sacrifice to obtain certain rewards. "If you give up this and that, you have greater reward blah blah."

Again, what?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42Let's see if this "narrow path" was all worth it a thousand years from now...

I look forward to it.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 22 Apr 2010 10:58:01 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 21 April 2010 20:55Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44perhaps you can name one true dictatorship that worked out well?

Seeing as how every dictatorship I know of was run by fallible human beings, no. so is the dictatorship you propose.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44i said nobody said that the population of the earth at 4000 BC was small. life's been on this planet for a lot longer than that.

Well, I don't think the Earth has been around longer than over 8 millenia or so. well, that's not a view you can come to by actually studying evidence critically.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I hear what you're saying, and I made a response for it.

Then you tunneled into one specific aspect...

the fact the whole "saved" concept is a tendentious and immoral racket?

No, the aspect of "God's the one who set up the punishment."

...which goes some way to proving what a racket it is.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:Why can't it be? What is it about the basic definition of a dictatorship that's so horrible?

you said that you find islamic morality objectionable. it doesn't seem like you need this explained to you.

Islamic morality hardly involves the definition of dictatorship being wrong.
you said you objected to islamic morality. what if the islamic revelation was correct? if you object to it, if you think its rules are evil, then the concept of dictatorship falls...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44As for doing whatever we want, no. We do want laws, to uphold the basic human rights, to protect citizens, their rights and their property. But when it comes to the laws, we want the right to decide them democratically.

The system can be as perfect or corrupt as it can or will.
sure, and you'll invariably find that the more religious a society is, the more corrupt it is.

Quote:That doesn't change the fact that once it and the people within it are gone, they're gone for good... if there's no afterlife.

Yes, but the party will go on. The human race goes on, the planet's still here, our friends and relatives are still here...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:People will forget you, your actions will have been for nothing.

You don't think anything in your life is worthwhile?

Of course I do. What I do in life determines where I go in death.
There it is, ladies and gentlemen.

"Your actions will have been for nothing" if there's no afterlife. If there is, then your actions will mean a better deal for you.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44I've gone to extraordinary lengths to allow your side to support your claims, and I'm still open to evidence. No rush.

So you're ignoring the other stuff I mentioned earlier?

Excuse me? I've gone to quite some trouble to respond to the "evidence" you posted, and pointed out how laughably feeble it was. If you've got any more, go ahead. Don't post a whole mess of links though; put it all in one place.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I've been studying something called "The Case for the Existence of God", and the "evidence" is anything but laughable - a lot of it makes sense.

And why did the author write and publish this book?

Do I really have to explain? It's obvious as to why he published an article of that nature.
I would like you to answer the question.

Quote:Well, man has been naturally religious for quite some time. The vast majority of every tribe or civilization has had some sort of higher power in their beliefs.
And I expect you would probably agree that the overwhelming majority of religions that have been believed over the centuries have been incorrect.

Furthermore, let's never forget the way religions propagate; through violence, threats, and most

importantly, by lying to children.

Quote:Do you believe then, that man is irrational in this aspect?
Sure.

Quote:Also, here's another question:

"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience."
(David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Quote:Yes, religion does progress. Seeing as how customs, technology, and dialect change over time, it would be hard for religion to stay exactly the same in terms of buildings to worship in, proper attire, and so on.

What should NOT change is what is practiced and what is believed. Unfortunately, many seem to think changing beliefs or practices in order to blend into the modern world is perfectly OK.
So you think the proportion of Muslims who live peacefully are in the wrong, then?

What about that evil rape law we discussed earlier? It was never repudiated, remember. You made some weak bleating about how it must have been something to do with the culture at the time.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sat, 24 Apr 2010 03:29:51 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Altzan wrote on Wed, 21 April 2010 20:55Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44perhaps you can name one true dictatorship that worked out well?
Seeing as how every dictatorship I know of was run by fallible human beings, no.
so is the dictatorship you propose.

Whether you believe in a God or no, surely you don't think he's human...

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Well, I don't think the Earth has been around longer than over 8 millenia or so.

well, that's not a view you can come to by actually studying evidence critically.

Actually, it is and it was.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Islamic morality hardly involves the definition of dictatorship being wrong.

you said you objected to islamic morality. what if the islamic revelation was correct? if you object to it, if you think its rules are evil, then the concept of dictatorship falls...

Why?

Islam may believe in a dictatorship, but not agreeing with it hardly topples the dictatorship system.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44As for doing whatever we want, no. We do want laws, to uphold the basic human rights, to protect citizens, their rights and their property. But when it comes to the laws, we want the right to decide them democratically.

The system can be as perfect or corrupt as it can or will.

sure, and you'll invariably find that the more religious a society is, the more corrupt it is.

Not accounting for the religions that did help a society's way of life?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:That doesn't change the fact that once it and the people within it are gone, they're gone for good... if there's no afterlife.

Yes, but the party will go on. The human race goes on, the planet's still here, our friends and relatives are still here...

For a time. But it all will be gone eventually, it isn't eternal.

Then what's left?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58"Your actions will have been for nothing" if there's no afterlife. If there is, then your actions will mean a better deal for you.

Or a worse deal. There's two sides to the coin.

And the deal applies to everyone, not just me.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Excuse me? I've gone to quite some trouble to respond to the "evidence" you posted, and pointed out how laughably feeble it was. If you've got any more, go ahead. Don't post a whole mess of links though; put it all in one place.

I'm not going to run it by you again, because you've already proved that you aren't interested.

If I did, you'd likely laugh it off and ignore parts of it again.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I've been studying something called "The Case for the Existence of God", and the "evidence" is anything but laughable - a lot of it makes sense.

And why did the author write and publish this book?

Do I really have to explain? It's obvious as to why he published an article of that nature.

I would like you to answer the question.

Since I don't see where you're getting at, I won't.

I'm sure you're capable of making a point without it.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Well, man has been naturally religious for quite some time. The vast majority of every tribe or civilization has had some sort of higher power in their beliefs.

And I expect you would probably agree that the overwhelming majority of religions that have been believed over the centuries have been incorrect.

Furthermore, let's never forget the way religions propagate; through violence, threats, and most

importantly, by lying to children.

Sure, sure. But this basic human attribute of looking toward a higher power had to have come from somewhere.

Which leads to...

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Also, here's another question:

"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience." (David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58What about that evil rape law we discussed earlier? It was never repudiated, remember. You made some weak bleating about how it must have been something to do with the culture at the time.

It's a sensible point, one you countered with, "You don't know that for sure."

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sat, 24 Apr 2010 06:02:17 GMT

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To paraphrase a quote that's become quite popular in the Science Fiction genre: anything we are not yet advanced enough to understand is indistinguishable from the supernatural.

Also, human beings are stubborn creatures. Because how we live our lives is shaped by our perceptions and beliefs, we will always tend to resist any outside influence that challenges those beliefs (even if we dedicate ourselves to challenging our beliefs, rarely will we seek to shake their foundations). The unspoken assumption is that if we can be wrong about one thing, we can be wrong about anything, and we most emphatically do not like being wrong.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 24 Apr 2010 10:43:27 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Fri, 23 April 2010 22:29Whether you believe in a God or no, surely you don't think he's human...

Nobody's given any reason to think Jesus was anything more than human. (I don't have too much of a problem accepting that a man called Jesus existed at a particular time and place, although there isn't much evidence for it. the evidence that he was in any way supernatural is absolutely nil)

Nobody's given any reason to think that the bible was not written in just the same way as any

other book; the product of the imagination of humans.

And even if you did set up a Christian theocracy, who will be in charge of it? Who'll be enforcing the rules in the here and now? Either humans or nobody, it seems.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Well, I don't think the Earth has been around longer than over 8 millenia or so.
well, that's not a view you can come to by actually studying evidence critically.

Actually, it is and it was.
I don't doubt that you believe that.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Islamic morality hardly involves the definition of dictatorship being wrong.
you said you objected to islamic morality. what if the islamic revelation was correct? if you object to it, if you think its rules are evil, then the concept of dictatorship falls...

Why?
Islam may believe in a dictatorship, but not agreeing with it hardly topples the dictatorship system. i didn't mean it topples the system, i meant it shatters the concept that it could be a good thing. the whole point of a dictatorship is: if you don't like something (or everything) about it, there's nothing you or any of your fellow humans can do about it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44As for doing whatever we want, no. We do want laws, to uphold the basic human rights, to protect citizens, their rights and their property. But when it comes to the laws, we want the right to decide them democratically.
The system can be as perfect or corrupt as it can or will.
sure, and you'll invariably find that the more religious a society is, the more corrupt it is.

Not accounting for the religions that did help a society's way of life?
You use the plural... are you saying that a religion other than Christianity has had a positive benefit?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:That doesn't chenge the fact that once it and the people within it are gone, they're gone for good... if there's no afterlife.
Yes, but the party will go on. The human race goes on, the planet's still here, our friends and relatives are still here...

For a time. But it all will be gone eventually, it isn't eternal.
Then what's left?
I don't know why you're asking me, frankly.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58"Your actions will have been for nothing" if there's no afterlife. If there is, then your actions will mean a better deal for you.

Or a worse deal. There's two sides to the coin.
And the deal applies to everyone, not just me.

You missed the point.

You started off by saying that the heaven/hell concept was better because otherwise, if there's no afterlife, you can indulge your own selfish desires, do whatever you like because it won't matter once you're dead. Selfishness, lack of care for others, that must be the problem.

Well, a couple of quick questions later and it turns out that your number one reason for preferring the Christian concept is selfishness. You act the way you do in life because you think there's something in it for you later on. That was the point.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Excuse me? I've gone to quite some trouble to respond to the "evidence" you posted, and pointed out how laughably feeble it was. If you've got any more, go ahead. Don't post a whole mess of links though; put it all in one place.

I'm not going to run it by you again, because you've already proved that you aren't interested. If I did, you'd likely laugh it off and ignore parts of it again.
I'm not gonna let you get away with lying about this again.

Pages and pages ago, I asked: what's the evidence supporting the biblical account reported in Genesis? I've asked this question again and again and again, and you still haven't supplied anything tangible. What little you did provide, not that any of it even answered the question, was very very easy to debunk.

Of course, you aren't the first religious person I've challenged them for evidence; there are usually two ways they react. Either they arbitrarily declare that evidence is inadmissible, or they try to prove it and come up with something really pathetic that shouldn't convince a child, and then they isolate themselves from counterargument.

But it's ok - we have a summary of the situation right there in your post.

Spoony: "Excuse me? I've gone to quite some trouble to respond to the "evidence" you posted, and pointed out how laughably feeble it was. If you've got any more, go ahead. Don't post a whole mess of links though; put it all in one place."

Altzan: "I'm not going to run it by you again, because you've already proved that you aren't interested.

If I did, you'd likely laugh it off and ignore parts of it again."

it's fine, you see, because anyone reading this thread can clearly see you're just lying to try to evade the question... you have a very clear demand for evidence (again), and you have a flat refusal on the grounds that I won't even look at it. I do say you're lying on this point rather than just stupid, because you don't seem to be that stupid.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 18 April 2010 20:44Quote:I've been studying something called "The Case for the Existence of God", and the "evidence" is anything but laughable - a lot of it makes sense.

And why did the author write and publish this book?

Do I really have to explain? It's obvious as to why he published an article of that nature. I would like you to answer the question.

Since I don't see where you're getting at, I won't.
I'm sure you're capable of making a point without it.
I wish I understood why you're so extraordinarily evasive on this point.

It's a simple question. What was the purpose the author had of writing this book? You say it was obvious. So what was it?

Quote:Sure, sure. But this basic human attribute of looking toward a higher power had to have come from somewhere.
And you've already agreed that the overwhelming majority of the attempts we humans have made on the subject... have been completely wrong.

As for where it comes from, seems like we went over that in terms of morality. I answered where morals come from, you didn't...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Also, here's another question:
"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience."
(David Hume)
Do you agree with this statement?
I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact. Is it? I wouldn't have phrased it that way.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58What about that evil rape law we discussed earlier? It was never repudiated, remember. You made some weak bleating about how it must have been something to do with the culture at the time.

It's a sensible point, one you countered with, "You don't know that for sure."[/quote]
I have no idea why you keep lying about this stuff.

I pressed you again and again on this evil piece of garbage in your holy book. I asked you over and over: do you think there's anything wrong with this rule? Eventually you got this far:

Spoony: "do you think that is a good rule for cases of rape?"
Altzan: "Of course not, we live in different times now. Civilization was a lot different back then. I have never lived in those times so I can't say how good or bad that law was."
Spoony: "what a cowardly, euphemistic answer.

the law is sick and immoral, there's no two ways about it. and if it came from god, then god's sick and immoral too.

yes, civilisation was different back then. they had really shitty morals. you can tell just by reading books written at the time, most obviously the bible. thank god we don't have huge numbers of people trying to live their lives based on the moral standards of primitive middle-east barbarians.

oh wait, we do, don't we."

it's odd, my response doesn't look much like "you don't know that for sure". it looks more like "the rule is evil, and if it came from god, god's evil too."

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Mr.Mom](#) on Sun, 25 Apr 2010 19:30:50 GMT

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Quote:and the whole idea of what is "natural"...

"homosexuality is perfectly natural. it isn't a choice, some people simply are homosexual. it also occurs in other species. and yet another thing that must be challenged is the idea that "natural" is automatically a synonym for "desirable". rape, for example, is very common in nature, very common indeed. most of us condemn rape, even though the bible does not."

I completely disagree. I believe it is a choice. Everybody has free will to choose whether they want to be heterosexual or homosexual. That is just my opinion.

Do you have any hard proof to support your statement? Other than opinions of other people. I mean hard proof.

Edit: I did not read through this whole thread so if you already showed evidence of your statement then my apologies. If you did not; I await the evidence.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Mon, 26 Apr 2010 01:17:09 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 11:55Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42I am only saying this because you (2nd time I believe in this thread) have tried to shake off this important aspect from your religion in a way that suggests to me "that because we don't do it over here, what they do over there doesn't count and is not part of my religion." Sorry, but that is just incorrect.

Why?

Why should I be blamed for the belief choices made by other "Christians"?

Are you telling me that I'm to be associated with Catholics, for example, because they call themselves Christians?

Because that is just absurd.

"Belief choices?" rather odd choice of words tbh about christians all across the world following their religion. It is by belief that a huge majority of christians blame earthquakes on human actions and a fatal car accident on your god's wrath. It ain't a choice. It's very real and biblical.

This is what I was getting at. They are as christian as you are. As mentioned earlier, from what's

quiet apparent, the western versions of your religion is modernized and phoney. It's quiet amazing that this coincides with the fact that the west has been leading human progress for thousands of years.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 11:55Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42Many christians I have spoken seem to understand this and say that atheists cannot blame the past versions of christianity because, similar to what you said here earlier, life was different back then. They are just too thick to understand what this really means; that this is a man made story that has been garbled and re-garbled over and over again.

What?

Altzan wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 11:55Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42Quote:(Follow the strait and narrow path, there will be few who walk it.) This is another spin off the ancient superstitious practice of sacrifice and self-sacrifice to obtain certain rewards. "If you give up this and that, you have greater reward blah blah."

Again, what?

When an atheist points to previous versions of christianity that used to be practiced, there is nothing but denial followed up with a "life used to be different then" excuse.

You can come that close to finding the right answer (i.e, "life used to be different then") but then stop yourself there. Yes, life used to be different then and the earth was considered to be flat and the center of the universe and humanity as a whole was a lot more idiotic level than it is now.

It's the same deal with the concept of sacrifice. They used to sacrifice live humans at one point before moving on to valuable goods like food. Now it's down to "self-sacrifice" by giving up what are obviously natural human traits but mistaken for "lust." You get this all the time with sexuality...it's completely natural yet the religious see it as something to be treated with "caution" and control. That's "religious sacrifice thru the ages" for you in a nutshell.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 11:55Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 20 April 2010 13:42Let's see if this "narrow path" was all worth it a thousand years from now...

I look forward to it.

One sunday last summer in church (after I became atheist in May), I went to drop off my brother at the sunday school. The old staff guy asked me who I am...to which I replied that I am his brother. He looked puzzled at me and wondered out loud if I am even old enough have any authority to drop off my brother. He wasn't rude at all. Well, I was 22 then but I am one of those people that get mistaken for being 16 all the time (due to looking younger I suppose). I took out my drivers licence and showed it to him and he went ape! He was like "wow awesome! god has blessed you with young looks" and he said how god was also going to "strip away my old body and give me a brand new one so I can be young again like you after the resurrection."

I smiled and left. The man apparently has faith and hope about something he would certainly like to have in real life that he didn't get to have. tbh, I cannot blame him. I can understand how futile

his hope is but if it keeps him trucking, I am not going to bother him.

You here is in a similar situation though it leans more toward the condensed concept of some form of self-sacrifice to get faith-based rewards in the afterlife. "Make your body a living sacrifice" said the new-age pastor of the nondenominational megachurch a couple months ago. Well, quiet risky (I bet you think the 9/11 hijackers didn't get their reward for all their hard work). While I do think the reward that you feel "will be worth it" is quiet illusionary and not worth gambling your life away for, I am not interested in intruding into that area as it does not affect me...only you.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 23 April 2010 22:29Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Well, man has been naturally religious for quite some time. The vast majority of every tribe or civilization has had some sort of higher power in their beliefs.

And I expect you would probably agree that the overwhelming majority of religions that have been believed over the centuries have been incorrect.

Furthermore, let's never forget the way religions propagate; through violence, threats, and most importantly, by lying to children.

Sure, sure. But this basic human attribute of looking toward a higher power had to have come from somewhere.

Which leads to...

This definitely does lead to the proof that the god of abraham is real and that he did make us, pre-programmed us, and gave us our moral compass.

Not.

You jumped from "basic human attribute" to "god maybe real" which is not quiet surprising from religious people (who jump at gaps). I have heard this argument from many folks that use it in debates like this and I myself used this argument here when I used to be christian. I rejected this argument eventually because it gets easily untenable when more facts are brought in to the mix.

If any supernatural creatures did come down and gave humanity our moral compass, wouldn't the early religions be based around and worship these very same supernatural beings? Why then did pre-historic humans worship nature initally before moving on to spirits...

Whatever way you look at it, its obvious humanity is like a person in a dark room trying to make sense of who and what they are. Most definitely not a person in a dark room with a flashlight (courtesy of gods) and knowing where exactly to go. If that had been the case, there wouldn't have been so many variations in belief systems popping up. It's been a long process of understanding and we have come a long way and have a better idea of who we are than any ancient belief system could claim.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 26 Apr 2010 02:41:13 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43You use the plural... are you saying that a religion other

than Christianity has had a positive benefit?

Certainly. There have been plenty of belief systems that have revolved around the idea of peacefully coexisting with fellow human beings.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Quote:For a time. But it all will be gone eventually, it isn't eternal.

Then what's left?

I don't know why you're asking me, frankly.

Heck, I'd accept an answer from anyone.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43You started off by saying that the heaven/hell concept was better because otherwise, if there's no afterlife, you can indulge your own selfish desires, do whatever you like because it won't matter once you're dead. Selfishness, lack of care for others, that must be the problem.

Well, a couple of quick questions later and it turns out that your number one reason for preferring the Christian concept is selfishness. You act the way you do in life because you think there's something in it for you later on. That was the point.

So when you obey the laws of your country, you do it because you're selfish?

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Pages and pages ago, I asked: what's the evidence supporting the biblical account reported in Genesis? I've asked this question again and again and again, and you still haven't supplied anything tangible. What little you did provide, not that any of it even answered the question, was very very easy to debunk.

Mmmkay. The Genesis account deals with the origin of the universe, and so far, I'm the only one who provided a possible explanation of where it came from. Nothing from you yet, that I recall. But clearly there are only three possible ways:

- 1) The universe is eternal.
- 2) The universe is not eternal - it created itself from nothing.
- 3) The universe is not eternal - it was created by something anterior, and superior, from itself.

Now let's hit it with logic.

1) Science has already declared the universe to not be eternal. "In science, as in the Bible, the World begins in an act of creation. That view hasn't always been held by science. Only as a result of the most recent discoveries can we say that with a fair degree of confidence that our universe has not existed forever; that it began abruptly, without any apparent cause, in a blinding event that defies scientific explanation." -Jastrow

2) This possibility is just absurd. "No material thing can create itself." -J.C. Monsma

3) This is the only choice left...

If there was a time where only NOTHING existed, there would be NOTHING still, because something cannot come out of nothing. Since something obviously does exist, it must have ALWAYS existed... so what is it?

1)Everything is categorized as matter or mind... nothing else...so:

- 2) Something is eternal, as mentioned
- 3) That something must be either mind or matter
- 4) It cannot be matter, for matter is not eternal.
- 5) That eternal something must be "mind". There has been an eternal mind.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43it's fine, you see, because anyone reading this thread can clearly see you're just lying to try to evade the question... you have a very clear demand for evidence (again), and you have a flat refusal on the grounds that I won't even look at it. I do say you're lying on this point rather than just stupid, because you don't seem to be that stupid.

This paragraph is just a bunch of hot air and you know it.

I've presented material and you have responded. Now give me a clear reason why I should show it to you AGAIN, since if you truly wanted to see it again, you would go look at it yourself. That isn't a refusal on my part rather than yours.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43I wish I understood why you're so extraordinarily evasive on this point.

It's a simple question. What was the purpose the author had of writing this book? You say it was obvious. So what was it?

I'm not being evasive. I'm trying to avoid being redundant.

But fine.

He wrote the article on Evidence of the Existence of God because he wants to convey evidence of the existence of God to those who want to know why he believes in a God.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43As for where it comes from, seems like we went over that in terms of morality. I answered where morals come from, you didn't...

Oh no. I DID answer that question, I told you where I believe morals come from, same as you. I believe a higher power created us and those morals. You believe man and morals came from... somewhere.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010

05:58Quote:Also, here's another question:

"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience." (David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact. Is it? I wouldn't have phrased it that way.

Now who's being evasive?

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17It is by belief that a huge majority of christians blame earthquakes on human actions and a fatal car accident on your god's wrath. It ain't a choice. It's very real and biblical.

How is it Biblical to believe that God is involved in current affairs?

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 This is what I was getting at. They are as christian as you are. As mentioned earlier, from what's quiet apparent, the western versions of your religion is modernized and phoney. It's quiet amazing that this coincides with the fact that the west has been leading human progress for thousands of years.

Why don't you describe what you mean by "modernized and phony" so I don't have to leave this unreplied-to from puzzlement.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 When an atheist points to previous versions of christianity that used to be practiced, there is nothing but denial followed up with a "life used to be different then" excuse.

You can come that close to finding the right answer (i.e, "life used to be different then") but then stop yourself there. Yes, life used to be different then and the earth was considered to be flat and the center of the universe and humanity as a whole was a lot more idiotic level than it is now.

If life has been a whole lot different in the past, changing greatly (and you just admitted that) then why should religion be eternally unchanged to be valid?

Obviously, aspects of a belief system will have to change as man's way of life changes.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 It's the same deal with the concept of sacrifice. They used to sacrifice live humans at one point before moving on to valuable goods like food. Now it's down to "self-sacrifice" by giving up what are obviously natural human traits but mistaken for "lust." You get this all the time with sexuality...it's completely natural yet the religious see it as something to be treated with "caution" and control. That's "religious sacrifice thru the ages" for you in a nutshell.

Sexuality is natural. It exists to help man as a race live on. In that aspect, homosexuality isn't "natural".

And the idea of abstinence deals mostly with morals and civilization rather than religion.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 You here is in a similar situation though it leans more toward the condensed concept of some form of self-sacrifice to get faith-based rewards in the afterlife. "Make your body a living sacrifice" said the new-age pastor of the nondenominational megachurch a couple months ago. Well, quiet risky (I bet you think the 9/11 hijackers didn't get their reward for all their hard work). While I do think the reward that you feel "will be worth it" is quiet illusionary and not worth gambling your life away for, I am not interested in intruding into that area as it does not affect me...only you.

In other words, you think it is nonsensical to believe in any sort of afterlife whatsoever, and that no action in this life should be spent to affect actions or events in a possible afterlife.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 You jumped from "basic human attribute" to "god maybe real" which is not quiet surprising from religious people (who jump at gaps). I have heard this argument from many folks that use it in debates like this and I myself used this argument here when I used to be christian. I rejected this argument eventually because it gets easily untenable when more facts are brought in to the mix.

My question stands though - we have a basic human attribute of trying to understand what superior force put us where we are, and man did NOT just imagine it, because it is impossible to create an idea without prior influences. If we didn't come up with it by reasoning, as athiests claim, or by evidence of one (again claimed by atheists), then I challenge you to tell me where this idea came from.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 If any supernatural creatures did come down and gave humanity our moral compass, wouldn't the early religions be based around and worship these very same supernatural beings? Why then did pre-historic humans worship nature initially before moving on to spirits...

Man didn't initially worship nature, they did worship those "same supernatural beings".

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17 Whatever way you look at it, its obvious humanity is like a person in a dark room trying to make sense of who and what they are. Most definitely not a person in a dark room with a flashlight (courtesy of gods) and knowing where exactly to go. If that had been the case, there wouldn't have been so many variations in belief systems popping up. It's been a long process of understanding and we have come a long way and have a better idea of who we are than any ancient belief system could claim.

Um, if we were given a flashlight and told where to go, I'm pretty sure we wouldn't be able to get there on our own without disagreements on the best way to get there... hence the variations.

Mr.Mom wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 14:30 I completely disagree. I believe it is a choice. Everybody has free will to choose whether they want to be heterosexual or homosexual. That is just my opinion.

Do you have any hard proof to support your statement? Other than opinions of other people. I mean hard proof.

I agree with you as well - it's a choice, not something you are born with.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Mon, 26 Apr 2010 08:43:47 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41 How is it Biblical to believe that God is involved in current affairs?

kidding me right?

Rulers are put in place by your god. A king's heart is like a river and your god turns it whatever way he wills it. He did after all lead the murderous exodus gang cutting a wide swath of destruction and misery to ancient kingdoms. Plagues and all manner of natural catastrophes are direct actions of god. Let's not forget his omnipotence and omnipresence and how he always is watching every human on the planet 24/7 to get his notes down.

Frankly, I am shocked you asked this question. It's mind-boggling.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41 Why don't you describe what you mean by "modernized and phony" so I don't have to leave this unreplied-to from puzzlement.

Your previous question above shows how much christianity in america has moderized itself. In fact, I can say it is so far off from what was practiced in the past that what you have now is a dead modernized casual revision. I still cannot get over the fact that you asked a question like you did above.

I was told god is watching your everymove and directly and indirectly interferes whenever possible. I guess you are going to challenge that too using the version you were taught with huh?

Atleast the good thing with this is a chances of a Pat Robertson coming up is very slim.

Eitherway, I am not that surprised really. We know exactly why earthquakes happen and why volcanos erupt (not Mother Earth's fury). So it makes sense for a religion like yours (with an actively interfering god) to automatically refine itself and keep up with the times.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41 If life has been a whole lot different in the past, changing greatly (and you just admitted that) then why should religion be eternally unchanged to be valid? Obviously, aspects of a belief system will have to change as man's way of life changes.

No, you are not just changing your belief system...you are also changing how it is applied over and over that what you find "acceptable" now is so different from what was "acceptable" then. The doctrine has been rewritten and modified over and over with huge parts of it simply rejected and ignored to suit modern lifestyles (and this means ignoring many of the inconvenient rules not to mention the religious trying to choose which passages in the bible are symbolic and literal to avoid run-in's with commonsense).

Need an example? I was beaten all the time with the biblical justification that a parent who doesn't beat his child doesn't love him. With America and it's general anti-spanking mentality, no wonder that verse got thrown into the memoryhole. You probably wouldn't have heard of it anyway.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41 Sexuality is natural. It exists to help man as a race live on. In that aspect, homosexuality isn't "natural". And the idea of abstinence deals mostly with morals and civilization rather than religion.

Yeah, well sexuality is also highly pleasurable. That's natural too. It's no longer taboo to talk frankly about this stuff. So everyone has and should have the right to procreate as well as use their sexuality for recreational purposes in anyway possible.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41 In other words, you think it is nonsensical to believe in any sort of afterlife whatsoever, and that no action in this life should be spent to affect actions or events in a possible afterlife.

No, it is nonsensical and downright absurd to live a life (by making "sacrifices here and

there...narrow path, remember) when:

- 1) there is zero proof of your rewards let alone your god
- 2) your entire motivation to do so is based on a feeble faith-based belief system cooked up by a certain eastern-mediterranean sea people who's ancient ancestor is a mesopotamian man by the name of abraham.

yeah, I am not gonna knock myself out on that one.

We all know what faith is; desperate wish for *insert wish here* to be true. Now add in the other religions which billions of people live with confidently and you tell me which of these afterlife realities is real.

frankly, I can't imagine anyone wanting to "take action in this life" based on such flimsy wishes. It cannot even be considered a gamble...atleast you kinda had some idea of what you were gonna get when you gamble. This is worse than that.

But let me be clear and say I do not wish to intrude on the way you live your life...just saying why exactly I no longer live that way with the reasons above.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41My question stands though - we have a basic human attribute of trying to understand what superior force put us where we are,

We have always had a sense of curiosity as to the exact nature of our relationship to the cosmos. The idea of a "superior force" came later. Reverence toward nature seems to have preceeded everything else.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41Man didn't initially worship nature, they did worship those "same supernatural beings".

denial

you are saying humans got on the planet and went directly to worshipping the supernautral beings? That defies logic and also comes to denying history.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41and man did NOT just imagine it, because it is impossible to create an idea without prior influences.

Are you serious? Sometimes, I feel glad that a polytheistic religion such a hinduism is going strong today...just for existing as a living reminder as to past beliefs. The fact that animals get so much attention with a personal god for each is similar to the forces of nature given their own deity/spirit.

If you want to believe that a superhuman/supernatural race called the annunaki came to the earth from the planet nibiru and made humans here and hence the descriptions in the ancient sumerian beliefs...well go ahead.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41Um, if we were given a flashlight and told where to go,

I'm pretty sure we wouldn't be able to get there on our own without disagreements on the best way to get there... hence the variations.

I think you missed the point. If a certain being came down, made humans, and let em loose, there wouldn't be so many variations/disagreements in the first place. Wait...abraham's god did intentionally confuse them up at babel no?

And you have still to explain why your god choose to make the same humans with different racial flavors with various muscular structures, skeletal frame sizes, penis length/size variations, eye, hair, skin color variations and so on.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41it's a choice, not something you are born with.

doesn't have any bearing on consenting adults doing what they please.

edit: added blue stuff.

edit2: added stuff below:

Nukelt15 wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 01:02To paraphrase a quote that's become quite popular in the Science Fiction genre: anything we are not yet advanced enough to understand is indistinguishable from the supernatural.

Also, human beings are stubborn creatures. Because how we live our lives is shaped by our perceptions and beliefs, we will always tend to resist any outside influence that challenges those beliefs (even if we dedicate ourselves to challenging our beliefs, rarely will we seek to shake their foundations). The unspoken assumption is that if we can be wrong about one thing, we can be wrong about anything, and we most emphatically do not like being wrong.

Well said tbh. I will also add that we humans have a tendency to demand immediate solutions. We generally lack the patience and preseverance to think things thru.

imo, this is one of the reasons religions are popular. It provides a stop-gap in our journey of discovery. And this fear and curiosity of the unknown has made people come up with so many different guesses (especially when it comes to the topic of death). It's no surprise that the majority of the world's population is religious and only a few out of that number are, say...scientists (humans who are pushing the boundaries of discovery wihout any pre-made sentiments)...and that I believe takes intellectual strength; no wonder such people are few in number and despised by the masses.

Yet another reason is the most primordial of emotions; fear. This seems to have done more to propagate religion than any other human emotion. Fear after the 9/11 attacks caused church attendance to increase. Fear of war and the fear of the multiple earthquakes earthquakes and volcanic activity has caused a huge majority of people in predominantly christian nations to believe that they are in the "end-times."

Intersting thing about this what is going on religion-wise in my country India. With a majority of hindus and a bullish minority of christians, my cousin informs me that all the christian evangelists

over there (now these guys will make Pat Robertson look smart) are preaching fiercely about the end-times. He also informs me that the hindus are not in the slightest bit giving a shit about it! But then again the hindus have a much more superior and more enlightning belief system (though it has its problems).

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Wed, 28 Apr 2010 03:55:24 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43 Rulers are put in place by your god. A king's heart is like a river and your god turns it whatever way he wills it. He did afterall lead the murderous exodus gang cutting a wide swath of destruction and misery to ancient kingdoms. Plagues and all manner of natural catastrophes are direct actions of god. Let's not forget his ominopotence and omnipresence and how he always is watching every human on the planet 24/7 to get his notes down.

Yes, he did control many aspects of the events in the Old Testament. He isn't doing that now, though - not since Jesus' ascension. I don't see how the concept of "God isn't actively changing events today" is mindboggling.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43 I was told god is watching your everymove and directly and indirectly interferes whenever possible. I guess you are going to challenge that too using the version you were taught with huh?

Of course... as I stated above. I'm "mind-boggled" that people still believe this.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43 I was beaten all the time with the biblical justification that a parent who doesn't beat his child doesn't love him. With America and it's general anti-spanking mentality, no wonder that verse got thrown into the memoryhole. You probably wouldn't have heard of it anyway.

I'm wondering where the heck someone derived that silly rule from.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43 Yeah, well sexuality is also highly pleasurable. That's natural too. It's no longer taboo to talk frankly about this stuff. So everyone has and should have the right to procreate as well as use their sexuality for recreational purposes in anyway possible.

shrug

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43 1) there is zero proof of your rewards let alone your god

There's definitely plenty of evidence, that is undeniable. As for proof, that's obvious. There'd be a lot more Christians in there were proof.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43 2) your entire motivation to do so is based on a

feeble faith-based belief system cooked up by a certain eastern-mediterranean sea people who's ancient ancestor is a mesopotamian man by the name of abraham.

And an athiest's belief is based on an idea that the universe appeared by the means of some unknown force that cannot possibly be directed by an intelligent entity.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43frankly, I can't imagine anyone wanting to "take action in this life" based on such flimsy wishes. It cannot even be considered a gamble...atleast you kinda had some idea of what you were gonna get when you gamble. This is worse than that.

I'm surprised that you don't know, or remember, any details on what we're "gonna get". It seems far-fetched, but certainly not flimsy.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43But let me be clear and say I do not wish to intrude on the way you live your life...just saying why exactly I no longer live that way with the reasons above.

I'm willing to respect that, but the rest of your post fatally contradicts this.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43you are saying humans got on the planet and went directly to worshipping the supernatural beings? That defies logic and also comes to denying history.

I believe in the biblical account... science's version of older events is no more reliable than any other historical idea, even the Bible's.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41and man did NOT just imagine it, because it is impossible to create an idea without prior influences. Are you serious? Sometimes, I feel glad that a polytheistic religion such a hinduism is going strong today...just for existing as a living reminder as to past beliefs. The fact that animals get so much attention with a personal god for each is similar to the forces of nature given their own deity/spirit.

Did you understand what I meant?

Or do you really think man is able to imagine an idea without any prior exposure to experience or sense? In other words, out of thin air, no prompt beforehand?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43I think you missed the point. If a certain being came down, made humans, and let em loose, there wouldn't be so many variations/disagreements in the first place.

It's amazing what can happen in several millenia, eh?

Look how much the U.S.A.'s government, for example, has changed in only a few short centuries.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43And you have still to explain why your god choose to make the same humans with different racial flavors with various muscular structures, skeletal frame sizes, penis length/size variations, eye, hair, skin color variations and so on.

Why is this an issue? Is it a problem that there are variations?
Should we all have the same faces and looks as well?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41it's a choice, not something you are born with.
doesn't have any bearing on consenting adults doing what they please.

It does have bearing on the argument that homosexuality is genetic, though.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 28 Apr 2010 10:57:34 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43You use the plural... are you saying that a religion other than Christianity has had a positive benefit?

Certainly. There hve been plenty of belief systems that have revolved around the idea of peacefully coexisting with fellow human beings.
well, there goes judaism, christianity and islam.

i'd be very surprised if any religious society wouldn't have been a lot better off if it had a secular democracy instead.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43You started off by saying that the heaven/hell concept was better because otherwise, if there's no afterlife, you can indulge your own selfish desires, do whatever you like because it won't matter once you're dead. Selfishness, lack of care for others, that must be the problem.

Well, a couple of quick questions later and it turns out that your number one reason for preferring the Christian concept is selfishness. You act the way you do in life because you think there's something in it for you later on. That was the point.

So when you obey the laws of your country, you do it because you're selfish?

No, and that doesn't follow.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Pages and pages ago, I asked: what's the evidence supporting the biblical account reported in Genesis? I've asked this question again and again and again, and you still haven't supplied anything tangible. What little you did provide, not that any of it even answered the question, was very very easy to debunk.

Mmmkay. The Genesis accout deals with the origin of the universe, and so far, I'm the only one who provided a possible explanation of where it came from.

No, you didn't. I asked you again and again and again: where is the evidence that proves that the account given in Genesis is correct? YOU-HAVE-NOT-GIVEN-ANY.

I'll ask the question again, the one I asked several pages ago. What is the evidence that proves the version of events described in Genesis is correct?

Quote:3) This is the only choice left...

If there was a time where only NOTHING existed, there would be NOTHING still, because something cannot come out of nothing. Since something obviously does exist, it must have ALWAYS existed... so what is it?

This can only get you as far as deism. It's an absolutely enormous jump to get from that position to theism, i.e. that you know the details of what created the universe. Furthermore, it obviously raises the much bigger question of where the deity came from, and I've never heard a religious person give anything but the most feeble guesswork answer to that.

i also can't help but laugh at this

Quote:1) Everything is categorized as matter or mind... nothing else...so:

2) Something is eternal, as mentioned

3) That something must be either mind or matter

4) It cannot be matter, for matter is not eternal.

5) That eternal something must be "mind". There has been an eternal mind.

matter can't be eternal, and therefore we must be dealing with an eternal mind... lol.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43 I wish I understood why you're so extraordinarily evasive on this point.

It's a simple question. What was the purpose the author had of writing this book? You say it was obvious. So what was it?

I'm not being evasive. I'm trying to avoid being redundant.

But fine.

He wrote the article on Evidence of the Existence of God because he wants to convey evidence of the existence of God to those who want to know why he believes in a God.

...well done.

the problem is, the post right before that, you said "that's the problem, it can't be proven. if it could, everyone would be christians" (i guess you still haven't figured out that a lot of people have moral objections to your religion)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43 As for where it comes from, seems like we went over that in terms of morality. I answered where morals come from, you didn't...

Oh no. I DID answer that question, I told you where I believe morals come from, same as you. I believe a higher power created us and those morals.

How did this higher power come about, and where did it get its morals?

Furthermore, if you're talking about the judeo-christian god and if you're assuming that the bible is an accurate depiction of this god's views, is it not rather unsettling that his morals are so bad?

Quote:You believe man and morals came from... somewhere.

i said they develop over time.

the most primitive organism in the planet has a rough idea of how it should behave.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43 Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010

05:58Quote:Also, here's another question:

"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience."
(David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact. Is it? I wouldn't have phrased it that way.

Now who's being evasive?

I don't accept that this is a yes-no question.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17It is by belief that a huge majority of christians blame earthquakes on human actions and a fatal car accident on your god's wrath. It ain't a choice. It's very real and biblical.

How is it Biblical to believe that God is involved in current affairs?

I'm still waiting to hear your justification for your belief that he isn't.

Quote:If life has been a whole lot different in the past, changing greatly (and you just admitted that) then why should religion be eternally unchanged to be valid?

Obviously, aspects of a belief system will have to change as man's way of life changes. such as, for example, the idea that we should not force rape victims to marry their attackers.

where did we get the idea that we shouldn't do this anymore? it isn't repudiated in the bible. we decided it's not on.

Quote:Yes, he did control many aspects of the events in the Old Testament. He isn't doing that now, though - not since Jesus' ascension. I don't see how the concept of "God isn't actively changing events today" is mindboggling.

it's not mindboggling at all, i'd just like to know why you think it, when the majority of christians all over the world think the opposite.

Quote:Quote:2) your entire motivation to do so is based on a feeble faith-based belief system cooked up by a certain eastern-mediterranean sea people who's ancient ancestor is a mesopotamian man by the name of abraham.

And an athiest's belief is based on an idea that the universe appeared by the means of some unknown force that cannot possibly be directed by an intelligent entity.
no, it's not.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Wed, 28 Apr 2010 14:59:50 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Yes, he did control many aspects of the events in the Old Testament. He isn't doing that now, though - not since Jesus' ascension.

Hmmm...what about his angels then? Are they still around? It does seem he overworked his angels in the NewT. Everything from sending messages to helping peter(?) escape from prison and many instances more.

Or is this part of the tale rejected nowadays as well?

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55I don't see how the concept of "God isn't actively changing events today" is mindboggling.

Only strengthes my personal view that religions change over time.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43I was told god is watching your everymove and directly and indirectly interferes whenever possible. I guess you are going to challenge that too using the version you were taught with huh?

Of course... as I stated above. I'm "mind-boggled" that people still believe this.

What does your version of christianity say regarding where non-christians and casual christians will "go to" after death? What about satan?

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55There's definitely plenty of evidence, that is undeniable. As for proof, that's obvious. There'd be a lot more Christians in there were proof.

Trust me...I have looked at all this. They all amount to nothing but the same old clever but dishonest exploitation of gaps. If there was "undeniable evidence" and "obvious proof" I would have already beaten you to defending christianity in this thread (and in real life too).

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:432) your entire motivation to do so is based on a feeble faith-based belief system cooked up by a certain eastern-mediterranean sea people who's ancient ancestor is a mesopotamian man by the name of abraham.

And an athiest's belief is based on an idea that the universe appeared by the means of some unknown force that cannot possibly be directed by an intelligent entity.

- 1) it does not make any sense to use the word "belief" to anything atheist.
- 2) you ignored my original statement that goes to the root start of christianity.
- 3) you don't know what atheism really is.

Unlike people of "faiths," atheists don't come to their conclusions because they want to...it's because there's solid reasons to.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55I'm surprised that you don't know, or remember, any details on what we're "gonna get". It seems far-fetched, but certainly not flimsy.

What is far-fetched and not flimsy? Remember we are talking hell, heaven, eternal life and eternal torment, angels, weird angelic creatures like cerubims, bright light...all packed in a faith-based belief system that uses intellectual dishonesty, brainwashing of little children to gain future followers, and the extensive use of fear-based blackmail.

Seems pretty flimsy to me. I'll admit it's hard to forget this drivel.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43But let me be clear and say I do not wish to intrude on the way you live your life...just saying why exactly I no longer live that way with the reasons above.I'm willing to respect that, but the rest of your post fatally contradicts this.

I said that in all seriousness. I am not here to "get you." I feel like I am talking to the christian starbuzz from three years ago and am genuinely liking this convo. But let me be clear; I am debating you only:

1) to gauge if the religion I abandoned has any "new juice" left (so far you have, unsurprisingly, provided the same old "fresh-off-the-indoctrination-assembly-line" arguments all thread that I myself used years ago; you did include a shocking bit of modified/modernized dogma of a non-interfering god!)

2) to not prove you wrong but to see if my own rational conclusions are tenable still. My atheist life is fast approaching the 1-year mark and so far no one (real life included) has presented anything to make me rethink my rationale.

I'll walk off once I realize my #1 and #2 points above. I did this same exercise in real life with real christians and they only ended up helping me realize #1 and #2 faster. Don't see my response as a nuisance...rather see it as to my exact reason to why I don't believe in what you do. That's why I ask only basic questions...the same questions I have already asked myself.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55I believe in the biblical account... science's version of older events is no more reliable than any other historical idea, even the Bible's.

law of belief, i.e, whatever you believe becomes the truth.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Or do you really think man is able to imagine an idea without any prior exposure to experience or sense? In other words, out of thin air, no prompt beforehand?

answer this honestly in your own words; what made humanity start wearing clothing?

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55It's amazing what can happen in several millenia, eh?

Yes, it's certainly amazing...entire religions can be wiped out and replaced by other religions which then go on to become the next dominant guesswork of how we got here. Amazing indeed. And we all know the continents cannot have drifted apart to where they are in "several millenia." They would have needed more than eight millenia.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Why is this an issue? Is it a problem that there are variations?

Should we all have the same faces and looks as well?

You tell me why this is an issue. Why don't we all look the same?

The creationist account says that we are all descendants of Noah's sons after the flood killed off all other humans. So Noah's sons and their descendants expanded out over the earth and just after a "few millenia" they branched out into 5 or so main "unique" races with the strict and rigid aforementioned differences?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Wed, 28 Apr 2010 19:07:20 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57

Quote:3) This is the only choice left...

If there was a time where only NOTHING existed, there would be NOTHING still, because something cannot come out of nothing. Since something obviously does exist, it must have ALWAYS existed... so what is it?

This can only get you as far as deism. It's an absolutely enormous jump to get from that position to theism, i.e. that you know the details of what created the universe. Furthermore, it obviously raises the much bigger question of where the deity came from, and I've never heard a religious person give anything but the most feeble guesswork answer to that.

i also can't help but laugh at this

Strange thing is I keep noticing this trend all the time with christians during debates against atheists. I am referring to christians going from being christian to suddenly talking like a deist. Then leaping forward to christianity to provide an explanation!

Altzan have gone from being a unconditional christian endorsing the cosmic dictatorship two pages ago to being a possible deist hinting an ambiguous "supernatural force" was at the very beginning.

Last time I (or we) saw a christian do this in a debate was Spoiled_Danderjap from the Jelly debate with fredcow.

He too brought up the same point and went from a christian to a deist and I called him out on it because it made no sense whatsoever. This is what he said:

Spoiled-Danjerjap from Jelly forumsIf you honestly researched each religion you will find many similarities in their "stories". be it the Bible or any other religious documentation.

What is even more funnier is EVEN I said the same thing too when debating with chees soda 2 years ago when I was christian:

Starbuzz wrote on Fri, 06 June 2008 22:45What is intresting here is that humans have always had some sort of deity(s); from the most ancient tribe we know of to the most ancient civilization.

And now Altzan says this:

Altzan wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 21:41 we have a basic human attribute of trying to understand what superior force put us where we are, and man did NOT just imagine it, because it is impossible to create an idea without prior influences.

Sounds like 3 people who don't have all the facts straight and deny the history of the primitive foundations of human life.

Didn't I, Spoiled_Danderjap, and Altzan contend and believe that this "supernatural force" was the very judeo-christian god? The god of abraham? That is historically impossible.

If we three above had been truly honest with ourselves about a possible intelligent interference in our deep past, wouldn't it make pure sense for us to NOT embrace a religion that gained popularity only in the past 2000 years after a certain radical teacher was crucified? Before anyone cites some ancient prophecy fulfillment, it goes way before abraham's time too, no?

So we all would be better off if we studied the deep ancient religions, tried to gather more evidence and learn more about them, and then tried to work backward still to uncover whatever "force" was behind it all in the beginning. Right? That would be the sane thing to do. Why then does Altzan grab a recent religion and try to apply it to everything that came before it? I know; it's the childhood religious indoctrination kicking in. I can vouch for this.

And we don't even have to do all the above pointless exercise considering we have a far better understanding of the primitive nature of early humanity and life in general.

Anyway, I wonder what those early humans will say or do if you go up to them and ask them where they got their ideas from. I would be more worried to go near them savages anyway! I wouldn't want to be dragged off to the top of a pyramid and have my heart cut out or just eaten. So much for "basic human attribute" and "superior force."

Very laughable, indeed.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 29 Apr 2010 00:26:21 GMT

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speaking of fredcow...

<http://jelly-server.com/forums/index.php?/topic/14011-death-threats/>

he finds it easy to see the demented fanaticism in someone else's religion...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 05:26:08 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43You started off by saying that the heaven/hell concept was better because otherwise, if there's no afterlife, you can indulge your own selfish desires, do whatever you like because it won't matter once you're dead. Selfishness, lack of care for others, that must be the problem. Well, a couple of quick questions later and it turns out that your number one reason for preferring the Christian concept is selfishness. You act the way you do in life because you think there's something in it for you later on. That was the point. So when you obey the laws of your country, you do it because you're selfish? No, and that doesn't follow.

Why? You said I only obey because I want the future reward, because I'm selfish. (Not true, but why go there)
I highly doubt that you obey the laws of your country because you believe that they are right and just in every way.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Pages and pages ago, I asked: what's the evidence supporting the biblical account reported in Genesis? I've asked this question again and again and again, and you still haven't supplied anything tangible. What little you did provide, not that any of it even answered the question, was very very easy to debunk. Mmmkay. The Genesis account deals with the origin of the universe, and so far, I'm the only one who provided a possible explanation of where it came from. No, you didn't. I asked you again and again and again: where is the evidence that proves that the account given in Genesis is correct? YOU-HAVE-NOT-GIVEN-ANY.

And you haven't given a single piece of evidence of any other possibility, either.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57I'll ask the question again, the one I asked several pages ago. What is the evidence that proves the version of events described in Genesis is correct?

See, there's the problem again: you're asking for PROOF.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:3) This is the only choice left... If there was a time where only NOTHING existed, there would be NOTHING still, because something cannot come out of nothing. Since something obviously does exist, it must have ALWAYS existed... so what is it? This can only get you as far as deism. It's an absolutely enormous jump to get from that position to theism, i.e. that you know the details of what created the universe. Furthermore, it obviously raises the much bigger question of where the deity came from, and I've never heard a religious person give anything but the most feeble guesswork answer to that.

Assuming you think it's feeble that a deity could have always existed. Still, it's a step towards deism and away from atheism.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57i also can't help but laugh at this
Quote:1)Everything is categorized as matter or mind... nothing else...so:
2) Something is eternal, as mentioned

3) That something must be either mind or matter
4) It cannot be matter, for matter is not eternal.
5) That eternal something must be "mind". There has been an eternal mind.
matter can't be eternal, and therefore we must be dealing with an eternal mind... lol.

Go ahead and laugh... I'll just sit back and wait for a rebuttal.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43I wish I understood why you're so extraordinarily evasive on this point.
It's a simple question. What was the purpose the author had of writing this book? You say it was obvious. So what was it?
I'm not being evasive. I'm trying to avoid being redundant.
But fine.
He wrote the article on Evidence of the Existence of God because he wants to convey evidence of the existence of God to those who want to know why he believes in a God.
...well done.
the problem is, the post right before that, you said "that's the problem, it can't be proven. if it could, everyone would be christians"

How's that a problem? His motivation, as I just stated, is to share evidence. That's not the same as proof.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57(i guess you still haven't figured out that a lot of people have moral objections to your religion)

With you around, it's hard not to be constantly reminded.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Also, here's another question:
"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience."
(David Hume)
Do you agree with this statement?
I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.
Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact.
Is it? I wouldn't have phrased it that way.
Now who's being evasive?
I don't accept that this is a yes-no question.

Logically, it is... so I don't see why you're evading it, unless you just aren't sure.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 25 April 2010 20:17It is by belief that a huge majority of christians blame earthquakes on human actions and a fatal car accident on your god's wrath. It ain't a choice. It's very real and biblical.
How is it Biblical to believe that God is involved in current affairs?
I'm still waiting to hear your justification for your belief that he isn't.

It's hard for me to look at all of the evil occuring in today's world and know that some believe

God's active...

The Bible has enough evidence to support that, if God were active today, he would certainly be doing so.

Which he was, in the Old Testament.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Quote:2) your entire motivation to do so is based on a feeble faith-based belief system cooked up by a certain eastern-mediterranean sea people who's ancient ancestor is a mesopotamian man by the name of abraham.

And an athiest's belief is based on an idea that the universe appeared by the means of some unknown force that cannot possibly be directed by an intelligent entity.

no, it's not.

Which do you deny?

That the universe was created by an unknown force?

Or that there wasn't an intelligent mind behind it?

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Yes, he did control many aspects of the events in the Old Testament. He isn't doing that now, though - not since Jesus' ascension.

Hmmm...what about his angels then? Are they still around? It does seem he overworked his angels in the NewT. Everything from sending messages to helping peter(?) escape from prison and many instances more.

Or is this part of the tale rejected nowadays as well?

Yes, angels did those things in the NewT... they don't today, though.

Basically, they were helping establish the new church that Jesus had just put into place.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43I was told god is watching your everymove and directly and indirectly interferes whenever possible. I guess you are going to challenge that too using the version you were taught with huh?

Of course... as I stated above. I'm "mind-boggled" that people still believe this.

What does your version of christianity say regarding where non-christians and casual christians will "go to" after death? What about satan?

What does this have to do with God's modern activities?

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55There's definitely plenty of evidence, that is undeniable. As for proof, that's obvious. There'd be a lot more Christians in there were proof.

Trust me...I have looked at all this. They all amount to nothing but the same old clever but dishonest exploitation of gaps. If there was "undeniable evidence" and "obvious proof" I would have already beaten you to defending christianity in this thread (and in real life too).

But the thing is, I don't understand how anyone can think arguments for atheism are any more credible.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:591) it does not make any sense to use the word

"belief" to anything atheist.

Why not? Atheism isn't the absence of belief. It's a belief that no deity exists.

Only time I've ever seen the "atheism is not a belief" argument is when an atheist wanted to get out of giving any sort of evidence for their side of the coin. Why should I take anti-Christian bashings seriously when the atheists supposedly don't have their own belief to go to? That's like complaining that the boat you're on in the middle of the ocean is weak and crumbling, and won't last long, when there's no other floatation device available.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:592) you ignored my original statement that goes to the root start of christianity.

Yeah, because it didn't make sense. More like sarcasm.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:593) you don't know what atheism really is.

Define atheism, then?

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59What is far-fetched and not flimsy? Remember we are talking hell, heaven, eternal life and eternal torment, angels, weird angelic creatures like cherubims, bright light...all packed in a faith-based belief system that uses intellectual dishonesty, brainwashing of little children to gain future followers, and the extensive use of fear-based blackmail.

And look at all the far-fetched things we see in our world today - underwater life, solar flares, thousands upon thousands of different flora and fauna, planets and stars, and all the little details - atoms, cells, and organs.

The only difference between those and what you mentioned is that they're here today and are able to be examined and studied.

I doubt you'd have much success trying to convince older civilizations about the existence of atoms, cells, and such like...

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59I said that in all seriousness. I am not here to "get you." I feel like I am talking to the christian starbuzz from three years ago and am genuinely liking this convo.

I am, too. It's great to see both sides of the story and compare.

What's irritating are the atheists who imply that Christians are moronic simply because of their faith, and that their ideas are superior. It's quite pathetic. (And I'm not pointing this finger at anyone in particular, especially you.)

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:591) to gauge if the religion I abandoned has any "new juice" left

2) to not prove you wrong but to see if my own rational conclusions are tenable still.

1) Why should it have any "new juice"? apart from your saying that religions change.

2) I don't understand.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55I believe in the biblical account... science's version of older events is no more reliable than any other historical idea, even the Bible's.

law of belief, i.e, whatever you believe becomes the truth.

Or a law of time, ie the longer ago something occurred, the harder it is to prove its validity. And really, I don't see how science's ideas of what happened so long ago are any more credible.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59answer this honestly in your own words; what made humanity start wearing clothing?

This is another belief thing, you know...

It occurred when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and realized that they were naked. Apparently they thought this was a problem.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Strange thing is I keep noticing this trend all the time with christians during debates against atheists. I am referring to christians going from being christian to suddenly talking like a deist. Then leaping forward to christianity to provide an explanation!

You're reading too far into it. It's simply a step to indicate that there is a diety! Why is that so ridiculous?

I mean, to say there's a God cannot be logical unless you also imply there's a diety. Which is why I make that point. If I could unchallengingly fill the gap and prove my specific God exists, I would certainly have done so. But it's difficult when I only exist physically, whereas God is spiritual. It's just a logical view that shows the idea of a diety is very real, very possible, and very likely.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59So we all would be better off if we studied the deep ancient religions, tried to gather more evidence and learn more about them, and then tried to work backward still to uncover whatever "force" was behind it all in the beginning. Right? That would be the sane thing to do. Why then does Altzan grab a recent religion and try to apply it to everything that came before it? I know; its the childhood religious indoctrination kicking in. I can vouch for this.

Not really. It's looking at the facts. Such as that it isn't recent.

Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Anyway, I wonder what those early humans will say or do if you go upto them and ask them where they got their ideas from. I would be more worried to go near them savages anyway! I wouldn't want to be dragged off to the top of a pyramid and have my heart cut out or just eaten. So much for "basic human attribute" and "superior force." Very laughable, indeed.

Lol, even if all the early humans were like that, it stills vindicates the point of "basic human attribute" and "superior force".
Now THAT's laughable.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 11:29:01 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 Why? You said I only obey because I want the future reward, because I'm selfish. (Not true, but why go there)

I highly doubt that you obey the laws of your country because you believe that they are right and just in every way.

you forget how we got onto the topic.

you originally said it that if there's no afterlife, people can behave however they like because there won't be any consequences (a really odd thing to say... there are consequences for actions in this life too), and you implied that it's a selfish concept. well, what if there was an afterlife? you said this would mean that what you did in this life would have the purpose of getting you a good deal in the afterlife.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57 No, you didn't. I asked you again and again and again: where is the evidence that proves that the account given in Genesis is correct?

YOU-HAVE-NOT-GIVEN-ANY.

And you haven't given a single piece of evidence of any other possibility, either.

What am I asking you to believe, and what am I threatening you with the most horrific punishment imaginable if you don't believe?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57 Quote:3) This is the only choice left...

If there was a time where only NOTHING existed, there would be NOTHING still, because something cannot come out of nothing. Since something obviously does exist, it must have ALWAYS existed... so what is it?

This can only get you as far as deism. It's an absolutely enormous jump to get from that position to theism, i.e. that you know the details of what created the universe. Furthermore, it obviously raises the much bigger question of where the deity came from, and I've never heard a religious person give anything but the most feeble guesswork answer to that.

Assuming you think it's feeble that a diety could have always existed.

Still, it's a step towards deism and away from atheism.

you'll notice that there is a "t" and a "h" but not a "d" in atheism.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57 i also can't help but laugh at this

Quote:1) Everything is categorized as matter or mind... nothing else... so:

2) Something is eternal, as mentioned

3) That something must be either mind or matter

4) It cannot be matter, for matter is not eternal.

5) That eternal something must be "mind". There has been an eternal mind.

matter can't be eternal, and therefore we must be dealing with an eternal mind... lol.

Go ahead and laugh... I'll just sit back and wait for a rebuttal.

for starters, nobody's ever demonstrated that a mind exists or has ever existed without matter to back it up.

secondly, you say that not only could a mind be eternal, but that THIS MUST BE the case if what we're talking about is not matter. it's not X so therefore it's Y... it's a terrible way to reach a conclusion.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 24 April 2010 05:43Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 05:58Quote:Also, here's another question: "The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience." (David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact.

Is it? I wouldn't have phrased it that way.

Now who's being evasive?

I don't accept that this is a yes-no question.

Logically, it is... so I don't see why you're evading it, unless you just aren't sure.

I did not evade it.

Quote:It's hard for me to look at all of the evil occuring in today's world and know that some believe God's active...

well, religion is the cause of so much of it in the first place.

furthermore, given the cruel and merciless depiction of god in the bible, why would the amount of evil in the world suggest that he ISN'T still around? i've never understood people who say: there can't be a god because of how fucked up the world is. they must be reading a different bible to the one i read.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57Quote:Quote:2) your entire motivation to do so is based on a feeble faith-based belief system cooked up by a certain eastern-mediterranean sea people who's ancient ancestor is a mesopotamian man by the name of abraham.

And an athiest's belief is based on an idea that the universe appeared by the means of some unknown force that cannot possibly be directed by an intelligent entity.

no, it's not.

Which do you deny?

That the universe was created by an unknown force?

Or that there wasn't an intelligent mind behind it?

neither. i deny your definition of the belief of an atheist.

"And an athiest's belief is based on an idea that the universe appeared by the means of some unknown force that cannot possibly be directed by an intelligent entity."

an atheist need not claim that.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43I was told god is watching your everymove and directly and indirectly interferes whenever possible. I guess you are going to challenge that too using the version you were taught with huh?

Of course... as I stated above. I'm "mind-boggled" that people still believe this. What does your version of christianity say regarding where non-christians and casual christians will "go to" after death? What about satan?

What does this have to do with God's modern activities?
quite a lot. you say god isn't intervening in the modern world? i would think that subjecting humans to the worst punishment imaginable if they don't believe in him or disagree with his religion counts as intervening.

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Why not? Atheism isn't the absence of belief. It's a belief that no deity exists.
not necessarily.

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Our side of the coin?

You say there are unicorns who created the world, and they wrote this book with rules for us to follow, and if we don't believe it or don't like it, we'll be tortured in the dungeon forever. I say I don't find that very convincing, and the rules are pretty crappy.

I do not have the same burden of proof as you. I'm not claiming to know how the world was created - simply saying that your explanation looks nothing more than fiction. More importantly, I'm not telling you that my boss will punish you for ever if you don't believe in him or don't like him. The sides of the coin are by no means equal.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 19:29:28 GMT

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Why is it that every theist who debates the creation of the universe always assumes that whomever they're arguing with doesn't believe that anything existed before the universe? We don't know definitively what that something was because it cannot be observed; all of our observations of the universe and its history are presently based on electromagnetic radiation of one variety or another. However, the most fundamental laws of science state that something cannot come from nothing, and it has long been theorized that the universe we know came to exist only after the destruction of what came before it.

Matter and energy did not simply "snap" into existence... that would be closer to the Judeo-Christian position, actually. In the beginning, there was nothing- sound familiar? The entire creation story in genesis opens with God pulling himself out of non-existence. God then proceeds to pull everything else in the universe out of non-existence. And yet somehow a Christian has

difficulty accepting "something from nothing with no external influence." Where, exactly, was the external influence that allowed the creation of God? He gets a free pass, though, because he's omnipotent. Apparently that means that his omnipotence allowed him to create himself before he existed to do the creating. Circular logic- Q: How did God create himself? A: He is omnipotent. Q: How did God become omnipotent? A: By creating himself.

It is also interesting that, although the Judeo-Christian afterlife mythology allows for eternity in the future (eternal reward in Heaven, or eternal punishment in Hell), there can be no accepting an eternal past. Here's some food for thought: Humans don't like the idea of dying, so we have little trouble believing in an eternal afterlife... however, we cannot deny that we were not alive before birth, so we also have little trouble accepting that all of existence also has a firm, definite beginning. Do we echo the nature of existence, or does our perception of existence echo us?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [appshot](#) on Sat, 01 May 2010 18:41:05 GMT

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nobody knows how the universe started. People believe a supernatural or "godly" being made the universe, but then the underlying question is that how was that supernatural being created, and the chain would go on and on. Whilst, on the more scientific side, the same question can be applied endlessly, because something can't just come from nothing. The universe has to have been created by something, or someone. for example, Who/what created the universe? Who/what created the who/what that made the universe? and so on. So, currently nobody knows. Its funny, how atheists and theists both bullshit about this.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [HaTe](#) on Sat, 01 May 2010 19:01:14 GMT

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The universe has been here for as long as time has...which is forever. It's the things inside the universe that suddenly "appear" that are the real question. Sure there's all the scientific theory's out there on how a planet, a star, a galaxy, etc, etc. are formed, but there's also the religious part of it....Which for many is MUCH less complicated, and therefore many wish to choose to take the religious side of it. No one person or living creature suddenly started all of this obviously, as that would make NO sense. It can be a bit confusing, as the time line for time and the universe itself are infinitely extended, and therefore it's really hard to tell when exactly the first star, universe, or galaxy were created. In my opinion, we will never know, and neither will any living creature in the universe. It's a mystery that is basically impossible to get evidence to prove...so it cannot ever be solved.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sun, 02 May 2010 01:58:16 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29 you originally said it that if there's no afterlife, people can behave however they like because there won't be any consequences (a really odd thing to say... there are consequences for actions in this life too), and you implied that it's a selfish concept. well, what if there was an afterlife? you said this would mean that what you did in this life would have the purpose of getting you a good deal in the afterlife.

I didn't say that my motivation was "a good deal in the afterlife". I said that the cause of my actions will bring about that effect. Not my motivation.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29 What am I asking you to believe, and what am I threatening you with the most horrific punishment imaginable if you don't believe?

You're asking me to believe that there is no God (or my God, at least). Also, that Christianity is both false and evil.

On the list of requirements of what's needed to equal a belief, horrific punishment is not one of them.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29 Quote: Spoony wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 05:57 Quote: 3) This is the only choice left...

If there was a time where only NOTHING existed, there would be NOTHING still, because something cannot come out of nothing. Since something obviously does exist, it must have ALWAYS existed... so what is it?

This can only get you as far as deism. It's an absolutely enormous jump to get from that position to theism, i.e. that you know the details of what created the universe. Furthermore, it obviously raises the much bigger question of where the deity came from, and I've never heard a religious person give anything but the most feeble guesswork answer to that.

Assuming you think it's feeble that a diety could have always existed.

Still, it's a step towards deism and away from atheism.

you'll notice that there is a "t" and a "h" but not a "d" in atheism.

I noticed. There's also an "a" which represents "anti".

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matter can't be eternal, and therefore we must be dealing with an eternal mind... lol.

Go ahead and laugh... I'll just sit back and wait for a rebuttal.

for starters, nobody's ever demonstrated that a mind exists or has ever existed without matter to back it up.

secondly, you say that not only could a mind be eternal, but that THIS MUST BE the case if what we're talking about is not matter. it's not X so therefore it's Y... it's a terrible way to reach a conclusion.

1) Nobody's ever demonstrated modern-day miracles or other Old Testament events either.

Absence of evidence on that part isn't evidence of absence.

2) Normally, I'd agree on that algebraic view... but not until you can explain how there can be something that isn't X or Y... mind or matter.

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"The creative power of the mind amounts to nothing more than the faculty of combining, transposing, augmenting, and diminishing the materials afforded to us by sense and experience." (David Hume)

Do you agree with this statement?

I can see why he said it, and I can see why a religious person would jump on it.

Ok. But do you think he is right, or wrong? It's not an opinion he's stating, it's a true or false fact.

Is it? I wouldn't have phrased it that way.

Now who's being evasive?

I don't accept that this is a yes-no question.

Logically, it is... so I don't see why you're evading it, unless you just aren't sure.

I did not evade it.

Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29given the cruel and merciless depiction of god in the bible, why would the amount of evil in the world suggest that he ISN'T still around? i've never understood people who say: there can't be a god because of how fucked up the world is. they must be reading a different bible to the one i read.

Given how many Biblical quotes you've provided, you should have a pretty decent idea of what "sets God off", so to speak... and you've seen examples of what he does in response, in the OT... so, why isn't he responding much the same today?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43I was told god is watching your everymove and directly and indirectly interferes whenever possible. I guess you are going to challenge that too using the version you were taught with huh?

Of course... as I stated above. I'm "mind-boggled" that people still believe this.

What does your version of christianity say regarding where non-christians and casual christians will "go to" after death? What about satan?

What does this have to do with God's modern activities?

quite a lot. you say god isn't intervening in the modern world? i would think that subjecting humans to the worst punishment imaginable if they don't believe in him or disagree with his religion counts as intervening.

I don't see how an act of the afterlife counts as "modern-time".

Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:591) it does not make any sense to use the word "belief" to anything atheist.

Why not? Atheism isn't the absence of belief. It's a belief that no deity exists. not necessarily.

Go on.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29 You say there are unicorns who created the world, and they wrote this book with rules for us to follow, and if we don't believe it or don't like it, we'll be tortured in the dungeon forever. I say I don't find that very convincing, and the rules are pretty crappy.

I do not have the same burden of proof as you. I'm not claiming to know how the world was created - simply saying that your explanation looks nothing more than fiction. More importantly, I'm not telling you that my boss will punish you for ever if you don't believe in him or don't like him. The sides of the coin are by no means equal.

That's exactly my point.

No matter how much you disprove Christianity (or try to), it won't make a difference if you don't have an alternative that you believe in.

Nukelt15 wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 14:29 Matter and energy did not simply "snap" into existence... that would be closer to the Judeo-Christian position, actually. In the beginning, there was nothing- sound familiar? The entire creation story in genesis opens with God pulling himself out of non-existence. God then proceeds to pull everything else in the universe out of non-existence. And yet somehow a Christian has difficulty accepting "something from nothing with no external influence." Where, exactly, was the external influence that allowed the creation of God? He gets a free pass, though, because he's omnipotent. Apparently that means that his omnipotence allowed him to create himself before he existed to do the creating. Circular logic- Q: How did God create himself? A: He is omnipotent. Q: How did God become omnipotent? A: By creating himself.

God didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal, while the universe is not. Genesis doesn't open with God "creating himself", it opens with him creating Earth.

HaTe wrote on Sat, 01 May 2010 14:01 The universe has been here for as long as time has...which is forever. It's the things inside the universe that suddenly "appear" that are the real question. Sure there's all the scientific theory's out there on how a planet, a star, a galaxy, etc, etc. are formed, but there's also the religious part of it....Which for many is MUCH less complicated, and therefore many wish to choose to take the religious side of it. No one person or living creature suddenly started all of this obviously, as that would make NO sense. It can be a bit confusing, as the time line for time and the universe itself are infinitely extended, and therefore it's really hard to tell when exactly the first star, universe, or galaxy were created. In my opinion, we will never know, and neither will any living creature in the universe. It's a mystery that is basically impossible to get evidence to prove...so it cannot ever be solved.

Really? Most of the scientific community has accepted that the universe is not eternal.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sun, 02 May 2010 05:19:58 GMT

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AltzanGod didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal, while the universe is not. Genesis doesn't open with God "creating himself", it opens with him creating Earth.

That really depends on the translation; I know that some of them begin with God's self-creation... however, I'm not going to push this one any further. The only copy of the Bible I've got on hand shares your version of the text, so I find myself without a reference to back up my words with. I seem to have suffered an acute case of "failed to find evidence before opening big mouth." My apologies.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 02 May 2010 13:00:32 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 11:58I didn't say that my motivation was "a good deal in the afterlife". I said that the cause of my actions will bring about that effect. Not my motivation.

Altzan: People will forget you, your actions will have been for nothing.

Spoony: You don't think anything in your life is worthwhile?

Altzan: Of course I do. What I do in life determines where I go in death.

this implies that the only way an action could be worthwhile is if there is an afterlife, and the only concept of 'worthwhile' is to your own benefit.

question. let's say there isn't an afterlife. if someone found a cure for cancer, would that be worthwhile? would this person's action have been for nothing?

another question. let's say there is an afterlife, and that the christian guess at it is correct. and let's say the scientist was not a christian. do you think he's still going to hell?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29What am I asking you to believe, and what am I threatening you with the most horrific punishment imaginable if you don't believe?

You're asking me to believe that there is no God (or my God, at least). Also, that Christianity is both false and evil.

i don't give a shit whether you believe it. i thought i had made that clear. the only reason i am criticising religion is because it's trying to take over the world.

on the day religions do not have the unbelievable amount of undemocratic power they have over humanity, i will probably not think it worthwhile to criticise it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29you'll notice that there is a "t" and a "h" but not a "d" in atheism.

I noticed. There's also an "a" which represents "anti".

or "non", but that's not the point. it's theism that is being rejected, not deism.

almost no atheists say that they know there isn't a god. they generally say nobody's come up with any decent evidence, or even a convincing line of argument, that there is one. but that's not even the point. this isn't the "opposite" position to what the religious say. religious people don't just say "i think there probably is a god" - they go much further than that. they say they know which one, they know what he approves and disapproves of in us, they know he watches everything we do, hears our prayers and may act on them, and will judge us once we die.

quite a lot more is being claimed here than "i don't find this book of yours very convincing, sorry"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29for starters, nobody's ever demonstrated that a mind exists or has ever existed without matter to back it up.
secondly, you say that not only could a mind be eternal, but that THIS MUST BE the case if what we're talking about is not matter. it's not X so therefore it's Y... it's a terrible way to reach a conclusion.

1) Nobody's ever demonstrated modern-day miracles or other Old Testament events either.
You said a mouthful!

Quote:Absence of evidence on that part isn't evidence of absence.
Indeed it isn't, but evidence of absence is not necessary to reject a claim. Absence of evidence is quite often enough.

Quote:2) Normally, I'd agree on that algebraic view... but not until you can explain how there can be something that isn't X or Y... mind or matter.
i've got a better idea, how about you prove to me that there has ever been a mind that did not have matter to it?

Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.
When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29given the cruel and merciless depiction of god in the bible, why would the amount of evil in the world suggest that he ISN'T still around? i've never understood people who say: there can't be a god because of how fucked up the world is. they must be reading a different bible to the one i read.

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I don't see how an act of the afterlife counts as "modern-time".
Oh, really?

So God is doing absolutely nothing about the murderers etc in the world, then?

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Why not? Atheism isn't the absence of belief. It's a belief that no deity exists.
not necessarily.

Go on.
see above.

an atheist does not need to say "there's no god", and very few atheists do (unless they want to save time).

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That's exactly my point.

No matter how much you disprove Christianity (or try to), it won't make a difference if you don't have an alternative that you believe in.

Alternative to what, exactly?

I can give you better alternatives to most parts of Christianity.

The rape rule, for example. I think a better alternative is to lock the rapist up and offer some kind of counseling to the victim if she needs it. Either way she shouldn't ever have to look at him again.

The doctrine of forgiveness, the idea that your sins can be forgiven if you believe something (seriously, what the fuck? how can something so ridiculous be so widespread?). Better alternative. You do something wrong? Apologise to the people you affected, do what you can to rectify the situation, and resolve to behave better next time.

Any other alternatives you want?

Quote:God didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal
How do you know that?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [HaTe](#) on Sun, 02 May 2010 14:34:28 GMT

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AltzanReally? Most of the scientific community has accepted that the universe is not eternal. WikipediaThe Universe comprises everything perceived to exist physically, the entirety of space and time, and all forms of matter and energy. The term Universe may be used in slightly different contextual senses, denoting such concepts as the cosmos, the world, or Nature. Wikipedia even disagrees, it's the entirety of space and time, not an existence outside of time or space. Sempiternity clearly is, as far as i can see, clearly the more logical theory, over an "eternal universe."

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Mon, 03 May 2010 20:44:09 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26Yes, angels did those things in the NewT... they don't today, though.

Basically, they were helping establish the new church that Jesus had just put into place.

I don't want to dwell on this issue but the only reason I brought it up is to show the poorly-made excuses christians bring up all the time to justify why supernatural interference is not occurring anymore.

here's a more plausible answer: the people who wrote these stories are no longer around to write them.

This is actually a huge reason as to why I don't believe. The world seems to be more pessimistic in it's cyclic nature than show any order as suggested by religions. Perhaps we can talk more about this?

Altzan wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 04:55Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:43What does your version of christianity say regarding where non-christians and casual christians will "go to" after death? What about satan?

What does this have to do with God's modern activities?

I asked out of curiosity. What is your denominations take on it? The entire christian community is awfully divided over these basic questions.

There used to be a time in the western world when satan was the supreme devil who had strings attached to all parts of the body. When you got sexually aroused, it was satan pulling the strings to "make you sin." This is the view among christians in eastern countries.

Any perverse thoughts were because satan was "putting them into you" and it was just 2 months ago that my dad claimed that I became atheist because "satan planted the doubts." What's pathetic is he truly believes it.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 I don't understand how anyone can think arguments for atheism are any more credible because I have been born and brought up in a christian household and can't think things through scientifically in a unbiased way.

Fixed. You can't cut through the childhood indoctrination overnight.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59 2) you ignored my original statement that goes to the root start of christianity.

Yeah, because it didn't make sense. More like sarcasm.

wow...so many christians don't know this. All jews, christians, and muslims trace the root of their religions to the Patriach Abraham.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:59 What is far-fetched and not flimsy? Remember we are talking hell, heaven, eternal life and eternal torment, angels, weird angelic creatures like cerubims, bright light...all packed in a faith-based belief system that uses intellectual dishonesty, brainwashing of little children to gain future followers, and the extensive use of fear-based blackmail.

And look at all the far-fetched things we see in our world today - underwater life, solar flares, thousands upon thousands of different flora and fauna, planets and stars, and all the little details - atoms, cells, and organs.

The only difference between those and what you mentioned is that they're here today and are able to be examined and studied.

There's a huge difference between human discoveries and the horror fantasies in a religious book. And I have to remind you that the bible is not the only religious book in the world thats considered the "holy scriptures."

Also, let's see all the far-fetched things you reject from other religions? Or do you imply that reincarnation is true but we aren't in a position to have "examined and studied" it?

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 I doubt you'd have much success trying to convince older civilizations about the existence of atoms, cells, and such like...

I can also see how difficult it will be for them to believe that airplanes fly because of the manipulation of the laws of physics (aerodynamics). They would be more inclined to believe it flies on magic fairy dust.

So don't you see then how silly it is to rely on any product coming out of older tribes and civilizations? How risky it is to especially rely on on their old books for setting a standard on morality and foundation for social law?

Also didn't the ancients' ignorance of the world around them increased the chances of them making up stuff (they did this too) to explain away the causes?

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 I am, too. It's great to see both sides of the story and compare.

good good...cheers

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 What's irritating are the atheists who imply that Christians are moronic simply because of their faith, and that their ideas are superior. It's quite pathetic.

If christians kept their beliefs to themselves and stopped trying to bring their religion into politics to enforce it on the whole nation aiming for a theocracy style government, then they wouldn't have earned such a bad rep from pretty much everybody. They are only hurting themselves. Trust me, they are trying to do this everywhere and not just in America.

jesus instructed you folks to carry his message to the whole world. And he specifically instructed you folks that if his message is rejected by any people, then shake the dust off the feet when you leave them:

Luke 10:10-12 10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

Simple translation: if anyone rejects my message, show them the finger and go preach elsewhere. I will deal with them later.

So when did his message become, "if a people reject me, go crush them and break their backs, and infiltrate their political processess, make sure they teach about me in school and pray to me in public and establish a christian theocratic state where everyone obeys me and let those who oppose me be systematically oppressed"?

^ There you go...that's the religious movement of America today in a nutshell.

I don't know what is pathetic; atheists wanting fair secular laws for everybody or christians wanting to enforce their outdated tribal laws on everyone else. So what were you saying again?

Note: There are very few christians (both Indians and Americans) I know who are truly christ-like. It's very sad that they are outnumbered 1 to 200.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 And really, I don't see how science's ideas of what happened so long ago are any more credible because I have been born and brought up in a christian household and can't think things through scientifically in a unbiased way.

Fixed. I am gonna have to say the same thing again: you can't cut through the childhood indoctrination overnight. It took me three whole years to see through the false worldview I was brought up to see. I remember the times when I would angrily turn off the TV at any Discovery channel documentaries. They make more sense now since the childhood christian indoctrination no longer works on me.

You see where I am going with this? That's what extremely unfair and downright evil about religious doctrination. They grab our mind before we can come to our own conclusion later in life. In other words, you, my friend Altzan, have not thought things through with your own intellectual sovereignty. It was imposed by your parents like it were for me and you are merely repeating what they put into you.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 28 April 2010 09:591) to gauge if the religion I abandoned has any "new juice" left

2) to not prove you wrong but to see if my own rational conclusions are tenable still.1) Why should it have any "new juice"? apart from your saying that religions change.

2) I don't understand.

1)Well, I did say how it has revised itself and made itself more modern to sound less ridiculous! I was truly surprised when you said god doesn't interfere anymore.

2) I was looking to see if anyone can present anything convincing that will make me rethink anything. So far here as well irl, nothing convincing is being said to their credit.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26This is another belief thing, you know...

It occurred when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and realized that they were naked. Apparently they thought this was a problem.

I applaud you for being honest and crediting the "belief thing." I used to believe this too though now eventually, personally, the thought of humans wearing clothing due to environmental conditions and social development in groups made more sense.

There are millions of people in Africa and the the pacific islands who are either semi-nude or nude due to their cultural traditions and hot/humid environmental conditions.

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26You're reading too far into it. It's simply a step to indicate that there is a diety! Why is that so ridiculous?

It wouldn't be ridiculous if you left it at that. You also go on to imply that this deity is the judeo-christian god of abraham!

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26Not really. It's looking at the facts. Such as that it isn't recent.

You can clarify this bit for me; is this the seniority law here?

Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26Lol, even if all the early humans were like that, it stills vindicates the point of "basic human attribute" and "superior force".
Now THAT's laughable.

You lost me...completely. Help me out.

appshot wrote on Sat, 01 May 2010 13:41 nobody knows how the universe started. People believe a supernatural or "godly" being made the universe, but then the underlying question is that how was that supernatural being created, and the chain would go on and on. Whilst, on the more scientific side, the same question can be applied endlessly, because something can't just come from nothing. The universe has to have been created by something, or someone. for example, Who/what created the universe? Who/what created the who/what that made the universe? and so on. So, currently nobody knows. Its funny, how atheists and theists both bullshit about this.

Everything you said were reasonable until you added in the last sentence.

The only bunch of people in the entire world that don't accept that "they don't know everything" are the religious group. They know exactly what was before the universe (we heard someone here say "eternal mind" and so sure of it!), they know what god/gods were behind it, they know which set of religious texts are the right one and which of them are wrong (!), and they know the A thru Z of everything.

Tell me honestly if you think atheists fall into this group? Now tell me who is bullshitting?

Nowhere do atheists claim that they know everything. I do know that religious people always falsly accuse science of doing just that.

I mentioned earlier that humans always want quick instant answers and this explains religions' popularity. You get this even with religious scientists. Religion is comforting to many and acts like a stop gap.

It doesn't work that way with science. It moves steadily (despite dubious attempts at sabotage by religions) to uncover more and more about our place in the universe so future generations of humans can continue the work in our path of discovery. Science is not for those who want a quick answer. An open unbiased unstained outlook is needed;

For example, challenge a scientist and he will say, "let me research it and get back to you." The funny thing is how the religious crowd react to it gleefully; they jump and point, "aha he doesn't know - praise the lord!" like as if they know! At least with the scientist you know he will get back to you with something that doesn't sound downright ridiculous.

Richard Dawkins said something a long time ago that pretty much sums up your average atheist:

Quote:My mind is open to the most wonderful range of future possibilities, which I cannot even dream about, nor can you, nor can anybody else. What I am skeptical about is the idea that whatever wonderful revelation does come in the science of the future, it will turn out to be one of the particular historical religions that people happen to have dreamed up...If there is a god, it's going to be a whole lot bigger and a whole lot more incomprehensible than anything that any theologian of any religion has ever proposed.

The inquiry about our existence is like a massive but strange multiple choice question. We have a ton of choices we have dealt with already. Some we have crossed out already as being invalid and downright wrong (like religions). And there's a ton of choices hidden from us which we have

made it our quest (through science) to find. It will be very laughable indeed if someone claims that in the future, when we do uncover those hidden choices, one of them is going to be, "Yahweh" or for that matter, "Marduk" or "Osiris" or "Annunaki" because these are, no matter how hard you look at it, come down to being products of specific cultural groups!

Anyway, I was away for the last couple days because I was invited to a wedding. It was for one of my hindu friends and I had a really fun time at her wedding. I got to see for the first time the various hindu ceremonial marriage rituals in a very nice natural open setting. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to appreciate the lifestyles and beliefs of people from a very different religion.

Now logging back into renforums and reading these christian arguments makes me feel like I am in some twilight zone away from reality lol.

edit: added orangey stuff.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Wed, 05 May 2010 03:26:22 GMT

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Nukelt15 wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 00:19AltzanGod didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal, while the universe is not.

Genesis doesn't open with God "creating himself", it opens with him creating Earth.

That really depends on the translation; I know that some of them begin with God's self-creation... however, I'm not going to push this one any further. The only copy of the Bible I've got on hand shares your version of the text, so I find myself without a reference to back up my words with. I seem to have suffered an acute case of "failed to find evidence before opening big mouth." My apologies.

Yeah, there are a lot of translations... I'd like to think that King James Version is the one most true to the original translation.

No need to apologize, by the way.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00this implies that the only way an action could be worthwhile is if there is an afterlife, and the only concept of 'worthwhile' is to your own benefit.

The bold is where you lost me on that one.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00question. let's say there isn't an afterlife. if someone found a cure for cancer, would that be worthwhile? would this person's action have been for nothing?

Timeframe is the key. For the time following his discovery, it would be worthwhile. It would ease suffering and death for many people.

Zoom ahead to when Earth and its inhabitants no longer exist... doesn't seem so worthwhile now.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00another question. let's say there is an afterlife, and that the christian guess at it is correct. and let's say the scientist was not a christian. do you think he's still going to hell?

Not enough detail to answer that, all you've said is one thing he/she did.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00i don't give a shit whether you believe it. i thought i had made that clear. the only reason i am criticising religion is because it's trying to take over the world.

That's interesting, seeing as how I'm not a part of that movement in any regard...

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00almost no atheists say that they know there isn't a god. they generally say nobody's come up with any decent evidence, or even a convincing line of argument, that there is one.

That's not atheism, that's skepticism.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:2) Normally, I'd agree on that algebraic view... but not until you can explain how there can be something that isn't X or Y... mind or matter. i've got a better idea, how about you prove to me that there has ever been a mind that did not have matter to it?

That's only a better idea because now I'm the one answering and not you, eh?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it. When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29given the cruel and merciless depiction of god in the bible, why would the amount of evil in the world suggest that he ISN'T still around? i've never understood people who say: there can't be a god because of how fucked up the world is. they must be reading a different bible to the one i read. Given how many Biblical quotes you've provided, you should have a pretty decent idea of what "sets God off", so to speak... and you've seen examples of what he does in response, in the OT... so, why isn't he responding much the same today? because it's fiction

Congrats on your excellent dodge attempt.
If you think it's fiction, you wouldn't have brought it up in the first place.
Only when it's convenient for you, I see...

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29

quite a lot. you say god isn't intervening in the modern world? i would think that subjecting humans to the worst punishment imaginable if they don't believe in him or disagree with his religion counts as intervening.

I don't see how an act of the afterlife counts as "modern-time".

Oh, really?

So God is doing absolutely nothing about the murderers etc in the world, then?

Elaborate on that, please. I don't quite understand what you're asking.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00I can give you better alternatives to most parts of Christianity.

The rape rule, for example. I think a better alternative is to lock the rapist up and offer some kind of counseling to the victim if she needs it. Either way she shouldn't ever have to look at him again. The doctrine of forgiveness, the idea that your sins can be forgiven if you believe something (seriously, what the fuck? how can something so ridiculous be so widespread?). Better alternative. You do something wrong? Apologise to the people you affected, do what you can to rectify the situation, and resolve to behave better next time.

Any other alternatives you want?

This is still tearing at my boat, so to speak... as if you were giving your opinion on how you would have built it.

Doesn't help much.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:God didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal

How do you know that?

I never said I 'knew' it. Belief, remember?

I believe the Bible, and the Bible says God was already there 'in the Beginning'.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26Yes, angels did those things in the NewT... they don't today, though.

Basically, they were helping establish the new church that Jesus had just put into place.

I don't want to dwell on this issue but the only reason I brought it up is to show the poorly-made excuses christians bring up all the time to justify why supernatural interference is not occurring anymore.

here's a more plausible answer: the people who wrote these stories are no longer around to write them.

This is actually a huge reason as to why I don't believe. The world seems to be more pessimistic in it's cyclic nature than show any order as suggested by religions. Perhaps we can talk more about this?

I'm sorry, I cannot understand anything you're saying here.

I'm willing to talk about it, I guess.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44I asked out of curiosity. What is your denominations take on it? The entire christian community is awfully divided over these basic questions.

Well, we believe that there is a hell, and that non-christians and suchlike will dwell there. And what about Satan, now?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 There used to be a time in the western world when satan was the supreme devil who had strings attached to all parts of the body. When you got sexually aroused, it was satan pulling the strings to "make you sin." This is the view among christians in eastern countries.

Any perverse thoughts were because satan was "putting them into you" and it was just 2 months ago that my dad claimed that I became atheist because "satan planted the doubts." What's pathetic is he truly believes it.

That's a view I haven't heard in awhile. I certainly don't agree with it.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26 I don't understand how anyone can think arguments for atheism are any more credible because I have been born and brought up in a christian household and can't think things through scientifically in a unbiased way.

Fixed. You can't cut through the childhood indoctrination overnight.

That's irrelevant, you know. You can't just blame their argument's lack of support on an indoctrination you know little about.

I was brought under a different church than you, and you have certainly surprised me with some of the things you say your church tried to teach you.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 wow...so many christians don't know this. All jews, christians, and muslims trace the root of their religions to the Patriach Abraham.

I'd trace it to Adam and Eve, and their creator, myself.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 There's a huge difference between human discoveries and the horror fantasies in a religious book.

How? Take both and show them to a people who are ignorant to both's origins, and they'll very likely think both are just as implausible.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 do you imply that reincarnation is true but we aren't in a position to have "examined and studied" it?

I imply that, while I don't believe in it, I don't have concrete proof that it is false.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 I can also see how difficult it will be for them to believe that airplanes fly because of the manipulation of the laws of physics (aerodynamics). They would be more inclined to believe it flies on magic fairy dust.

There you go.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 So don't you see then how silly it is to rely on any product coming out of older tribes and civilizations? How risky it is to especially rely on on their old

books for setting a standard on morality and foundation for social law?

No, not especially. They've lived with the signs and the events for a long time, and their judgement can't just be hastily applied to a made-up belief.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 If christians kept their beliefs to themselves and stopped trying to bring their religion into politics to enforce it on the whole nation aiming for a theocracy style government, then they wouldn't have earned such a bad rep from pretty much everybody. They are only hurting themselves. Trust me, they are trying to do this everywhere and not just in America.

I wasn't aware Americans were trying, all I see is atheists trying to remove anything religious from American culture.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 Jesus instructed you folks to carry his message to the whole world. And he specifically instructed you folks that if his message is rejected by any people, then shake the dust off the feet when you leave them:

Luke 10:10-12 10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

Simple translation: if anyone rejects my message, show them the finger and go preach elsewhere. I will deal with them later.

So when did his message become, "if a people reject me, go crush them and break their backs, and infiltrate their political processess, make sure they teach about me in school and pray to me in public and establish a christian theocratic state where everyone obeys me and let those who oppose me be systematically oppressed"?

I am with you on this one, believe me. Forcing a viewpoint on someone is wrong, any viewpoint.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 I don't know what is pathetic; atheists wanting fair secular laws for everybody or christians wanting to enforce their outdated tribal laws on everyone else. So what were you saying again?

Hey, this is hardly my original statement. I said atheists who automatically look down on religious people for that reason alone are pathetic. NOT those who want laws or whatnot. And I already stated my opinion on those 'enforcing Christians'.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 You see where I am going with this? That's what extremely unfair and downright evil about religious doctination. They grab our mind before we can come to our own conclusion later in life. In other words, you, my friend Altzan, have not thought things through with your own intellectual sovereignty. It was imposed by your parents like it were for me and you are merely repeating what they put into you.

You're assuming this, actually. You don't know for a fact what I've learned from my parents and what I learned for myself. And I'd appreciate you not implying I learned everything religious from my parents alone.

I'm not denying they've influenced my viewpoint. It's the degree you imply that irks me.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26You're reading too far into it. It's simply a step to indicate that there is a diety! Why is that so ridiculous? It wouldn't be ridiculous if you left it at that. You also go on to imply that this deity is the judeo-christian god of abraham!

I said that's what I believe, based on it. That doesn't undo my statements about a diety, just because I have my belief on who it is.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26Lol, even if all the early humans were like that, it still vindicates the point of "basic human attribute" and "superior force".

Now THAT's laughable.

You lost me...completely. Help me out.

You think sacrifice and such based on religion is laughable; I merely pointed out that it still plays on the aspect of man's inherently religious nature.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Anyway, I was away for the last couple days because I was invited to a wedding. It was for one of my hindu friends and I had a really fun time at her wedding. I got to see for the first time the various hindu ceremonial marriage rituals in a very nice natural open setting. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to appreciate the lifestyles and beliefs of people from a very different religion.

That's pretty cool, hope you had fun.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Now logging back into renforums and reading these christian arguments makes me feel like I am in some twilight zone away from reality lol.

I know how you feel

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 05 May 2010 13:16:16 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 04:26Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00this implies that the only way an action could be worthwhile is if there is an afterlife, and the only concept of 'worthwhile' is to your own benefit.

The bold is where you lost me on that one.
i can't imagine why.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00question. let's say there isn't an afterlife. if someone found a cure for cancer, would that be worthwhile? would this person's action have been for nothing?

Timeframe is the key. For the time following his discovery, it would be worthwhile. It would ease suffering and death for many people.

Zoom ahead to when Earth and its inhabitants no longer exist... doesn't seem so worthwhile now. then here's another critique of the religion that's been inflicted on you... it's made you not appreciate and value everything that's actually real.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00another question. let's say there is an afterlife, and that the christian guess at it is correct. and let's say the scientist was not a christian. do you think he's still going to hell?

Not enough detail to answer that, all you've said is one thing he/she did.
the general question is pretty straightforward. if someone is not a christian, just can't bring themselves to believe any of this crap, is there any good work that could be done that could get them out of hell? cure all disease, end world hunger, that sort of thing?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00i don't give a shit whether you believe it. i thought i had made that clear. the only reason i am criticising religion is because it's trying to take over the world.

That's interesting, seeing as how I'm not a part of that movement in any regard...
k. so if i proposed that all the undeserved, undemocratic privileges currently enjoyed by religion are removed, you'd be on my side?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00almost no atheists say that they know there isn't a god. they generally say nobody's come up with any decent evidence, or even a convincing line of argument, that there is one.

That's not atheism, that's skepticism.
how can you say a rejection of theism based on its extreme improbability and lack of any evidence (not to mention moral objections) is "not atheism"?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:2) Normally, I'd agree on that algebraic view... but not until you can explain how there can be something that isn't X or Y... mind or matter. i've got a better idea, how about you prove to me that there has ever been a mind that did not have matter to it?

That's only a better idea because now I'm the one answering and not you, eh?
nice dodge. you started off on a bullshit assumption, i.e. that everything is mind or matter. show me that there is, or has ever been, a mind that is not also based on matter, otherwise your entire line of reasoning falls apart.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.
When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.

moving the goalposts again.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29given the cruel and merciless depiction of god in the bible, why would the amount of evil in the world suggest that he ISN'T still around? i've never understood people who say: there can't be a god because of how fucked up the world is. they must be reading a different bible to the one i read.

Given how many Biblical quotes you've provided, you should have a pretty decent idea of what "sets God off", so to speak... and you've seen examples of what he does in response, in the OT... so, why isn't he responding much the same today?
because it's fiction

Congrats on your excellent dodge attempt.

If you think it's fiction, you wouldn't have brought it up in the first place.

Only when it's convenient for you, I see...

you stupid, stupid son of a bitch.

i have always thought, and said, that it is fiction.

you ask why isn't god intervening in the world? DUH, BECAUSE THE STORY IS MADE UP. that's the simple answer to your question. it's a much better answer than "there is a god but since jesus he hasn't been intervening in the world, even though there's nothing in the bible that says he would stop doing that, and even though the STAGGERING majority of christians in the world think the opposite"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 06:29quite a lot. you say god isn't intervening in the modern world? i would think that subjecting humans to the worst punishment imaginable if they don't believe in him or disagree with his religion counts as intervening.

I don't see how an act of the afterlife counts as "modern-time".

Oh, really?

So God is doing absolutely nothing about the murderers etc in the world, then?

Elaborate on that, please. I don't quite understand what you're asking.
simple.

you said god isn't intervening in the modern world. i think taking someone once they're dead, "judging" them (as if his supposed character could have any credibility to do that), and sending them to be tortured for ever counts as intervening.

if that DOESN'T count as intervening, then god is doing nothing about the evil in the world. someone murders your parents? god won't do anything about it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00I can give you better alternatives to most parts of Christianity.

The rape rule, for example. I think a better alternative is to lock the rapist up and offer some kind of counseling to the victim if she needs it. Either way she shouldn't ever have to look at him again. The doctrine of forgiveness, the idea that your sins can be forgiven if you believe something

(seriously, what the fuck? how can something so ridiculous be so widespread?). Better alternative. You do something wrong? Apologise to the people you affected, do what you can to rectify the situation, and resolve to behave better next time.
Any other alternatives you want?

This is still tearing at my boat, so to speak... as if you were giving your opinion on how you would have built it.

Doesn't help much.

you said atheists aren't giving you alternatives to christianity. i'm giving you much better alternatives to what your religion says.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:God didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal

How do you know that?

I never said I 'knew' it. Belief, remember?

I believe the Bible, and the Bible says God was already there 'in the Beginning'.
what a cop-out.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Fri, 07 May 2010 04:36:34 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16then here's another critique of the religion that's been inflicted on you... it's made you not appreciate and value everything that's actually real.

If there was an afterlife, and it's composed exactly the way the Bible describes, I'd be puzzled to understand how it ultimately holds less priority than this life.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16the general question is pretty straightforward.

Ok, then I'll try to -

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16just can't bring themselves to believe any of this crap

Ah. Never mind then.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16k. so if i proposed that all the undeserved, undemocratic privileges currently enjoyed by religion are removed, you'd be on my side?

Yes.

As I have stated before, I am AGAINST religion taking such a position of power over people's lives who do not wish to be a part of such.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16how can you say a rejection of theism based on its extreme improbability and lack of any evidence (not to mention moral objections) is "not atheism"?

OK, bad wording on my part, since the loose definition of atheism is "denies the existence of (a) god". A skeptic is one who admits there is a possibility, but requires more proof/evidence to make such an assumption.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 nice dodge. you started off on a bullshit assumption, i.e. that everything is mind or matter.

Go ahead, explain how it's bullshit...

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 show me that there is, or has ever been, a mind that is not also based on matter, otherwise your entire line of reasoning falls apart.

To do that, I'd probably have to point out a mind even slightly capable of performing feats that God has, which in turn would help prove a diety's existence, which in turn would prevent this type of discussion from even happening...

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 Quote: Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00 Quote: Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.

When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.

moving the goalposts again.

OK, I'll leave it at that, then. Thanks for showing me an easy way to evade questions, I might give it a go later on.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 you stupid, stupid son of a bitch.

Thus lowering my respect for your viewpoints down another couple of notches.

AFAIK, the only reason why you'd both insult me and try to reason with me is that you're not actually interested in changing my opinion or educating me - you're just trying to disprove me and increase your reputation among the community. If that's the case, we might as well stop now, because I don't give a damn about that. I'd like to learn about the other viewpoints and arguments in this field/topic.

Starbuzz seems interested in this as well, which is why I have yet to raise a serious qualm with him directly.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 i have always thought, and said, that it is fiction.

I know that. Brain-dead trolls could understand it at this point.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 you ask why isn't god intervening in the world? DUH, BECAUSE THE STORY IS MADE UP. that's the simple answer to your question.

Uh-huh. As soon as I get a good reason to believe it, I will.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16there is a god, but since jesus, he hasn't been intervening in the world, even though there's nothing in the bible that says he would stop doing that

Learn to read?

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16and even though the STAGGERING majority of christians in the world think the opposite"

Many also think that faith alone will save you, when there are countless verses that say otherwise.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16you said god isn't intervening in the modern world. i think taking someone once they're dead, "judging" them (as if his supposed character could have any credibility to do that), and sending them to be tortured for ever counts as intervening. if that DOESN'T count as intervening, then god is doing nothing about the evil in the world. someone murders your parents? god won't do anything about it.

MODERN WORLD. God isn't judging people right now, he's not judging them while the earth remains. When Judgement comes, said murderers would be in trouble since God will then "intervene".

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The rape rule, for example. I think a better alternative is to lock the rapist up and offer some kind of counseling to the victim if she needs it. Either way she shouldn't ever have to look at him again. The doctrine of forgiveness, the idea that your sins can be forgiven if you believe something (seriously, what the fuck? how can something so ridiculous be so widespread?). Better alternative. You do something wrong? Apologise to the people you affected, do what you can to rectify the situation, and resolve to behave better next time.

Any other alternatives you want?

This is still tearing at my boat, so to speak... as if you were giving your opinion on how you would have built it.

Doesn't help much.

you said atheists aren't giving you alternatives to christianity. i'm giving you much better alternatives to what your religion says.

Alternatives to some of it, anyway.

Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:God didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal

How do you know that?

I never said I 'knew' it. Belief, remember?

I believe the Bible, and the Bible says God was already there 'in the Beginning'. what a cop-out.

Yeah, because stating my opinion is a cop-out, sure.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 07 May 2010 15:48:17 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 06 May 2010 23:36Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16then here's another critique of the religion that's been inflicted on you... it's made you not appreciate and value everything that's actually real.

If there was an afterlife, and it's composed exactly the way the Bible describes and there's absolutely no reason to think it is, so that's quite a big "if". part of my comment was attempting to say that religion has simply asserted that it is true and you arrange your thoughts on that basis. it hasn't even attempted to explain how it knows it. (and it's made the worst threats it's possible to make for anybody who doubts it, and it's always saying that believing things for no reason - i.e. faith - is a good thing)

Quote:I'd be puzzled to understand how it ultimately holds less priority than this life. so you sympathise with the suicide murderers of islam, for example? they're told they're going straight to paradise if they kill a few infidels and die in the process.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16k. so if i proposed that all the undeserved, undemocratic privileges currently enjoyed by religion are removed, you'd be on my side?

Yes.

As I have stated before, I am AGAINST religion taking such a position of power over people's lives who do not wish to be a part of such.

you've spent several pages asking what would be so wrong with a heavenly dictatorship.

swap "religion" in your last sentence for "god" and ask the question again. are you against god having power over a person who does not want any of it?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16how can you say a rejection of theism based on its extreme improbability and lack of any evidence (not to mention moral objections) is "not atheism"?

OK, bad wording on my part, since the loose definition of atheism is "denies the existence of (a) god".

i'm sure that is how religious people usually like to define atheists.

Quote:A skeptic is one who admits there is a possibility, but requires more proof/evidence to make such an assumption.

"more"... lol

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16nice dodge. you started off on a bullshit assumption, i.e. that everything is mind or matter.

Go ahead, explain how it's bullshit...

...the question i asked and which you couldn't answer. "i.e. show me something that's mind with no basis of matter, please"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16show me that there is, or has ever been, a mind

that is not also based on matter, otherwise your entire line of reasoning falls apart.

To do that, I'd probably have to point out a mind even slightly capable of performing feats that God has, which in turn would help prove a diety's existence, which in turn would prevent this type of discussion from even happening...

see above re: couldn't answer.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.

When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.

moving the goalposts again.

OK, I'll leave it at that, then. Thanks for showing me an easy way to evade questions, I might give it a go later on.

quite plainly i did not evade the question at all.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16you stupid, stupid son of a bitch.

Thus lowering my respect for your viewpoints down another couple of notches. AFAIK, the only reason why you'd both insult me and try to reason with me is that you're not actually interested in changing my opinion or educating me - you're just trying to disprove me and increase your reputation among the community.

When somebody says something as astonishingly fatuous as what you just said, the kindest thing you can do is shock them into realising it. If they're offended, tough... it's better than carrying on not knowing what an idiot they just make themselves look like, and probably doing it again later.

And if you think what I said in response is anywhere near as offensive as telling someone they deserve to go to hell for disbelieving or disagreeing with your religion, then I haven't shocked you anywhere near enough yet.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16you ask why isn't god intervening in the world? DUH, BECAUSE THE STORY IS MADE UP. that's the simple answer to your question.

Uh-huh. As soon as I get a good reason to believe it, I will.

you don't seem to need much of a good reason to believe the alternative.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16you said god isn't intervening in the modern world. i think taking someone once they're dead, "judging" them (as if his supposed character could have any credibility to do that), and sending them to be tortured for ever counts as intervening.

if that DOESN'T count as intervening, then god is doing nothing about the evil in the world. someone murders your parents? god won't do anything about it.

MODERN WORLD. God isn't judging people right now, he's not judging them while the earth

remains. When Judgement comes, said murderers would be in trouble since God will then "intervene".

okay... so until then he's quite content to let the world be fucked up beyond recognition (usually by the religious)

y'know, after islam started up, it wasn't long before it conquered half the christian world. all these devout christians slaughtered and subjugated by a false prophet... wouldn't it have been nice to get a little memo saying "this guy mohammed doesn't actually work for me"?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16Alternatives to some of it, anyway. including the redemption through jesus bullshit, which is probably the central tenet of christianity. it's certainly the one i hear the most often.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:God didn't create himself, he was never created. He is eternal
How do you know that?

I never said I 'knew' it. Belief, remember?

I believe the Bible, and the Bible says God was already there 'in the Beginning'.
what a cop-out.

Yeah, because stating my opinion is a cop-out, sure. [/quote]
sigh

you start off by this string of pseudo-logic how there must be a god (your god, conveniently) because the universe can't create itself. so people ask the obvious question - how did this god come into existence, then? you say he doesn't have to follow these same rules of common sense. well, how do you know that? "i just believe it"

facepalm

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [kadoosh](#) on Sat, 08 May 2010 19:36:28 GMT

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Wow 7 pages of what should probably have been in PMs, but I guess that's why it's in heated discussion.

Altzan It's quite simple really. You believe in a higher power. You live your life the way you feel you should. As long as you don't inhibit someone else from doing the same, there's no problem with what religion you believe in.

If other countries let religion have reign on their gov't and they are pissed about it, don't let them lure you into useless debates on the existence of god. Skeptics will find loop holes in anything to have an argument about. They will not accept any form of proof short of having God himself arrive at these peoples house, and explaining his plan to them. As long as you live your life as a law obeying citizen then there's nothing they can say against you personally.

The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

It matters not what these people say to you. It's best for you to no waste your time on them. If there is an after life I guarantee I'll be in hell, but I'll go defending to the end your right to believe in what ever man made religion you wish.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 08 May 2010 20:06:39 GMT

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kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 14:36If other countries let religion have reign on their gov't and they are pissed about it, don't let them lure you into useless debates on the existence of god. Useless?

We're told we're going to suffer the most horrific punishment ever designed for disagreeing with this, the religious claim RIDICULOUS privileges in the here and now, and you say the question of whether a bloody word of it is true is useless?

Quote:Skeptics will find loop holes in anything to have an argument about. They will not accept any form of proof short of having God himself arrive at these peoples house, and explaining his plan to them.

actually, if god did do that it wouldn't make me obey him. it would make me feel a lot worse to know he existed at all.

Quote:The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

is the bible the word of god or isn't it? is god a being of perfect morality or is he not?

Quote:If there is an after life I guarantee I'll be in hell, but I'll go defending to the end your right to believe in what ever man made religion you wish.

i'll defend that too. i absolutely believe in the right of freedom of belief and have said so many times.

religion doesn't.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 06:10:02 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:I'd be puzzled to understand how it ultimately

holds less priority than this life.

so you sympathise with the suicide murderers of islam, for example? they're told they're going straight to paradise if they kill a few infidels and die in the process.

No, I'm not a islamic sympathiser. Not sure how you came to that conclusion.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48you've spent several pages asking what would be so wrong with a heavenly dictatorship.

swap "religion" in your last sentence for "god" and ask the question again. are you against god having power over a person who does not want any of it?

No.

If (I put an if there so I won't offend you further) God exists and did create everything, then I don't see why his creation deserves seperation from creator by default.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16how can you say a rejection of theism based on its extreme improbability and lack of any evidence (not to mention moral objections) is "not atheism"?

OK, bad wording on my part, since the loose definition of atheism is "denies the existence of (a) god".

i'm sure that is how religious people usually like to define atheists.

Define atheism, then, in your own words.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16nice dodge. you started off on a bullshit assumption, i.e. that everything is mind or matter.

Go ahead, explain how it's bullshit...

...the question i asked and which you couldn't answer. "i.e. show me something that's mind with no basis of matter, please"

And MY question was to provide an example of something that doesn't fit into "mind" or "matter". However, if I can't give an example of a mind existing without matter (and I explained why I could not) that in no way disproves the idea.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010

08:16Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.

When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.

moving the goalposts again.

OK, I'll leave it at that, then. Thanks for showing me an easy way to evade questions, I might give it a go later on.

quite plainly i did not evade the question at all.

This is just silly.

I provided a quote, asked for your opinion. If you won't give one, then at least give a reason why.

Even "I don't want to" will do fine.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48 When somebody says something as astonishingly fatuous as what you just said, the kindest thing you can do is shock them into realising it. If they're offended, tough... it's better than carrying on not knowing what an idiot they just make themselves look like, and probably doing it again later.

Thing is, my "saying something as astonishingly fatuous" is your own opinion.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48 okay... so until then he's quite content to let the world be fucked up beyond recognition

It's man's choice, not his.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48 (usually by the religious)

Yet the worst events I see usually aren't religious by nature, but simply humans infringing on other's rights for selfish and immoral reasons. And the religion I'm a part of wants (and gives) peace and goodwill with their neighbors and fellow humans.

Groan about our spiritual message all you like, you certainly have a right to. But you'd have to be pretty biased to disapprove of our behaviour/ethics involving interaction with our fellow man... we certainly don't think murder/theft/crime/hate/greed is proper. Hopefully you feel the same.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48 y'know, after islam started up, it wasn't long before it conquered half the christian world. all these devout christians slaughtered and subjugated by a false prophet... wouldn't it have been nice to get a little memo saying "this guy mohammed doesn't actually work for me"?

It would have been, yes. Why?

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48 you start off by this string of pseudo-logic how there must be a god (your god, conveniently) because the universe can't create itself. so people ask the obvious question - how did this god come into existence, then? you say he doesn't have to follow these same rules of common sense. well, how do you know that? "i just believe it"

facepalm

Come on. I said the universe must have been created by a higher power. I stated that I believe it is a diety.

And if that diety wasn't eternal, then something even more powerful must have created him, and then what about THAT one, and...

Doesn't work out.

kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36 Altzan It's quite simple really. You believe in a higher power. You live your life the way you feel you should. As long as you don't inhibit someone else from doing the same, there's no problem with what religion you believe in.

Problem is, Spoony thinks I'm doing more than just that, apparently.

kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36 If other countries let religion have reign on their gov't and they are pissed about it, don't let them lure you into useless debates on the existence of god. Skeptics will find loop holes in anything to have an argument about. They will not accept any form of proof short of having God himself arrive at these peoples house, and explaining his plan to them. As long as you live your life as a law obeying citizen then there's nothing they can say against you personally.

That's actually very well worded. Thank you.

The thread did start with a gov't action in the UK, and a protest against religious government authority. And it's getting applied to me purely because they're both carrying the Christian label. And I still don't know why people think that's logical.

kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36 The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

True, it's happened many times in this thread alone.

Sometimes debaters (myself included at some points I admit) don't look at an opposing argument with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude, but rather a "let's see the best way to refute or ridicule this" attitude. I wish this never happened, flamewars would be less likely to happen. But it's the internet, the location of almost pure anonymity, which fuels such behaviour. It's hard to curb.

kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36 It matters not what these people say to you. It's best for you to no waste your time on them. If there is an after life I guarantee I'll be in hell, but I'll go defending to the end your right to believe in what ever man made religion you wish.

"man made religion"? :\

Well, thanks for your post in general. I'm glad to see there's viewers other than just Spoony/Starbuzz looking at this. I don't think this needs to be PM'd - it should be open to everyone's opinion.

Spoon wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 15:06 Useless?

We're told we're going to suffer the most horrific punishment ever designed for disagreeing with this, the religious claim RIDICULOUS privileges in the here and now, and you say the question of whether a bloody word of it is true is useless?

The question isn't useless at all.

These debates are, though.

Do you REALLY expect anyone's opinion to change, on an anonymous-type forum, with the same old arguments on both sides?

Spoon wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 15:06 I'll defend that too. I absolutely believe in the right of freedom of belief and have said so many times.

And I appreciate that. However...

Spoony wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 15:06religion doesn't.

Guess what this is?

Generalization.

And guess what generalizations usually are?

WRONG.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 12:30:27 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:I'd be puzzled to understand how it ultimately holds less priority than this life.
so you sympathise with the suicide murderers of islam, for example? they're told they're going straight to paradise if they kill a few infidels and die in the process.

No, I'm not a islamic sympathiser. Not sure how you came to that conclusion.
you said what goes on in this world is pretty trivial compared to the afterlife.

whenever you encounter an islamic suicide murderer, you'll see someone who can't wait to get to paradise. they believe in their religion much more than you do. it's why they murder innocent people, dying in the process.

they're throwing away everything - their own lives and others' - because of what they're told about the afterlife. and trust me, they really believe it.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48you've spent several pages asking what would be so wrong with a heavenly dictatorship.
swap "religion" in your last sentence for "god" and ask the question again. are you against god having power over a person who does not want any of it?

No.

If (I put an if there so I won't offend you further) God exists and did create everything, then I don't see why his creation deserves seperation from creator by default.
well, there you have it. complete, unchallengeable dictatorship. no hope of escape. it amazes me how many people want this to be true.

that's the first problem.

the second problem is that you think it's the root creator who should have ultimate control. you don't think, for example, that your parents should have eternal power over you. it has to keep going back until we reach the entity that started it all off. (did god decide that you should be born?) well, what are god's origins? who created him?

thirdly, i asked a hypothetical question before - if you found out that you were created in a lab by a

mad scientist, a modern-day frankenstein, would you be his serf or would you assert your basic rights and freedoms instead? if we found out that the earth was seeded by an alien race, would we then become their servants?

the fourth problem is more practical. you're taking the position that god should have power over us but religion shouldn't. well, what do we do about god's supposed instructions? a particular commandment, for example. should we put that into the laws of the land and have it enforced by police and courts? or simply let people get away with it and god will punish them later?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16how can you say a rejection of theism based on its extreme improbability and lack of any evidence (not to mention moral objections) is "not atheism"?

OK, bad wording on my part, since the loose definition of atheism is "denies the existence of (a) god".

i'm sure that is how religious people usually like to define atheists.

Define atheism, then, in your own words.

simply someone who does not subscribe to theism.

it's like calling someone a non-smoker. it doesn't say anything about them other than that they do not smoke. it doesn't even say why they don't smoke - it could be health concerns, they might not like the taste, they might rather spend the money on something else.... likewise, the word atheism doesn't tell you why a person does not consider themselves followers of a religion. they might not think it is true (but this doesn't mean they think all religion is axiomatically false), it could be a moral objection to the texts, it could be the thought that the texts had been corrupted or hijacked by errant humans, etc etc etc

and the thing being rejected is theism, remember, not deism. so it doesn't necessarily mean that an atheist is convinced there aren't such things as gods. "a-deism" might be a good word for that. it's theism that is being rejected, i.e. the idea that yes there is a god, that this or that book is directly inspired by him, that there are things of which he disapproves, that he watches us and judges us...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16nice dodge. you started off on a bullshit assumption, i.e. that everything is mind or matter. Go ahead, explain how it's bullshit...

...the question i asked and which you couldn't answer. "i.e. show me something that's mind with no basis of matter, please"

And MY question was to provide an example of something that doesn't fit into "mind" or "matter". However, if I can't give an example of a mind existing without matter (and I explained why I could not) that in no way disproves the idea.

what it does is undermines the basic assumption at the very start of your "here's why the universe must have been created by a god" thesis.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason

other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.
When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.
Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.
moving the goalposts again.
OK, I'll leave it at that, then. Thanks for showing me an easy way to evade questions, I might give it a go later on.
quite plainly i did not evade the question at all.

This is just silly.
I provided a quote, asked for your opinion. If you won't give one, then at least give a reason why.
Even "I don't want to" will do fine.
facepalm i have no idea why i need to keep repeating myself

i did answer the question

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48When somebody says something as astonishingly fatuous as what you just said, the kindest thing you can do is shock them into realising it. If they're offended, tough... it's better than carrying on not knowing what an idiot they just make themselves look like, and probably doing it again later.

Thing is, my "saying something as astonishingly fatuous" is your own opinion.
and it's also my opinion that what you just said right there ^^ is astonishingly fatuous too.

maybe you think i should be posting someone else's opinions? i have no idea why people say things as stupid as this. "THAT'S JUST YOUR OPINION!" well duhhh, whose else am i gonna express? it's like when you said earlier that all i'm doing is posting my opinion instead of quotes or texts. what a stupid thing to say. i can express my opinion or i can copy-paste someone else's.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48okay... so until then he's quite content to let the world be fucked up beyond recognition

It's man's choice, not his.

Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48(usually by the religious)

Yet the worst events I see usually aren't religious by nature, but simply humans infringing on other's rights for selfish and immoral reasons.
...aided by religion more often than not.

Quote:And the religion I'm a part of wants (and gives) peace and goodwill with their neighbors and fellow humans.
including the ones god absolutely despises, according to the bible?

Quote:Groan about our spiritual message all you like, you certainly have a right to.
i do, do i? won't i be punished?

Quote:But you'd have to be pretty biased to disapprove of our behaviour/ethics involving

interaction with our fellow man... we certainly don't think murder/theft/crime/hate/greed is proper. Hopefully you feel the same.

you asked me that too. murder and theft, sure. crime is too vague... many things are illegal for which there is no moral justification, and many morally objectionable and damaging things are perfectly legal. hate is rather vague too. greed can have its uses.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48y'know, after islam started up, it wasn't long before it conquered half the christian world. all these devout christians slaughtered and subjugated by a false prophet... wouldn't it have been nice to get a little memo saying "this guy mohammed doesn't actually work for me"?

It would have been, yes. Why?

see above re: god seems quite content to let the world be smashed up. he doesn't even look out for his religion (although, of course, your religion didn't exist until quite recently. for a long time there was just catholicism... it split a few times and they've been kicking the shit out of each other since)

Quote:Come on. I said the universe must have been created by a higher power. I stated that I believe it is a diety.

And if that diety wasn't eternal, then something even more powerful must have created him, and then what about THAT one, and...

Doesn't work out.

no, it doesn't!

Quote:kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36If other countries let religion have reign on their gov't and they are pissed about it, don't let them lure you into useless debates on the existence of god. Skeptics will find loop holes in anything to have an argument about. They will not accept any form of proof short of having God himself arrive at these peoples house, and explaining his plan to them. As long as you live your life as a law obeying citizen then there's nothing they can say against you personally.

That's actually very well worded. Thank you.

The thread did start with a govt action in the UK, and a protest against religious government authority. And it's getting applied to me purely because they're both carrying the Christian label. And I still don't know why people think that's logical.

and i don't know who you're talking about. who linked you to the catholic church's systematic raping of children and protection of the offenders?

it just happens to be in the same thread.

Quote:kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

True, it's happened many times in this thread alone.

answer the question i asked kadoosh.

is god perfect or not perfect? is the bible a perfect depiction of his views or not?

Quote: Sometimes debaters (myself included at some points I admit) don't look at an opposing argument with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude, but rather a "let's see the best way to refute or ridicule this" attitude. I wish this never happened, flamewars would be less likely to happen.

But it's the internet, the location of almost pure anonymity, which fuels such behaviour. It's hard to curb.

would you curb it if you could? don't we have enough blasphemy laws already?

Quote: Spoony wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 15:06 Useless?

We're told we're going to suffer the most horrific punishment ever designed for disagreeing with this, the religious claim RIDICULOUS privileges in the here and now, and you say the question of whether a bloody word of it is true is useless?

The question isn't useless at all.

These debates are, though.

Do you REALLY expect anyone's opinion to change, on an anonymous-type forum, with the same old arguments on both sides?

i'm reluctant to answer this question, but i suppose i should.

i've had many religious debates. most of them might have been called useless by kadoosh. one of them helped lead the christian on the other side of it to intellectual freedom, which he never had before - neither his parents nor his local religious folks wanted him to have it and they still don't want him to. and yet what did i actually do? ripped on his religious ideas. many people would've called it rude, and i'm sure i offended him (to begin with) more than i've offended you. and yet look at the results. it genuinely was a question of basic human rights. (like i said, i was reluctant to answer the question, firstly because i don't want to presume too much about what's going on in his life, secondly because i personally think that when he expressed his gratitude to me, he was probably giving me more credit than i deserved)

to answer your question, no, i didn't expect it would happen.

but if i could swap all the time i've put into doing stuff for renegade - running the clanwars league etc - in exchange for being able to say that this had happened for two people instead of one, it would be a worthy trade.

Quote: Spoony wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 15:06 i'll defend that too. i absolutely believe in the right of freedom of belief and have said so many times.

And I appreciate that. However...

Spoony wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 15:06 religion doesn't.

Guess what this is?

Generalization.

And guess what generalizations usually are?

WRONG.

sure it's a generalisation, just to save time. there might be religions out there who do believe in freedom of belief, but the ones with all the power now don't seem to. does yours? see my earlier question. do i really have the right to criticise and reject your religion? if i'm gonna be punished for it, then no i don't.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [kadoosh](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 14:29:39 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 16:06kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 14:36If other countries let religion have reign on their gov't and they are pissed about it, don't let them lure you into useless debates on the existence of god.

Useless?

We're told we're going to suffer the most horrific punishment ever designed for disagreeing with this, the religious claim RIDICULOUS privileges in the here and now, and you say the question of whether a bloody word of it is true is useless?

Yes I think it's useless.

This debate and any other debate on the subject is useless. I know I used that word again and you'll have some problem with it. This argument between believers and skeptics rages on and both sides might as well be talking to walls. Neither side is going to budge.

SpoonyQuote:Skeptics will find loop holes in anything to have an argument about. They will not accept any form of proof short of having God himself arrive at these peoples house, and explaining his plan to them.

actually, if god did do that it wouldn't make me obey him. it would make me feel a lot worse to know he existed at all.

not worth commenting on. As personally I don't care about your beliefs. You are entitled to them, and more power to you.

SpoonyQuote:The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

is the bible the word of god or isn't it? is god a being of perfect morality or is he not?

Are you asking for my personal opinion, or do you want to speak to a theology major?

My opinion = I don't care. I believe it's fiction. I only have a problem with any of it when I see someone trying to force their beliefs on someone else. The day I get a horde of bible thumper type people standing a my front door screaming, "You're Going To Hell!!!" Is the day I see them as forcing it on me. As that hasn't happened I have no problem with Christians, Catholics, Jews, Jehovah's witnesses, Hindus, Muslims (not the extremists blowing shit up).

Theology Major = Isn't that like getting a degree in gameboy? Seriously you get a degree on fictional history.

SpoonyQuote:If there is an after life I guarantee I'll be in hell, but I'll go defending to the end your right to believe in what ever man made religion you wish.

i'll defend that too. i absolutely believe in the right of freedom of belief and have said so many times.

religion doesn't.

As someone who doesn't believe in the same things they do, I'll say this:

I PERSONALLY DON'T GIVE 2 SHITS WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT ME OR WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IN ANY FORM OF AN AFTERLIFE.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 16:16:17 GMT

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kadoosh wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 09:29Yes I think it's useless.

This debate and any other debate on the subject is useless. I know I used that word again and you'll have some problem with it. This argument between believers and skeptics rages on and both sides might as well be talking to walls. Neither side is going to budge.

firstly, there's an absolutely huge difference in the reasons why neither side budes.

secondly, read my last reply to altzan.

Quote:SpoonyQuote:The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

is the bible the word of god or isn't it? is god a being of perfect morality or is he not?

Are you asking for my personal opinion, or do you want to speak to a theology major?

neither. the question was a rebuttal to your last comment.

if the bible is perfect, and so many christians say it is, then pointing out a factual error, an internal contradiction or a shockingly evil moral teaching - even just one in a 4000 page book - is pretty damaging, is it not?

Quote:My opinion = I don't care. I believe it's fiction. I only have a problem with any of it when I see someone trying to force their beliefs on someone else. The day I get a horde of bible thumper type people standing a my front door screaming, "You're Going To Hell!!!" Is the day I see them as forcing it on me. As that hasn't happened where do you live?

here, christianity gets automatic seats in parliament. the head of the church is also the head of state. its legacy means our system is barely a democracy at all (look how well that just worked out for us). there are laws saying we can't criticise religion. it gets enormous amounts of public money

and it gets tax breaks. worst of all, it has control over education.

Quote:Theology Major = Isn't that like getting a degree in gameboy? Seriously you get a degree on fictional history.

indeed, theology is basically a word to make stupidity and unsupported guesswork sound like a science.

Quote:SpoonyQuote:If there is an after life I guarantee I'll be in hell, but I'll go defending to the end your right to believe in what ever man made religion you wish.

i'll defend that too. i absolutely believe in the right of freedom of belief and have said so many times.

religion doesn't.

As someone who doesn't believe in the same things they do, I'll say this:

I PERSONALLY DON'T GIVE 2 SHITS WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT ME OR WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IN ANY FORM OF AN AFTERLIFE.

i don't care what they think about me either. however, threatening someone with horrific punishments for not agreeing with you - especially a child - is sick and it ought to stop.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [kadoosh](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 18:05:29 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 12:16

firstly, there's an absolutely huge difference in the reasons why neither side budes.

secondly, read my last reply to altzan.

It still doesn't change the fact that NOBODY WILL BUDGE. reasons aside, no matter how bizarre they may be, neither one of you will budge. Thus making it pointless.

Spoony

if the bible is perfect, and so many christians say it is, then pointing out a factual error, an internal contradiction or a shockingly evil moral teaching - even just one in a 4000 page book - is pretty damaging, is it not?

You are asking me a question that I can't answer. I THINK THE WHOLE DAMN BOOK IS FICTION. I think god is fiction, and you are proving my point that you will go So far out of your way, even though I know you don't think it's to far, to find something to argue about to someone who does believe. Please keep it up. It's entertaining.

Spoony

where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a

problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.

Spoony

here, christianity gets automatic seats in parliament. the head of the church is also the head of state. its legacy means our system is barely a democracy at all (look how well that just worked out for us). there are laws saying we can't criticise religion. it gets enormous amounts of public money and it gets tax breaks. worst of all, it has control over education.

Sounds like a problem. As I firmly believe when churches get above the law there's a problem. The whole being able to confess to a murder to a priest, but the priest doesn't have to tell the police thing pisses me off. Not to mention the molestation.

Spoony

i don't care what they think about me either. however, threatening someone with horrific punishments for not agreeing with you - especially a child - is sick and it ought to stop. It's this statement that leads me to believe English religion and US religion are far different. I've been to church with my sister and her children(cause my niece asked me to go). I really don't believe they only focused on the "nice" things because I was there. The never once talked about Hell.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 18:41:22 GMT

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kadoosh wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 13:05Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 12:16
firstly, there's an absolutely huge difference in the reasons why neither side budes.

secondly, read my last reply to altzan.

It still doesn't change the fact that NOBODY WILL BUDGE. reasons aside, no matter how bizarre they may be, neither one of you will budge. Thus making it pointless.

you clearly didn't read what i was hoping you would read, i.e. the case where one person budged a great deal as a result of these debates, resulting in him achieving a basic human right that was being denied him before. how comfortable a life you must lead to think these things are pointless.

Quote:Spoony

if the bible is perfect, and so many christians say it is, then pointing out a factual error, an internal contradiction or a shockingly evil moral teaching - even just one in a 4000 page book - is pretty damaging, is it not?

You are asking me a question that I can't answer. I THINK THE WHOLE DAMN BOOK IS FICTION.

i wasn't asking you, if it wasn't obvious. i was pointing out why your earlier criticism of "omg they think finding one thing wrong in a 4000 page book means the whole thing's bullshit". well, one error or evil teaching in the bible would undermine what quite a lot of christians do say about it.

Quote:I think god is fiction, and you are proving my point that you will go So far out of your way,

even though I know you don't think it's too far, to find something to argue about to someone who does believe.

i really don't think civilised criticism is "going too far" in response to an ideology that's trying to take over the world.

Quote:Spoony

where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.

the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Quote:Spoony

i don't care what they think about me either. however, threatening someone with horrific punishments for not agreeing with you - especially a child - is sick and it ought to stop.

It's this statement that leads me to believe English religion and US religion are far different. I've been to church with my sister and her children(cause my niece asked me to go). I really don't believe they only focused on the "nice" things because I was there. The never once talked about Hell.

i wasn't specifically talking about english religion when i mentioned hell... christianities (i've never heard anyone use the plural before, so maybe there's a first) do it all over the world. maybe your particular church doesn't believe in hell, or maybe it thinks it's a good idea to deceive the congregation (a deception within a deception, if you can get your head round that)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [kadoosh](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 19:26:52 GMT

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Spoony

you clearly didn't read what i was hoping you would read, i.e. the case where one person budged a great deal as a result of these debates, resulting in him achieving a basic human right that was being denied him before. how comfortable a life you must lead to think these things are pointless. quite comfortable

Quote:Quote:I think god is fiction, and you are proving my point that you will go So far out of your way, even though I know you don't think it's too far, to find something to argue about to someone who does believe.

i really don't think civilised criticism is "going too far" in response to an ideology that's trying to take over the world.

I guess it's ok as long as you see it as civilized.

Spoony

Quote:Quote:where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.

the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Not as thin as you would like to believe it is. 1 person bitches about it here and it gets changed. I'd say every year it gets thicker.

SpoonyQuote:Quote:

i don't care what they think about me either. however, threatening someone with horrific punishments for not agreeing with you - especially a child - is sick and it ought to stop.

It's this statement that leads me to believe English religion and US religion are far different. I've been to church with my sister and her children(cause my niece asked me to go). I really don't believe they only focused on the "nice" things because I was there. The never once talked about Hell.

i wasn't specifically talking about english religion when i mentioned hell... christianities (i've never heard anyone use the plural before, so maybe there's a first) do it all over the world. maybe your particular church doesn't believe in hell, or maybe it thinks it's a good idea to deceive the congregation (a deception within a deception, if you can get your head round that)

clearly you believe i'm to ignorant to think of leaving something out so people don't expect it. So i'll go ahead and leave you to Christian bashing. Have fun but remember you are also attempting to FORCE someone to believe their religion is wrong. Witch i going against your previous statement of people believing what they want to.

Declare this a "Victory" if you wish, as I will not be responding in here again.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 21:10:24 GMT

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kadoosh wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 14:26Quote:

i really don't think civilised criticism is "going too far" in response to an ideology that's trying to take over the world.

I guess it's ok as long as you see it as civilized.

why would it not be ok? is it not civilised?

Quote:clearly you believe i'm to ignorant to think of leaving something out so people don't expect it.

sorry, you've lost me.

Quote:So i'll go ahead and leave you to Christian bashing.

christianity bashing, if you don't mind.

Quote:Have fun but remember you are also attempting to FORCE someone to believe their religion is wrong.

What an AMAZINGLY stupid accusation.

Quote:Declare this a "Victory" if you wish, as I will not be responding in here again.

bye

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Sun, 09 May 2010 21:12:17 GMT

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kadoosh wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 14:26remember you are also attempting to FORCE someone to believe their religion is wrong.

Just gonna pop in here to say there's a big difference between forcing someone to believe their religion is wrong, and not allowing them to go above the law because of their religion.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Mon, 10 May 2010 04:13:46 GMT

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Or to write the law to allow one religion exemptions, protections, and elevated status not guaranteed to any other...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Tue, 11 May 2010 04:47:17 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30well, there you have it. complete, unchallengeable dictatorship. no hope of escape. it amazes me how many people want this to be true. that's the first problem.

Dictatorship can work just fine with the right leader. It's very similar to a monarchy, a very old and widely used system.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30the second problem is that you think it's the root creator who should have ultimate control. you don't think, for example, that your parents should have eternal power over you. it has to keep going back until we reach the entity that started it all off. (did god decide that you should be born?)

thirdly, i asked a hypothetical question before - if you found out that you were created in a lab by a mad scientist, a modern-day frankenstein, would you be his serf or would you assert your basic rights and freedoms instead? if we found out that the earth was seeded by an alien race, would we then become their servants?

On the surface, those scenarios seem similar, but they just don't compare.

The parents didn't create the baby, they used an already established means of reproduction to form the child. The form of reproduction being designed by the actual creator.

The mad scientist, if he did create something, used materials around him, in his universe. The universe he lives in would also subject itself to the creation.

Aliens wouldn't seed a planet with nothingness - they'd have to have formed the seeds somehow, with other materials.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30the fourth problem is more practical. you're taking the position that god should have power over us but religion shouldn't. well, what do we do about god's supposed instructions? a particular commandment, for example. should we put that into the

laws of the land and have it enforced by police and courts? or simply let people get away with it and god will punish them later?

The latter. Right now, we're given a choice, we decide whether or not to follow his word. Consequences for those decisions come later.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16nice dodge. you started off on a bullshit assumption, i.e. that everything is mind or matter.

Go ahead, explain how it's bullshit...

...the question i asked and which you couldn't answer. "i.e. show me something that's mind with no basis of matter, please"

And MY question was to provide an example of something that doesn't fit into "mind" or "matter". However, if I can't give an example of a mind existing without matter (and I explained why I could not) that in no way disproves the idea.

what it does is undermines the basic assumption at the very start of your "here's why the universe must have been created by a god" thesis.

How? It doesn't disprove the "matter or mind" idea.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48Quote:Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 02 May 2010 09:00Quote:Logically, it is a statement. It is either true or false. I asked you which you think it is. If you refuse to answer and give no reason other than "I don't accept that this is a yes-no question" then you are indeed evading it.

When did I refuse to answer? I said I wouldn't have phrased it like that.

Well, if you hesitate to throw your opinion to either choice, then rephrase it to how you think it is, don't avoid it altogether.

moving the goalposts again.

OK, I'll leave it at that, then. Thanks for showing me an easy way to evade questions, I might give it a go later on.

quite plainly i did not evade the question at all.

This is just silly.

I provided a quote, asked for your opinion. If you won't give one, then at least give a reason why. Even "I don't want to" will do fine.

facepalm i have no idea why i need to keep repeating myself
i did answer the question

So "it's not a yes or no question" is your answer?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 07 May 2010 10:48When somebody says something as astonishingly fatuous as what you just said, the kindest thing you can do is shock them into realising it. If they're offended, tough... it's better than carrying on not knowing what an idiot they just make themselves look like, and probably doing it again later.

Thing is, my "saying something as astonishingly fatuous" is your own opinion.

and it's also my opinion that what you just said right there ^^ is astonishingly fatuous too.

maybe you think i should be posting someone else's opinions? i have no idea why people say things as stupid as this. "THAT'S JUST YOUR OPINION!" well duhhh, whose else am i gonna

express? it's like when you said earlier that all i'm doing is posting my opinion instead of quotes or texts. what a stupid thing to say. i can express my opinion or i can copy-paste someone else's.

You're missing the point. The idea of my statement being fatuous is an opinion, so I naturally pointed out that you spoke of it as a fact.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:And the religion I'm a part of wants (and gives) peace and goodwill with their neighbors and fellow humans.
including the ones god absolutely despises, according to the bible?

Yes.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30murder and theft, sure.

Good.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30crime is too vague... many things are illegal for which there is no moral justification, and many morally objectionable and damaging things are perfectly legal.

True. It's too vague to say "crime" in general.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30hate is rather vague too.

Well, I don't see very many reasons to truly hate somebody, for example. There are some acts that would invoke such a reaction, just not many in my eyes.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30greed can have its uses.

How so? If you don't mind describing.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30see above re: god seems quite content to let the world be smashed up. he doesn't even look out for his religion (although, of course, your religion didn't exist until quite recently. for a long time there was just catholicism... it split a few times and they've been kicking the shit out of each other since)

I'm sure you prefer this system than having God actively smash up any rebellers, no? You like your "basic human freedom of thought and expression".

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:The thread did start with a govt action in the UK, and a protest against religious government authority. And it's getting applied to me purely because they're both carrying the Christian label. And I still don't know why people think that's logical. and i don't know who you're talking about. who linked you to the catholic church's systematic raping of children and protection of the offenders?
it just happens to be in the same thread.

Yes, I saw it.

My point here was that you've mentioned Christianity in government as an argument against me, in

this thread earlier. I don't know why that's logical, since I disagree with it as well. Basically what kadoosh said.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36The proof of people looking for evidence and believing only certain parts of that information can be proven by looking at anything political. Different people look at things and interpret them differently. Then you get ridiculous arguments where people point to 1 page of a 4000 page report and say this flaw proves you are wrong.

True, it's happened many times in this thread alone.

answer the question i asked kadoosh.

is god perfect or not perfect? is the bible a perfect depiction of his views or not?

Perfect - it's not a universal definition. I personally see him as perfect - Jesus especially... although I'm sure you disagree.

I see no reason why the Bible would inaccurately depict his views, apart from transcription error.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Sometimes debators (myself included at some points I admit) don't look at an opposing argument with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude, but rather a "let's see the best way to refute or ridicule this" attitude. I wish this never happened, flamewars would be less likely to happen.

But it's the internet, the location of almost pure anonymity, which fuels such behaviour. It's hard to curb.

would you curb it if you could? don't we have enough blasphemy laws already?

Blasphemy laws hardly apply. It's about the recipient's attitude to the incoming argument or point. A biased view can lead to missing the idea or ignoring a point, thus screwing up the debate process.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30i've had many religious debates. most of them might have been called useless by kadoosh. one of them helped lead the christian on the other side of it to intellectual freedom, which he never had before - neither his parents nor his local religious folks wanted him to have it and they still don't want him to. and yet what did i actually do? ripped on his religious ideas. many people would've called it rude, and i'm sure i offended him (to begin with) more than i've offended you. and yet look at the results. it genuinely was a question of basic human rights. (like i said, i was reluctant to answer the question, firstly because i don't want to presume too much about what's going on in his life, secondly because i personally think that when he expressed his gratitude to me, he was probably giving me more credit than i deserved) to answer your question, no, i didn't expect it would happen.

but if i could swap all the time i've put into doing stuff for renegade - running the clanwars league etc - in exchange for being able to say that this had happened for two people instead of one, it would be a worthy trade.

I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.

I was sad to hear Starbuzz convert - although I won't host a pity party mentioning how he was misled to believe lies and blah blah - it's rude and biased.

Actually, I was glad to hear he was leaving the Catholic side anyhow. From the experiences he described, they don't sound pleasant.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30sure it's a generalisation, just to save time. there might be religions out there who do believe in freedom of belief, but the ones with all the power now don't seem to. does yours? see my earlier question. do i really have the right to criticise and reject your religion? if i'm gonna be punished for it, then no i don't.

I prefer to talk in terms of this physical existence's terms of rights. Yes, you have the right to criticize my religion now. The only reason you would is if you don't believe in it, and if that's the case, why worry about what our afterlife beliefs are?

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:I think god is fiction, and you are proving my point that you will go So far out of your way, even though I know you don't think it's to far, to find something to argue about to someone who does believe.
i really don't think civilised criticism is "going too far" in response to an ideology that's trying to take over the world.

I have been meaning to ask you to justify this. It seems like a pretty large hyperbole to me.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony
where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.
the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Yep, and usually by the atheists. Almost every time we hear of a bill in petition, it's about some atheist group wanting so-and-so removed.

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:clearly you believe i'm to ignorant to think of leaving something out so people don't expect it.
sorry, you've lost me.

You're probably making it more complex than needed. Rewritten:
"You must think I'm ignorant, since you believe I don't understand the principle of deception/foreshadowing."

Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Have fun but remember you are also attempting to FORCE someone to believe their religion is wrong.
What an AMAZINGLY stupid accusation.

Maybe not "AMAZINGLY stupid" per se, but I do agree it's false. You're no more forcing me than I am forcing you.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Tue, 11 May 2010 13:32:34 GMT
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Altzan wrote on Mon, 10 May 2010 23:47Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30well, there you have it. complete, unchallengeable dictatorship. no hope of escape. it amazes me how many people want this to be true.
that's the first problem.

Dictatorship can work just fine with the right leader. It's very similar to a monarchy, a very old and widely used system.

firstly, the idea that it would be fine with the right leader is a fallacy, cos the whole point of dictatorship is that if you don't have the right leader, there's nothing you can do about it.

secondly, if the bible was accurate then god is not the right leader. he's the most vicious, merciless and unjust character ever created.

thirdly, you think monarchies are a good thing? they're what you get before you get democracies, and they were the second biggest obstacle to human rights throughout the centuries (the biggest being, of course, religion)

Quote:On the surface, those scenarios seem similar, but they just don't compare.

The parents didn't create the baby, they used an already established means of reproduction to form the child. The form of reproduction being designed by the actual creator.

The mad scientist, if he did create something, used materials around him, in his universe. The universe he lives in would also subject itself to the creation.

Aliens wouldn't seed a planet with nothingness - they'd have to have formed the seeds somehow, with other materials.

you already said this and i already rebuked it.

firstly, not only have you not established that this god of yours is real at all, you also haven't established that he was at the top of the creation chain.

secondly, i really don't see a moral difference anyway. in each case, the 'creator' is using the tools and sciences available to them.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30the fourth problem is more practical. you're taking the position that god should have power over us but religion shouldn't. well, what do we do about god's supposed instructions? a particular commandment, for example. should we put that into the laws of the land and have it enforced by police and courts? or simply let people get away with it and god will punish them later?

The latter. Right now, we're given a choice, we decide whether or not to follow his word.

Consequences for those decisions come later.

just want to make sure i heard you right. the worst crimes according to the bible (which tend not to be the worst crimes according to modern society)... you think we should just let people get away with them?

secondly, how do you know god does not want you to set his commandments as the laws of the land?

thirdly, isn't god a bit of a prick for making his revelation so unclear?

even though the majority of humanity think "faith" is a good thing (our greatest weakness, in my

view, but i'm hopeful that we can overcome it), the vast majority of people do not think your bible is true. (muslims may think it's true but not the prevailing law)

of this minority of "christians", you've said yourself that the majority of these people are not really christians. your church, the real christians, are a tiny minority of what is already a minority of "supposed" christians.

let's assume your guys are the ones who have it right. couldn't god have done a little bit better than that?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30what it does is undermines the basic assumption at the very start of your "here's why the universe must have been created by a god" thesis.

How? It doesn't disprove the "matter or mind" idea.
your entire line of reasoning was based on taking "everything is either mind or matter" as a known fact, which it plainly isn't.

Quote:So "it's not a yes or no question" is your answer?
no, "i can see why you're asking" and more importantly "i wouldn't have phrased it like that" was the answer.

Quote:You're missing the point. The idea of my statement being fatuous is an opinion, so I naturally pointed out that you spoke of it as a fact.
don't think i did. i think a bigger problem would be talking about religions as if they're facts.

Quote:Quote:including the ones god absolutely despises, according to the bible?

Yes.
How do you know god wants you to do that?

according to the bible there are people who infuriate god no end. people who worship other gods, homosexuals, etc. his rage towards these guys is apparently much greater than his annoyance at, say, the devil. how do you know god wants you to be nice to these appalling sinners? don't you think god might ask you "i spent half the old testament trying to make it clear to you what absolute scum these people are, now i see you're having tea with them?"

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30greed can have its uses.

How so? If you don't mind describing.
compare it to "take no thought for the morrow".

greed is usually undesirable, but would you rather have parents who want well-paid jobs or would you rather have parents who follow jesus's instruction to think nothing of the future and just follow him? (i.e. no investment, no looking after your family, etc etc etc)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30see above re: god seems quite content to let the world be smashed up. he doesn't even look out for his religion (although, of course, your religion didn't exist until quite recently. for a long time there was just catholicism... it split a few times and

they've been kicking the shit out of each other since)

I'm sure you prefer this system than having God actively smash up any rebellers, no?
actually, no i don't.

if god was kicking ass here and now and making examples of the murderers and rapists of the world (well, i say rapists, but god doesn't seem to mind that too much, so let's just stick with murderers) then at least people would figure out that these punishments are going to happen.

with the current "system" (if "system" is a good word to describe the fact that your god is nowhere to be seen... seems to me there's a better explanation for that), remember that the people who really follow god's rules are a very small minority. the vast majority don't see a reason to think that the bible must be followed. and yet they'll suffer the most horrific punishments regardless.

don't get me wrong, both scenarios are horrific, but if god was laying the smackdown in the here and now then at least more people would know about it instead of the tiny minority who do, according to you.

Quote:You like your "basic human freedom of thought and expression".
i also like to have just laws, so that's another thing which sets me at odds with your god.

Quote:Yes, I saw it.

My point here was that you've mentioned Christianity in goverment as an argument against me, in this thread earlier. I don't know why that's logical, since I disagree with it as well. Basically what kadoosh said.

you really don't disagree with it. it's basically come down to a distinction between god and the followers of god. you don't think the followers of god should be in undemocratic control, but you'd quite like it if god was in undemocratic control.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30is god perfect or not perfect? is the bible a perfect depiction of his views or not?

Perfect - it's not a universal definition. I personally see him has perfect - Jesus especially... although I'm sure you dsagree.

I sure do. How do you explain something as morally shit as the rape law, for example? How about those passages I brought up earlier, where god is very enthusiastic about slaughtering innocent bystanders, including children, for the supposed crimes of others?

Seriously, if we needed to make a list of laws with which to form a basis of morality, the average child could have done better than your god.

Quote:I see no reason why the Bible would inaccurately depict his views, apart from transcription error.

why would the bible not be an accurate depiction of the views of a god?

off the top of my head....

1. the people writing the books were lying
2. the people writing the books were crazy

3. the people writing the books were plain wrong (for example, thought they knew something they weren't sure of)

ask two simple questions about the bible. 1: who wrote them? (don't just give a name, try to find out who these people were) and 2: how did they know what to write?

and isn't it quite a big deal that there might be "transcription errors"?

Quote:I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.
don't act as if the two things are the same.

intellectual freedom is a basic human right (though most religions don't want to admit it). it was being denied him for one reason: religion.

Quote:I was sad to hear Starbuzz convert - although I won't host a pity party mentioning how he was misled to believe lies and blah blah - it's rude and biased.
I really don't think "convert" is the right word. He wasn't welcomed into a friendly crowd of fellow unbelievers, he wasn't told he'd be more safe or he'd get lovely rewards if he became an atheist. And from what I understand he still has a tough time keeping his views hidden from his uber-religious parents and the local religious groups. In Starbuzz you have a genuine story of the damage religion can do to a person and to a family.

Quote:Actually, I was glad to hear he was leaving the Catholic side anyhow. From the experiences he described, they don't sound pleasant.
i haven't heard exactly what denomination he was subjected to, but i don't think it was catholic.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30sure it's a generalisation, just to save time. there might be religions out there who do believe in freedom of belief, but the ones with all the power now don't seem to. does yours? see my earlier question. do i really have the right to criticise and reject your religion? if i'm gonna be punished for it, then no i don't.

I prefer to talk in terms of this physical existence's terms of rights. Yes, you have the right to criticize my religion now. The only reason you would is if you don't believe in it, and if that's the case, why worry about what our afterlife beliefs are?
Firstly, this does not answer the question.

Secondly, the second sentence really is odd. "If you don't think there's a hell, why object to us telling everyone that they must do what we say because otherwise they'll go there?" If someone tries to mug a person with a gun, it doesn't make them innocent if it turns out the gun was unloaded, even if the mugger was absolutely convinced it was loaded.

Quote:I have been meaning to ask you to justify this. It seems like a pretty large hyperbole to me.
i thought i'd explained it enough times already, frankly

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony
where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a

line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.
the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Yep, and usually by the atheists. Almost every time we hear of a bill in petition, it's about some atheist group wanting so-and-so removed.
Such as?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:clearly you believe i'm to ignorant to think of leaving something out so people don't expect it.
sorry, you've lost me.

You're probably making it more complex than needed. Rewritten:
"You must think I'm ignorant, since you believe I don't understand the principle of deception/foreshadowing."
could still use some clarification, i'm afraid.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Have fun but remember you are also attempting to FORCE someone to believe their religion is wrong.
What an AMAZINGLY stupid accusation.

Maybe not "AMAZINGLY stupid" per se, but I do agree it's false. You're no more forcing me than I am forcing you.

"no more" is only grammatically correct, i'm afraid, since "less" is not "more".

you're not personally forcing religion onto me, but you approve of your boss doing it. well, that's not much of a distinction.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Tue, 11 May 2010 20:44:54 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44

I don't want to dwell on this issue but the only reason I brought it up is to show the poorly-made excuses christians bring up all the time to justify why supernatural interference is not occurring anymore.

here's a more plausible answer: the people who wrote these stories are no longer around to write them.

I'm sorry, I cannot understand anything you're saying here.
I'm willing to talk about it, I guess.

So far you have said that god is not interefering in the world; stepping on a cornerstone dogma for billions of christians around the world. Your claims equal that of saying the majority of christians around the world are wrong about pretty much everything.

And satan? The idea of satan is so absurd in America that most christians here are afraid and

downright embarrassed to talk about him while the same christians elsewhere, treat him with so much respect and give him so much credit. The world "devil" is ignored here and conveniently so.

So it is under this context that saying jesus negating god's need for supernatural acts and angels helping establish the church (I heard this first time btw) really amount to nothing but excuses of a religion that has trouble answering the basic question. This has been formulated by theologians in seminaries as a way to explain it away and is not biblical at all. It's the same with the "christianity is not a religion but a relationship" marketing gimmick made up by your theologians.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26That's irrelevant, you know. You can't just blame their argument's lack of support on an indoctrination you know little about.

Not really. Your indoctrination is a condensed cleaned up version of christianity that seems to fit the progressed civilized nature of western society.

As far as the atheist argument today, I think it is convincing enough to turn a christian into an atheist. I think it's unfair for anyone (let alone someone who is himself indoctrinated) to say that it suffers from any "lack of support." If this is what you were getting at.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26I was brought under a different church than you, and you have certainly surprised me with some of the things you say your church tried to teach you.

This isn't a church vs church battle. It's christianity's core dogma vs revised modernised dogma. There's a huge difference.

If jesus were here, he wouldn't want to be associated with most christians except, say the Amish.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44wow...so many christians don't know this. All jews, christians, and muslims trace the root of their religions to the Patriach Abraham.

I'd trace it to Adam and Eve, and their creator, myself.

It doesn't matter who you feel like tracing it to.

The 3 major religions today tracing their history back to Abraham is pretty much accepted among them. I have seen it written in top christian magazines as well.

No matter how hard christians try, it's impossible for you go further back into the past and try to apply the religious texts of a Mediterraeen sea people to a time they didn't even exist! That's so absurd.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44There's a huge difference between human discoveries and the horror fantasies in a religious book.

How? Take both and show them to a people who are ignorant to both's origins, and they'll very likely think both are just as implausible.

So according to you, we should put "underwater life, solar flares, flora and fauna, planets and stars, and atoms, cells, and organs" in the same category as "hell, heaven, eternal life and eternal torment, angels, weird angelic creatures like cherubims, bright light, thor, vishnu, reincarnation, poseidon, athena, hercules, zeus, Minotaur..."

And we should show both to ignoramuses and ask for their opinion as well? Thankfully we live in a time when people have a basic sense of history [and understand how so many varied belief systems formed, developed, and evolved by so many different groups of people]...oh wait, they don't.

The only reason you think they fall in the same category is because you were childhood indoctrinated to believe that some of these myths are actually real. If your parents told you that the Minotaur was real when you were a kid, you will be defending its existence now.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44do you imply that reincarnation is true but we aren't in a position to have "examined and studied" it?

I imply that, while I don't believe in it, I don't have concrete proof that it is false.

Why the need for formalities and political correctness? It would be much easier if you just said it's man-made falsehood.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44So don't you see then how silly it is to rely on any product coming out of older tribes and civilizations? How risky it is to especially rely on on their old books for setting a standard on morality and foundation for social law?

No, not especially. They've lived with the signs and the events for a long time, and their judgement can't just be hastily applied to a made-up belief.

Tell me, are you willing to apply this same logic for the other religions of the ancient world? To every religion past and present? Of course you won't!

You don't understand how religions are formed. Nor do you, as I mentioned above, understand how so many varied belief systems formed, developed, and evolved by so many different groups of people. Jeez, you would learn more about this simple truth about our past (that has been denied to you) playing the original Age of Empires.

Mormonism, for example. A bogus story based on a false rewriting of 19th century American history. It's now its own religion with a global charity/missions arm. I guess they have lived with the signs and events for a long time too, right? And that's one of the most recent examples. You can apply this to any religion.

This is why I dislike religion. It gives you a dangerous sense of exclusiveness and superiority.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26I wasn't aware Americans were trying, all I see is atheists trying to remove anything religious from American culture.

Who's rights do you think matter more? Sadly, most religious people can't even bring themselves to say "everyone." As long as they get the bigger cut of the meat...

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26 You're assuming this, actually. You don't know for a fact what I've learned from my parents and what I learned for myself. And I'd appreciate you not implying I learned everything religious from my parents alone. I'm not denying they've influenced my viewpoint. It's the degree you imply that irks me.

I kinda expected you to say something along these lines. I must admit that I find this statement hard to believe.

As someone who myself was brought up within christian indoctrination, I can attest to this. Though I will be willing to hear your side. There's no assumptions here since I was in the same boat. Perhaps you can read my first ever post in this thread and then try to describe the way you were also indoctrinated.

Tell me what are some things you learned alone on your own? From what you have posted, you have said everything a freshly indoctrinated christian would say.

If you go back and re-read the stuff you posted in this thread and all the threads from last year, I mean, is this what a person who went out on his own would say? Every statement you said here is based on the religious influence by your parents, church, and bible.

Infact you have been so morally corrupted that you justify the murders of the children committed by the exodus gang and then so shockingly excuse that by saying "BUT THEY ARE IN HEAVEN." I guess them losing their lives in gruesome murders and the terrible agony and grief of their parents before the slaughter doesn't matter to you.

What else have you learned? You justify dictatorships over and over again. I guess dictatorships are ok with you if the dictator shares your same view. How unfair for the others! You don't realize this simple concept of equality. Is this what someone who hasn't been seriously stained with religion will say?

And that's pretty much is the big picture of who you are...atleast from my view. I would say a degree of influence close to 100%.

See, I don't mind you "believing" all this, but it is highly contrary to your original claim that you "learned" something on your own. There's a huge difference between believing and learning. And learning imo starts with asking questions, raising doubts, and demanding clarification. And if a shady answer is given to you over and over and you are also told to shut up, then the alarms should go off in your head and you think there is something wrong and seek the answer yourself.

So when asking questions and doubting itself is forbidden in christianity, it's even harder to do.

I took a huge risk/gamble (with threat of hellfire) for even thinking freely (which seems to be a huge crime somehow). And it really tears up my eye as I think about the times when I had so many questions about this hideous religion I had the bad fortune of being born into and could not even ask them because of terrible fear...both of the fanatics around me and the imaginary dictator

above. I felt abused when I was forced and screamed at to just shut up and believe. So it's good to see that your religion didn't even exist at one point in recorded history.

With the indoctrination system that I described, it's easy to see why there's no shortage of religious folks defending what they were brought up to believe to be true.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Altzan wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 00:26You're reading too far into it. It's simply a step to indicate that there is a diety! Why is that so ridiculous?

It wouldn't be ridiculous if you left it at that. You also go on to imply that this deity is the judeo-christian god of abraham!

I said that's what I believe, based on it. That doesn't undo my statements about a diety, just because I have my belief on who it is.

Since your "statements about a diety" itself is an unfounded belief, it loses all credibility especially when you go on to say it's "yahweh"...who btw is a relatively newcomer to human religions.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26You think sacrifice and such based on religion is laughable; I merely pointed out that it still plays on the aspect of man's inherently religious nature.

No one is going to be convinced if you just assert this over and over while outright ignoring the basic evolutionary history and social processes of early human movements that eventually forms deeper concepts such as unity, tribal idnetity, religions etc etc. And you have already plentifully demonstrated that you know little about other diverse cultures and societies both past and present (other than believing they are all going to hell).

You did deny something so basic by simply asserting this:

Altzan wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:41Man didn't initially worship nature, they did worship those "same supernatural beings".

This statement is nonsensical; it's akin to saying the 747 jumbo jet came first before the Wright brothers tiny wooden airplane. The question is simple: why would man even worship nature first if your favorite diety made everything and gave instructions? Our early evolutionary history perfectly answers this.

And do you have anything to say about the vastly growing and expanding population of non-religious people in the world today? Seems superstition is not so "inherent" after all and we are getting over religion finally just as the present day religions replaced the older religions they dethroned.

Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44Anyway, I was away for the last couple days because I was invited to a wedding. It was for one of my hindu friends and I had a really fun time at her wedding. I got to see for the first time the various hindu ceremonial marriage rituals in a very nice natural open setting. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to appreciate the lifestlyes and beliefs of people from a very different religion.

That's pretty cool, hope you had fun.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 Now logging back into renforums and reading these christian arguments makes me feel like I am in some twilight zone away from reality lol.

I know how you feel

It was a lot of fun yes. Thanks. It was a break from sunday church too lol! And I appreciated her for inviting me in. Ever since I became atheist, I was more and more interested in the cultures and traditions and religions of others. And this was an awesome opportunity to do just that.

For example, as a kid living in a christian Indian home, the lie that hindus are the lowest scum of the earth ever has been impressed upon me. Seems they ain't all as bad as they were pumped up to be. I guess atheism has made me more tolerant towards others.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 06 May 2010 23:36 Spoony wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 the general question is pretty straightforward.

Ok, then I'll try to -

Spoon wrote on Wed, 05 May 2010 08:16 just can't bring themselves to believe any of this crap

Ah. Never mind then.

There you go, everyone!

We must just simply close our eyes and say "I believe this to be true..." in the face of incredible contrary reason.

We just have to believe this...just like that. I can see why your religion needs the all important childhood indoctrination; without which it would disappear!

Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10 The question isn't useless at all. These debates are, though.

** The question isn't useless but debating the answer is **

???

And so why spend so much time here then?

Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10 Do you REALLY expect anyone's opinion to change, on an anonymous-type forum, with the same old arguments on both sides?

yes.

The only side with the "same old arguments" is the religious side who have been repeating this for 2000 years.

If you are not the one asking the questions and seeking the answers, you won't be seeing anything new.

You have been put into the position you are in now. Once you realize this terrible truth, then that will be the day the sparks will fly. I don't see anyone demanding you to abandon your position and I certainly am not asking you too. I don't understand how you expect people to not say anything in response to anything they disagree with? It's pretty obvious why this debate even took place; your decision on homosexuality is influenced not by yourself but by your religion. And when you have the power to influence laws, a clash with your religious background is inevitable.

As for me, I can only be happy for myself. I owe so much to Spoony; I am so much indebted to him and can never repay him ever for what he has done. I could never have torn away the tight blindfolds that my parents and church put around my eyes (when I was a helpless little child) all by myself though I did try.

I see my own 10 year old brother in this. Already brainwashed in an American sunday school to believe that in heaven the jewish god "sits with a feather pen and big book in a judge's chair." Who is going to remove his blindfolds? You tell me if this is right or wrong to do to children?

Day-before-yesterday in church (this was a smaller baptist church), they brought all the sunday school kids to the front and announced that the children learned the story of "Abraham's obedience"...the story of the little boy Issac about to be offered as a live sacrifice. I sincerely felt so heartbroken for those kids and felt like walking out because I couldn't bear to watch their young minds lied to like that. That's a lot of future Altzans and old Starbuzzes right there!

So if it weren't for debates like this, I would still be in my miserable state of mind.

And there's no need to bash the "lol internet" when it's convenient to you. I see 3 people who have done so in this thread. I bet nobody bashes convenience of email over written mailed letters, no?

You see the oppressed free-thinking people in Iran and China using the internet as a loophole to connect and share their precious thoughts. why? Cuz they will get arrested by their regimes if they do it in real life. It's the same case for me. It just confirms my view that most people don't really know what freedom really is. It's more deeper than just due process, free speech, and right to own firearms. Those are important yes, but freedom doesn't stop here.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10

kadoosh wrote on Sat, 08 May 2010 21:36It matters not what these people say to you. It's best for you to no waste your time on them. If there is an after life I guarantee I'll be in hell, but I'll go defending to the end your right to believe in what ever man made religion you wish.

"man made religion"? :\

Why is it so surprising? You do think every religion other than you own is man-made.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10True, it's happened many times in this thread alone. Sometimes debators (myself included at some points I admit) don't look at an opposing argument

with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude, but rather a "let's see the best way to refute or ridicule this" attitude. I wish this never happened, flamewars would be less likely to happen.

I already said my reasons for debating you. Not to prove you wrong but trying to see if you have anything new. It's hard for me to look at what you are saying with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude because I was once in your position and can never be in your position again unless I "believe" and have "faith." I just can't "believe" just like that even though you keep demanding I do just that.

The childhood brainwashing is gone you see...the same stuff that they shoot into the fresh innocent mind of a young child (like last Sunday) is not going to work on a educated, well-informed young adult. You can fool a ignorant customer into buying a bogus swiss watch but can't do the same with a prudent person. And you can never resell your bogus product to a customer who once used it, found out about it, and threw it away 5 ways to a dustbin...unless you can come up with something original and convincing. "Just believe this watch is real!" doesn't cut it either and you have already tried that.

Anyway, you yourself don't know where you will be in the future. That's why I said I was debating you to see if you can shed any "new juice" to make me rethink some of my values. You haven't done so. I am not surprised because ever since I declared my atheism to my parents last year (my big mistake), the tyrants brought in so many theologians and evangelists to "resave my soul." I heard the A-Z of the christian religion from them. In the end, they did a damn good job showing me how feeble, heartless, and unbelievable christianity really is and ended up making me stronger.

Basically, if I (or any atheist) wanted to be a christian this is what they got to do:

- 1) force my brain to forget all about the ancient tribes/religions/cultures (and think they are all in hell because they were all false religions)
- 2) dismiss the idea of dinosaurs and continental drift
- 3) somehow "re-believe" in the genesis story and young earth (first woman came from a man's ribs etc etc)
- 4) Start "believing" in abraham's god and how he was so loving (dismiss the genocides they never tell you about conveniently)
- 5) believe that I have sinned (original sin tripe)
- 6) accept jesus as personal savior which then forgives the sin! (Problem-Reaction-Solution scheme right here)
- 7) plunge myself inside biblical delusion and live a christian life "prayerfully," take a stand on non-issues like homosexuality blah blah...

Impossible.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10 But it's the internet, the location of almost pure anonymity, which fuels such behaviour. It's hard to curb.

I don't think Spoony or me hide behind internet anonymity. You can see the true information in our profiles and you can see who we are in the picture thread. Hardly the people that seem to hide in "pure" anonymity and act as such.

I had it so bad when mrpirate, Sniper_De7, and cheesiesoda were here. mrpirate would even PM in-game and call me a "you must be that whack christian nutjob from renforums" totally making me feel so bad in the middle of the game.

Spoony was the most lenient of them all. Why? Even though he offended me a lot and I hated him for it, I kept debating with him because I he never insulted me and or uselessly retorted to name-calling like the others. He stuck to his points.

Altzan wrote on Mon, 10 May 2010 23:47

I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.

When someone becomes christian, it's another person jumping on an ideology they don't know anything about or how it came into widespread use over two thousand years; a religion and a way of life that once didn't even exist. A few extra dollars for the offering plate. Another person who has allowed themselves to be deluded though you will claim different. Your side increased by 1. And they are going to heaven (!) and accept a man who has been dead for over 2000 years as their personal saviour for forgiving a sin they didn't even commit. They are no longer "lost" and "part of the oh so evil evil world!" and are now "saved!" yeah, I know this "elation" feeling.

When someone abandons their childhood religious indoctrination, that's a person who is able to think fairly, with reason, with true sovereignty. Even if they went to another religion, it would be ok because it was under their own power.

There's a huge difference between how anyone would feel about the two considering how high and separate the stakes are.

It's amazing to see some of the hideous tactics churches in america (and elsewhere in the world) use to get people to come forward and accept christ. I have seen this in certain baptist and some calvary chapels too. At the end of the services, you have the calling where you are asked to "come forward in the presence of all men" and then very often you hear "so you know where you will be if you were to die on your way home."

Amazing how in a congregation of 5000 zombies, I am the only monster that can see this fear-based hell threat used to hasten people to make a decision.

whistles....

Altzan wrote on Mon, 10 May 2010 23:47 I was sad to hear Starbuzzz convert

There's a huge difference between conversion (simply believing something so unfounded is true based on emotional/social pressures) and conceding a position that you have been brought up to believe is true after examining evidence that was kept hidden from you.

Most of the reasons why people convert have no grounding in fact at all and their reasons to do so is emotional in nature and is based on real problems people have in their daily lives.

Altzan wrote on Mon, 10 May 2010 23:47- although I won't host a pity party mentioning how he was misled to believe lies and blah blah - it's rude and biased.

"misled to believe lies" - this is more applicable to the religious...except they get you when you were little like those helpless kids at church two days ago.

I took what made sense and had the decency to admit that my childhood indoctrinated position was wrong. And took me three years of my own accord.

Altzan wrote on Mon, 10 May 2010 23:47Actually, I was glad to hear he was leaving the Catholic side anyhow. From the experiences he described, they don't sound pleasant.

Anyone else see damage limitation here!? Trying to escape from accountability again, eh?

How dishonest of you! I lost track of how many times in this thread you have pulled the "my denomination, my church, and my version of christianity [that I was brought up in] is the real correct version over all others across the world so anyone crying about being mistreated by any other version of christianity is moot!"

I wasn't catholic (sorry to disappoint). I was in your side except your country is way more advanced than mine in every level...though I am glad now that there is still a Pat Robertson around to remind you of how far christianity has collectively "progressed" and "revised" itself in your country over and over.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 13 May 2010 05:58:34 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32firstly, the idea that it would be fine with the right leader is a fallacy, cos the whole point of dictatorship is that if you don't have the right leader, there's nothing you can do about it.

shrug

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32secondly, if the bible was accurate then god is not the right leader. he's the most vicious, merciless and unjust character ever created.

Hey, look. Another hyperbole.

It's easy to make such a claim when you only look at the negative sides.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32thirdly, you think monarchies are a good thing? they're what you get before you get democracies, and they were the second biggest obstacle to human rights throughout the centuries (the biggest being, of course, religion)

I never said they were good. My point was about how widely used it was.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32just want to make sure i heard you right. the worst

crimes according to the bible (which tend not to be the worst crimes according to modern society)... you think we should just let people get away with them?

Obviously you didn't hear me right.

God's not going to fry them with a lightning bolt today for those crimes. That doesn't mean we shouldn't punish them with the laws of our land.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32secondly, how do you know god does not want you to set his commandments as the laws of the land?

Because he state in the NT that we should obey the laws of our land, provided they were just.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32thirdly, isn't god a bit of a prick for making his revelation so unclear?

even though the majority of humanity think "faith" is a good thing (our greatest weakness, in my view, but i'm hopeful that we can overcome it), the vast majority of people do not think your bible is true. (muslims may think it's true but not the prevailing law)

Heck, people were disbelieving in him and rallying against him even when he was active and leading.

That's man's fault if they don't want to believe what's happening in front of their own eyes.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32your entire line of reasoning was based on taking "everything is either mind or matter" as a known fact, which it plainly isn't.

I still have yet to hear why. What can only be categorized in a third?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:So "it's not a yes or no question" is your answer? no, "i can see why you're asking" and more importantly "i wouldn't have phrased it like that" was the answer.

"i wouldn't have phrased it like that" implies you have a different opinion. One yet unshared.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:You're missing the point. The idea of my statement being fatuous is an opinion, so I naturally pointed out that you spoke of it as a fact. don't think i did. i think a bigger problem would be talking about religions as if they're facts.

I just read Starbuzz's post and it's full of crap like this, only it's an "atheists are right" view. So that kind of talk is only bad when theists use it?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:Quote:including the ones god absolutely despises, according to the bible?

Yes.

How do you know god wants you to do that?

according to the bible there are people who infuriate god no end. people who worship other gods, homosexuals, etc. his rage towards these guys is apparently much greater than his annoyance at, say, the devil. how do you know god wants you to be nice to these appalling sinners? don't you think god might ask you "i spent half the old testament trying to make it clear to you what absolute

scum these people are, now i see you're having tea with them?"

NT explicitly states that we should be friendly with everyone, NOT make enemies with them.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32greed is usually undesirable, but would you rather have parents who want well-paid jobs or would you rather have parents who follow Jesus's instruction to think nothing of the future and just follow him? (i.e. no investment, no looking after your family, etc etc etc)

If you think Christians do things like that in the name of faith, you are badly misinformed.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32if God was kicking ass here and now and making examples of the murderers and rapists of the world (well, i say rapists, but God doesn't seem to mind that too much, so let's just stick with murderers) then at least people would figure out that these punishments are going to happen.

If you look at the OT, there were still plenty of people who didn't. A smaller percentage, maybe, but it's with a system you've rejected thus far.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32you really don't disagree with it. it's basically come down to a distinction between God and the followers of God. you don't think the followers of God should be in undemocratic control, but you'd quite like it if God was in undemocratic control.

Pretty much.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I see no reason why the Bible would inaccurately depict his views, apart from transcription error.

why would the Bible not be an accurate depiction of the views of a God?

off the top of my head....

1. the people writing the books were lying
2. the people writing the books were crazy
3. the people writing the books were plain wrong (for example, thought they knew something they weren't sure of)

ask two simple questions about the Bible. 1: who wrote them? (don't just give a name, try to find out who these people were) and 2: how did they know what to write?

and isn't it quite a big deal that there might be "transcription errors"?

Not surprising that all of these deal with human error.

If the Bible is really God's word, he would have made sure it did not get screwed over by human error. It's either true or false, just as it is.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.

don't act as if the two things are the same.

Excuse me? The basis IS the same: an individual changing what he believes.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32intellectual freedom is a basic human right (though most religions don't want to admit it). it was being denied him for one reason: religion.

Religion doesn't block "intellectual freedom" as much as you claim it does.
It doesn't demand that we stop all scientific progress and stick with the stone age.
At least, not most of them.

Spoony said:i haven't heard exactly what denomination he was subjected to, but i don't think it was catholic.

Starbuzz said:I wasn't catholic (sorry to disappoint).

Sorry. I thought I'd seen that in his posts, although it was a while back and I should have checked.
What did they call themselves, then?

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32the second sentence really is odd. "If you don't think there's a hell, why object to us telling everyone that they must do what we say because otherwise they'll go there?" If someone tries to mug a person with a gun, it doesn't make them innocent if it turns out the gun was unloaded, even if the mugger was absolutely convinced it was loaded.

No. If that was the case, the mugger would be saying he had a gun, but showing no indication of it, not even a bulge in his pocket.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I have been meaning to ask you to justify this. It seems like a pretty large hyperbole to me.
i thought i'd explained it enough times already, frankly

Not in terms of such a drastic claim, no.

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony
where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.

the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Yep, and usually by the atheists. Almost every time we hear of a bill in petition, it's about some atheist group wanting so-and-so removed.
Such as?

Pretty much everything that refers to God.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44So far you have said that god is not interfering in the world; stepping on a cornerstone dogma for billions of christians around the world. Your claims equal that of saying the majority of christians around the world are wrong about pretty much everything.

...No, they don't. They have a lot of it right, but what isn't is what can break them.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 And satan? The idea of satan is so absurd in America that most christians here are afraid and downright embarrassed to talk about him while the same christians elsewhere, treat him with so much respect and give him so much credit. The world "devil" is ignored here and conveniently so.

We don't ignore him. He's a frequent topic.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 So it is under this context that saying Jesus negating God's need for supernatural acts and angels helping establish the church (I heard this first time btw) really amount to nothing but excuses of a religion that has trouble answering the basic question. This has been formulated by theologians in seminaries as a way to explain it away and is not biblical at all. It's the same with the "Christianity is not a religion but a relationship" marketing gimmick made up by your theologians.

Wow, this started to make sense until halfway through. I can't understand a shady reference to theological seminars about an idea you supposedly heard first from me.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26 I was brought under a different church than you, and you have certainly surprised me with some of the things you say your church tried to teach you.

This isn't a church vs church battle. It's Christianity's core dogma vs revised modernised dogma. There's a huge difference.

If Jesus were here, he wouldn't want to be associated with most Christians except, say the Amish.

I never said it was. I'm pointing out that I'm not the only one bringing a point or two that is totally new to the other side.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26 Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44 wow...so many Christians don't know this. All Jews, Christians, and Muslims trace the root of their religions to the Patriarch Abraham.

I'd trace it to Adam and Eve, and their creator, myself.

It doesn't matter who you feel like tracing it to.

The 3 major religions today tracing their history back to Abraham is pretty much accepted among them. I have seen it written in top Christian magazines as well.

If it doesn't matter what I trace it to, it doesn't matter where those mag guys trace it. I don't have to shove myself into a majority.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 So according to you, we should put "underwater life, solar flares, flora and fauna, planets and stars, and atoms, cells, and organs" in the same category as "hell, heaven, eternal life and eternal torment, angels, weird angelic creatures like cherubims, bright light, Thor, Vishnu, reincarnation, Poseidon, Athena, Hercules, Zeus, Minotaur..." And we should show both to ignoramus and ask for their opinion as well?

Specifically, people who know little or nothing of both sets. Then they both seem just as mystic.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26 Starbuzz

wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44do you imply that reincarnation is true but we aren't in a position to have "examined and studied" it?

I imply that, while I don't believe in it, I don't have concrete proof that it is false.

Why the need for formalities and political correctness? It would be much easier if you just said it's man-made falsehood.

Easier if I lied, then? No.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Who's rights do you think matter more? Sadly, most religious people can't even bring themselves to say "everyone." As long as they get the bigger cut of the meat...

Seriously? The religious around here care more about rights than the local atheists. They especially don't care about these 'cuts of meat' you mention.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Tell me what are some things you learned alone on your own? From what you have posted, you have said everything a freshly indoctrinated christian would say.

Yeah, it's pretty funny how I seem to say the common and accepted beliefs of a Christian...

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Infact you have been so morally corrupted that you justify the murders of the children committed by the exodus gang and then so shockingly excuse that by saying "BUT THEY ARE IN HEAVEN." I guess them losing their lives in gruesome murders and the terrible agony and grief of their parents before the slaughter doesn't matter to you.

Bad guess. But going against the method or reason won't bring them back.

And, as I said, I'm not sure keeping them alive would be any less scarring, not that it justifies the act.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44What else have you learned? You justify dictatorships over and over again. I guess dictatorships are ok with you if the dictator shares your same view. How unfair for the others! You don't realize this simple concept of equality. Is this what someone who hasn't been seriously stained with religion will say?

Is it a simple assumption, then, that no matter how well a system is designed, there will be people who want no part of it, and deserve rights?

And if the Biblical system is so bad, why are all the examples I've seen so far been OT based?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44See, I don't mind you "believing" all this, but it is highly contrary to your original claim that you "learned" something on your own. There's a huge difference between believing and learning. And learning imo starts with asking questions, raising doubts, and demanding clarification. And if a shady answer is given to you over and over and you are also told to shut up, then the alarms should go off in your head and you think there is something wrong and seek the answer yourself.

I know the difference. And I know that I wasn't given 'shady information'. A lot of it has evidence to

back it up and simple makes sense. Despite the fact that all of the ones I mentioned so far have been ridiculed (but not always retorted to).

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 No one is going to be convinced if you just assert this over and over while outright ignoring the basic evolutionary history and social processes of early human movements that eventually forms deeper concepts such as unity, tribal identity, religions etc etc. And you have already plentifully demonstrated that you know little about other diverse cultures and societies both past and present (other than believing they are all going to hell).

And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up (not by anyone in particular - apparently I need to emphasize this).
Sound familiar?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 You did deny something so basic by simply asserting this:

Altzan wrote on Mon, 26 April 2010 03:41 Man didn't initially worship nature, they did worship those "same supernatural beings".

This statement is nonsensical; it's akin to saying the 747 jumbo jet came first before the Wright brothers tiny wooden airplane. The question is simple: why would man even worship nature first if your favorite deity made everything and gave instructions? Our early evolutionary history perfectly answers this.

My question was, what makes you so positive that they worshipped nature first?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 And do you have anything to say about the vastly growing and expanding population of non-religious people in the world today? Seems superstition is not so "inherent" after all and we are getting over religion finally just as the present day religions replaced the older religions they dethroned.

With the expansion of technology and science, it's not that surprising, is it?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 For example, as a kid living in a christian Indian home, the lie that hindus are the lowest scum of the earth ever has been impressed upon me. Seems they ain't all as bad as they were pumped up to be. I guess atheism has made me more tolerant towards others.

And you expect me to believe all Christians are the same. Bull.
We don't discriminate like that!

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 There you go, everyone!
We must just simply close our eyes and say "I believe this to be true..." in the face of incredible contrary reason.

We just have to believe this...just like that. I can see why your religion needs the all important childhood indoctrination; without which it would disappear!

Riiiiight. Because when I refuse to bang my head on the already established "I cannot possibly believe this" brick wall, it's me just refusing to look at the facts.
Get over it and move along, please. No implied truth here.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44** The question isn't useless but this particular debate is **

???

And so why spend so much time here then?

Fixed.

And I spend time here because it's interesting and relevant.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44As for me, I can only be happy for myself. I owe so much to Spoony; I am so much indebted to him and can never repay him ever for what he has done. I could never have torn away the tight blindfolds that my parents and church put around my eyes (when I was a helpless little child) all by myself though I did try.

I see my own 10 year old brother in this. Already brainwashed in an American sunday school to believe that in heaven the jewish god "sits with a feather pen and big book in a judge's chair."

Who is going to remove his blindfolds? You tell me if this is right or wrong to do to children?

Day-before-yesterday in church (this was a smaller baptist church), they brought all the sunday school kids to the front and announced that the children learned the story of "Abraham's obedience"...the story of the little boy Issac about to be offered as a live sacrifice. I sincerely felt so heartbroken for those kids and felt like walking out because I couldn't bear to watch their young minds lied to like that. That's a lot of future Altzans and old Starbuzzes right there!

So if it weren't for debates like this, I would still be in my miserable state of mind.

And there's no need to bash the "lol internet" when it's convenient to you. I see 3 people who have done so in this thread. I bet nobody bashes convenience of email over written mailed letters, no?

You see the oppressed free-thinking people in Iran and China using the internet as a loophole to connect and share their precious thoughts. why? Cuz they will get arrested by their regimes if they do it in real life. It's the same case for me. It just confirms my view that most people don't really know what freedom really is. It's more deeper than just due process, free speech, and right to own firearms. Those are important yes, but freedom doesn't stop here.

If your big thing here is simply brainwashing... do you mostly ridicule Christianity because that's the subject you purged yourself from?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44I already said my reasons for debating you. Not to prove you wrong but trying to see if you have anything new. It's hard for me to look at what you are saying with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude because I was once in your position and can never be in your positon again unless I "believe" and have "faith."

I wasn't speaking about anyone in particular. Why do I have to express that?

I even mentioned earlier the reasons why you're debating here, incase you missed it.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Altzan wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 01:10But it's the internet, the location of almost pure anonymity, which fuels such behaviour. It's hard to curb.

I don't think Spoony or me hide behind internet anonymity. You can see the true information in our profiles and you can see who we are in the picture thread. Harldy the people that seem to hide in "pure" anonymity and act as such.

Again, why are you tunneling my general statements onto yourselves?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44I just can't "believe" just like that eventhough you keep demanding I do just that.

No, I don't, actually.

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Spoony was the most lenient of them all. Why? Even though he offended me a lot and I hated him for it, I kept debating with him because I he never insulted me and or uselessly retorted to name-calling like the others.

I wonder why he does it now, then?

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Anyone else see damage limitation here!? Trying to escape from accountability again, eh?

How dishonest of you! I lost track of how many times in this thread you have pulled the "my denomination, my church, and my version of christianity [that I was brought up in] is the real correct version over all others across the world so anyone crying about being being mistreated by any other version of christianity is moot!"

facepalm

Fine. I'll go on a mudering spree and kill everyone even remotely religious, saying that they're poisoning our civilization and ruining our gene pool, and that I'm purifying the human race.

Oh, and I'll mention how I'm an atheist.

And you can't say that he's not a true atheist to cover yourselves, because that's just "pulling a fast one".

Don't you see how ridiculous that is?

Your Hindu friend, for example. If there happened to be a faction who have the core beliefs of Hindu's, but also believed that violence is both permitted and required for spreading the religion, you're basically saying that your Hindu friend cannot claim she isn't a part of it in some way.

Ludicrous.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [nopol10](#) on Thu, 13 May 2010 09:02:02 GMT

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I can see sometime in the distant future a religion with Altzan and Starbuzz as names of deities. Better start keeping a record of this debate in order to safeguard the sanity of future generations.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Sean](#) on Thu, 13 May 2010 11:39:08 GMT

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nopol10 wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 04:02I can see sometime in the distant future a religion with Altzan and Starbuzz as names of deities. Better start keeping a record of this debate in order to safeguard the sanity of future generations.

It's like having 3 spoony's in 1 thread lol id never be able to read through all this :/

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 13 May 2010 13:01:22 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32secondly, if the bible was accurate then god is not the right leader. he's the most vicious, merciless and unjust character ever created.

Hey, look. Another hyperbole.

It's easy to make such a claim when you only look at the negative sides.

the negative sides of the biblical god are very negative indeed.

and it's not hyperbole. i'm not aware of a character, fictional or historical, more evil than the god of the bible.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32just want to make sure i heard you right. the worst crimes according to the bible (which tend not to be the worst crimes accordig to modern society)... you think we should just let people get away with them?

Obviously you didn't hear me right.

God's not going to fry them with a lightning bolt today for those crimes. That doesn't mean we shouldn't punish them wuth the laws of our land.

so who's really sorting the world out?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32secondly, how do you know god does not want you to set his commandments as the laws of the land?

Because he state in the NT that we should obey the laws of our land, provided they were just. Oh, really? Your god says it's ok to opt-out of a legal system if it's morally shit?

Excellent.

I'm sure you can guess where I'm going with this.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32thirdly, isn't god a bit of a prick for making his revelation so unclear?

even though the majority of humanity think "faith" is a good thing (our greatest weakness, in my view, but i'm hopeful that we can overcome it), the vast majority of people do not think your bible

is true. (muslims may think it's true but not the prevailing law)

Heck, people were disbelieving in him and rallying against him even when he was active and leading.

That's man's fault if they don't want to believe what's happening in front of their own eyes.

...if these people were alive and saw what god was doing, i expect they'd have even more contempt for him than i do for the fictional account of him.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32your entire line of reasoning was based on taking "everything is either mind or matter" as a known fact, which it plainly isn't.

I still have yet to hear why. What can only be categorized in a third?

sigh... i didn't say there was a third option, i said it's bullshit to say these are the only two options.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:You're missing the point. The idea of my statement being fatuous is an opinion, so I naturally pointed out that you spoke of it as a fact. don't think i did. i think a bigger problem would be talking about religions as if they're facts.

I just read Starbuzz's post and it's full of crap like this, only it's an "atheists are right" view. So that kind of talk is only bad when theists use it? you can talk that way if you like.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:Quote:including the ones god absolutely despises, according to the bible?

Yes.

How do you know god wants you to do that?

according to the bible there are people who infuriate god no end. people who worship other gods, homosexuals, etc. his rage towards these guys is apparently much greater than his annoyance at, say, the devil. how do you know god wants you to be nice to these appalling sinners? don't you think god might ask you "i spent half the old testament trying to make it clear to you what absolute scum these people are, now i see you're having tea with them?"

NT explicitly states that we should be friendly with everyone, NOT make enemies with them. ah, yes. it also says you should love and forgive your enemies, and turn the other cheek.

what a ridiculous teaching.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32greed is usually undesirable, but would you rather have parents who want well-paid jobs or would you rather have parents who follow jesus's instruction to think nothing of the future and just follow him? (i.e. no investment, no looking after your family, etc etc etc)

If you think Christians do things like that in the name of faith, you are badly misinformed. why don't they? it's what jesus supposedly said...

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32you really don't disagree with it. it's basically come down to a distinction between god and the followers of god. you don't think the followers of god should be in undemocratic control, but you'd quite like it if god was in undemocratic control.

Pretty much.
cool, glad we established that.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I see no reason why the Bible would inaccurately depict his views, apart from transcription error.

why would the bible not be an accurate depiction of the views of a god?
off the top of my head....

1. the people writing the books were lying
2. the people writing the books were crazy
3. the people writing the books were plain wrong (for example, thought they knew something they weren't sure of)

ask two simple questions about the bible. 1: who wrote them? (don't just give a name, try to find out who these people were) and 2: how did they know what to write?
and isn't it quite a big deal that there might be "transcription errors"?

Not surprising that all of these deal with human error.

well, if there's no god (or if there might be a god but there's no reason to suppose it's anything at all like the depiction in the bible) then this would be a human error in saying otherwise, wouldn't it?

Quote:If the Bible is really God's word, he would have made sure it did not get screwed over by human error.

i think a rebuttal is superfluous

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.

don't act as if the two things are the same.

Excuse me? The basis IS the same: an individual changing what he believes.
there's a world of difference.

nobody told starbuzz what he must believe. what he believes is not a result of swallowing dogma. secondly, i would never dream of saying he has to agree with me and he'll be punished if he doesn't - i'd be ashamed of myself if i said something so sick. thirdly, it'd be all fine with me if, after breaking free of christianity, he made the free informed choice to follow a different religion. i must admit i think he's better off as an atheist but if he's got the intellectual freedom that was always being denied him by his christian parents, local religious orders and education, then that's the thing to smile about.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32intellectual freedom is a basic human right (though most religions don't want to admit it). it was being denied him for one reason: religion.

Religion doesn't block "intellectual freedom" as much as you claim it does.
as long as hell is spoken of, yes it does. it would be even worse if it actually existed.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:Spoony wrote on Sun, 09 May 2010 07:30Quote:Spoony

where do you live?

I live in the US where there is a line between Religion and Gov't. As thin as it may be there's a line. We have had the 10 commandments pulled from courthouses. If people here have a problem with something we take it upon ourselves to get it changed.

the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Yep, and usually by the atheists. Almost every time we hear of a bill in petition, it's about some atheist group wanting so-and-so removed.

Such as?

Pretty much everything that refers to God.

Give a specific example? (or several if you like)

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44And satan? The idea of satan is so absurd in America that most christians here are afraid and downright embarrassed to talk about him while the same christians elsewhere, treat him with so much respect and give him so much credit. The world "devil" is ignored here and conveniently so.

We don't ignore him. He's a frequent topic.

i don't know how you could spend that much time talking about satan, unless you're making up a lot of the material yourself.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44What else have you learned? You justify dictatorships over and over again. I guess dictatorships are ok with you if the dictator shares your same view. How unfair for the others! You don't realize this simple concept of equality. Is this what someone who hasn't been seriously stained with religion will say?

Is it a simple assumption, then, that no matter how well a system is designed, there will be people who want no part of it, and deserve rights?

this isn't much of a rebuttal, since we don't accept that this system is well-designed at all.

as to the second part of the question - will there always be people who want to assert their basic human rights? i certainly hope so.

Quote:And if the Biblical system is so bad, why are all the examples I've seen so far been OT based?

cough hell *cough*

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44No one is going to be convinced if you just assert this over and over while outright ignoring the basic evolutionary history and social processes of early human movements that eventually forms deeper concepts such as unity, tribal identity, religions etc etc. And you have already plentifully demonstrated that you know little about other diverse cultures and societies both past and present (other than believing they are all going to hell).

And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up (not by anyone in particular - apparently I need to emphasize this).
by who, then?

and are you told that you'll be physically punished for daring to question these concepts?

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44For example, as a kid living in a christian Indian home, the lie that hindus are the lowest scum of the earth ever has been impressed upon me. Seems they ain't all as bad as they were pumped up to be. I guess atheism has made me more tolerant towards others.

if i can interject - it's not that well known in the west that bin laden seems to hate hindus even more than he hates christians and jews.

not really relevant to anything being said here, just a point which could probably be more well known than it is

Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44I already said my reasons for debating you. Not to prove you wrong but trying to see if you have anything new. It's hard for me to look at what you are saying with a "let's see what they have to say" attitude because I was once in your position and can never be in your position again unless I "believe" and have "faith."

I wasn't speaking about anyone in particular. Why do I have to express that?
I even mentioned earlier the reasons why you're debating here, incase you missed it.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Spoony was the most lenient of them all. Why? Even though he offended me a lot and I hated him for it, I kept debating with him because I he never insulted me and or uselessly retorted to name-calling like the others.

I wonder why he does it now, then?
I wouldn't say I "uselessly resorted to namecalling".

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Thu, 13 May 2010 19:57:53 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58It's easy to make such a claim when you only look at the negative sides.

Which is why the "negative sides" are never told to you and we have to find it for ourselves when we are old enough to think for ourselves. Sad truth about indoctrination.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58I just read Starbuzz's post and it's full of crap like this, only it's an "atheists are right" view.

oh wow. Way to misunderstand. I honestly described how I was going to debate you:

- 1) you say something first
- 2) I will state why exactly I don't share that same view
- 3) you provide clarification further

Here's an example; I asked you where humans learned how to wear clothes. You said it's a "belief

thing" and said your god clothed them with animal skins before kicking their butt out of the garden. I then followed it up with why I wasn't sold on that and said something that made sense and also gave examples of people who still don't give much priority to clothing in this world. You didn't follow up to that and I didn't push.

So how dishonest of you to come back and post later I am "full of crap like this" and "atheists are right" view.

I abandoned the theistic position almost a year ago because it was so flawed and untenable. This is where the difference between indoctrinated theistic dogma vs thinking for yourself comes in. If you want your religion to be accepted as fact, then asserting, and implying and simply asking to believe is not going to help.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58: Excuse me? The basis IS the same: an individual changing what he believes.

I didn't "believe" whatever like a new religious convert would do. I found it acceptable because it makes complete sense; a sense that the religious argument still couldn't overcome. You are one who "believes" and has asked us to do so over and over, and when we wanted elementary proof to justify such belief, you called us a "hopeless case" a year ago.

Christianity is big on the "belief without evidence." Then again, all religions are.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58: Religion doesn't block "intellectual freedom" as much as you claim it does.

Say you have kids and you raised them christian and one of them becomes atheist after seeing through it when he is like 23. Are you going to let him go [to hell] just like that? What are all the options you think you will have to get him back?

You already mentioned earlier that not doing anything when government sets fair laws for homosexuals equals you being accomplices in sin!

Or would you value your child's decision to think freely?

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58: Sorry. I thought I'd seen that in his posts, although it was a while back and I should have checked. What did they call themselves, then?

They called themselves christians (not joking). Denominational divides are not stressed at all in India as they are in America due to there being only 2 denominations.

Anyway if you are curious;
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_South_India

In India, there are christians, hindus, and catholics and they are known/referred to as such.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58: NT explicitly states that we should be friendly with

everyone, NOT make enemies with them.

And why? god is jesus and jesus is god (the eternal Word)...holy trinity for all the sense that makes.

For someone who directed merciless military campaigns and oversaw systemic genocides, why this change of rule? Why didn't he say this at the start?

The "turn your other cheek rule" seriously undermines a human being's right to self-defense, tbh.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44So far you have said that god is not interfering in the world; stepping on a cornerstone dogma for billions of christians around the world. Your claims equal that of saying the majority of christians around the world are wrong about pretty much everything....No, they don't. They have a lot of it right, but what isn't is what can break them.

The world and christianity doesn't revolve around a modernized, cleaned up revision of christianity being practiced in a small denomination in Tennessee.

"what isn't is what can break them" lol

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58We don't ignore him. He's a frequent topic.

"We" meaning your church? Anyway, is this a church of christ? May I please ask?

Anyway, this is my 10th year in America and I have gone to a couple hundred different churches across many denominations (thanks to having religious zealots as parents). I also lived 3 months in Nashville, Tennessee 9 years ago and went to church there.

I have yet to go to an American church where the sermon even mentioned anything about the devil and his horrible mischief to trick us all.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58[I can't understand a shady reference to theological seminars about an idea you supposedly heard first from me.

I heard the angels stuff from you. Everything else is not at all biblical. These theistic theological theorists come up with a lot of stuff to answer away their questions.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44This isn't a church vs church battle. It's christianity's core dogma vs revised modernised dogma. There's a huge difference.

If jesus were here, he wouldn't want to be associated with most christians except, say the Amish. [I'm pointing out that I'm not the only one bringing a point or two that is totally new to the other side.

I didn't learn anything new from you, tbh. I did hear how your culturally advanced denomination rejects the basic idea of god interfering with humanity. And I can see it for what it was; religious revision.

And in the same vein, you didn't learn anything new from me. Atleast not something they should have told you about anyway.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58If it doesn't matter what I trace it to, it doesn't matter where those mag guys trace it. I don't have to shove myself into a majority.

So surprised to hear you reject a basic, supposed, historic fact about your religion.

anyway, mate...you can trace it to adam just as I can [if I feel mischiveous] trace it to the annunaki from planet nibiru. It's your belief.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58The religious around here care more about rights than the local atheists.

"around here" , "local"

I understand you are not talking about the whole nation.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Altzan wrote on Tue, 04 May 2010 22:26Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 03 May 2010 15:44do you imply that reincarnation is true but we aren't in a position to have "examined and studied" it? I imply that, while I don't believe in it, I don't have concrete proof that it is false. Why the need for formalities and political correctness? It would be much easier if you just said it's man-made falsehood.

Easier if I lied, then? No.

I didn't believe you because when I read what you said, it seemed to greatly contradict with what you said on page 3:

Altzan wrote on Tue, 30 March 2010 22:43And no, I don't believe there were other gods, although those idolators apparently did.

When you refer to the faithful confident worshippers of another religion with a biblical and offensive smear word such as "idolators," I kinda thought how likely was it for you to be open to the concept of [reincarnation] that is believed by the world's sole remaining "idol-worshipping" religion.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Yeah, it's pretty funny how I seem to say the common and accepted beliefs of a Christian...

You will learn what they tell you; I only pointed this out.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58quote title=Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44]Infact you have been so morally corrupted that you justify the murders of the children committed by the exodus gang and then so shockingly excuse that by saying "BUT THEY ARE IN HEAVEN." I guess them losing their lives in gruesome

murders and the terrible agony and grief of their parents before the slaughter doesn't matter to you.

Bad guess. But going against the method or reason won't bring them back. And, as I said, I'm not sure keeping them alive would be any less scarring, not that it justifies the act.

It's scary how you are adamant and endorse the "reason" to kill them and say whining about it is not going to "bring them back!"

Do you even have a heart? It's amazing how corrupted you have been turned into without an ounce of mercy.

"I'm not sure keeping them alive would be any less scarring"

seriously, what the f***?

Why should they kill the children? They were babies/toddlers. They could have been adopted and raised in the israeli camp, no? Did that ever strike your mind? So why didn't your loving god do just that? I guess they were gentiles and not the chosen people and hence an abomination? Or I guess, like you already stated in the first few pages of this thread, your god is the dictator and we should never question him no matter what he does.

This is so pathetic. When I was told the truth of these genocides, I had enough moral juice left to condemn them...not defend them.

btw, 2 or 3 tribes they encountered did this practice. 90% of the other tribes destroyed were just unique people worshipping their own religion and minding their own damn business before the butchers showed up. And such massacres didn't just stop with the exodus land grab. It also happened much later after the early israelis establish themselves.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 Is it a simple assumption, then, that no matter how well a system is designed, there will be people who want no part of it, and deserve rights?

Firstly, the idea of this "system" ever existing is formulated and conditioned by childhood brainwashing.

Secondly, there is no evidence of this system existing with your god at the top, the people on the bottom praying their hearts out while in reality, life remains the same, the sick die, the young die, conquerors and cowards come and go, nations rise and fall, and everyone gets what they worked for in life or being fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, with death, disease, and disasters randomly striking anyone at anytime.

All signs of a pessimistic world that goes on and on in a cycle till resources are depleted. Hence my orangey text in a previous post.

As far as your question, if your system was fair to all, nobody would complain. It isn't.

For example, a Muslim baby will go to hell after it's all grown up because it had the "bad fortune" of being born into a Muslim family who would then go on to give "information" that will determine the child's belief system. What a dumb unfair system!

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58I know the difference. And I know that I wasn't given 'shady information'. A lot of it has evidence to back it up and simple makes sense.

How can you just assume that you got the right "information" or you were shown the entire information? You got a selective information just enough to make you believe in christianity. Some get information that is enough to make them believe in hinduism. Some get information that makes them muslim. All claim that it makes sense.

And what about when the information you were given didn't exist? What information was the child Alexander [the great] given? You see how "information" keeps changing over generations? That's the steady evolution of religion as new ideas are brought out.

When you realize the bigger picture is when you try to seek out the other information by yourself. Anyway, I will stop there as that's seems to be top-end of belief systems.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up

I fail to see in this thread where you asked and someone actually said that.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58My question was, what makes you so positive that they worshipped nature first?

recorded history? Animism seems to have been rampant among the early humans and still is in many religiions. And I see it as making sense with the development and evolution of religions over our social history.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58With the expansion of technology and science, it's not that surprising, is it?

Partly true, there's no "if" about the general ignorance of early human tribals. It wasn't after the migrations stopped and the great civilizations rose up in the fertile river zones (in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Indus) that our quest to discover ourselves seems to have earnestly began.

We seem be in an age where reason is finally, despite organized religions' effort to crush it, making a strong comeback to stay. This debate should have happened almost 500 years ago but your religion was too powerful then and instead was ordering around poor Galileo to recant his heliocentric view.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58And you expect me to believe all Christians are the same. Bull.

We don't discriminate like that!

"sinners"

"the evil world"
"ways of the world"
"lost world"

The recent example is homosexuals and atheists. The discrimination is there.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 Because when I refuse to bang my head on the already established "I cannot possibly believe this because it doesn't tie up with basic history, contradictory, immoral, with zero evidence to back it up and requiring "faith" and "belief" to convince ourself under threat of hell" brick wall, it's me just refusing to look at the facts.

Fixed. I am trying to get this thru to you.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 And I spend time here because it's interesting and relevant.

jeez, "interesting" and "relevant" is not something I would associate with "useless." Anyway...I guess we all like this debate!

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 If your big thing here is simply brainwashing... do you mostly ridicule Christianity because that's the subject you purged yourself from?

I spent time reasoning with you as to why I don't believe. The "big thing" here is if your beliefs are true or not, and how they are true, how they take precedence over other religions and, if the potential they have to influence ones' life is justified or not. We are past the point of just following and are asking "is there any substance to this?" when there are billions of people who would unfairly go to hell just for being born in the wrong country/religion/family.

And like it or not, it's brainwashing by a whole lot. No matter how hard you try to, the solid irrefutable fact remains that you are christian because you were born in America with its majority christian population into a christian family and it would have been different if say you were born in Iran. Oh the audacity of you to turn a blind eye to a billion variables that decided who you were going to be before you were even born and then claim your religion is the right one?! Oh my!

Same for me, I was born into a christian family in India because, ready for this? Without christian European missionaries in India, I would have been born into an entirely hindu family! So when I would have asked my grandmother the question, "do birds have souls?" she would have replied, "yes, dear"...and I honestly fear if that would have been the end of my childhood curiosity.

It's alright to close your eyes to these basic things and think everyone else except you would go to hell. It certainly is your right. I will move on and leave you to your beliefs.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 Fine. I'll go on a murdering spree and kill everyone even remotely religious, saying that they're poisoning our civilization and ruining our gene pool, and that I'm purifying the human race.

Oh, and I'll mention how I'm an atheist.

And you can't say that he's not a true atheist to cover yourselves, because that's just "pulling a fast one".

This is just what the average christian thinks atheists are; heartless murderers bent on population planning. How incredibly stupid. Why am I not surprised by you saying this?

I will tell you the right term to use to describe such people like you did: eugenists.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 Your Hindu friend, for example. If there happened to be a faction who have the core beliefs of Hindu's, but also believed that violence is both permitted and required for spreading the religion, you're basically saying that your Hindu friend cannot claim she isn't a part of it in some way.

I will put it to you in very very simple terms since bigger posts apparently don't work. This ain't about factions, churches, and groups like you would love them to be so you can escape from accountability...it's about a religion that doesn't make sense...atleast when I learned to think for myself. And so when you reject the religion due to its absurdity and become atheist, the very same morons (parents) that brainwashed you in the first place as a kid bully you to "believe"...they denied me intellectual freedom and still are doing so apparently to save my soul!

I am leading a double life (like millions of others) because people like you are in the majority and have undeserved power of influence; and we are only now slowly coming out as the fastest growing group as well.

Do you understand this simple simple concept? Or should I make it simpler still for you? It doesn't matter which nationality you are or which denomination or church or which revised dogma you preach and uphold, thousands of idiotic parents across the whole world react the same way when their kid "strays"...even American parents.

No matter how hard you try to put the blame on other factions, groups, denominations, the problem (which you never acknowledge) lies deep within your religion and the all important question of basic intellectual freedom of thought it denies under threat of hell.

edit: typo

edit2: slight correction/revisions

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Fri, 14 May 2010 05:58:02 GMT

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Nukelt15 wrote on Fri, 30 April 2010 14:29 It is also interesting that, although the Judeo-Christian afterlife mythology allows for eternity in the future (eternal reward in Heaven, or eternal punishment in Hell), there can be no accepting an eternal past. Here's some food for thought: Humans don't like the idea of dying, so we have little trouble believing in an eternal afterlife... however, we cannot deny that we were not alive before birth, so we also have little trouble accepting that all of existence also has a firm, definite beginning. Do we echo the nature of existence, or does our perception of existence echo us?

Did we really exist at all before we were born? We weren't around...I mean where was I in 1980? My parents weren't even married. Then after I was in the womb for sure, I may have existed to my parents but I still didn't know anything. Even after birth, nothing is developed enough to give us a sense of self-awareness.

So as we grow up and the functionalities develop, we seem to get a better idea as to who we are. Hmmmm...is it possible that we humans have collectively mistaken our conscious...our self-awareness for the "soul"?

And what happens as we get older? Our brain functions and memory begin to slow down. What about people in coma or suffering from extreme alzheimers of sorts? They don't know who they are so it's almost like being a baby. And then after death, everything shuts down...so do we...err...is death then a reversal of birth? We were't around before birth and so we won't be around after death? Around meaning in terms of our existence?

And what about how this affects the birth of humans? We hear from theists all the time that we all have a purpose and we have a reason to be here. But do we really?

What if I married a woman and we both were healthy and fully capable of raising a family. But what if we choose to not have any children? That's atleast 1 potential unique human being (our kid) not bring born to walk on this rock and enjoy what "life" has to offer, no? I guess there was no purpose to him/her?

What about infants dying? We all had no idea whatsoever of our infant years. I certainly can't remember the time when I was just less than 24 hours old. But I was very much alive as a helpless clueless zombie of sorts. Did I have a "soul" then? What if I died then? Theists say children go to heaven automatically. Well, I had no idea "I" even existed. So if I as a baby died then, would I suddenly get "instant self-awareness?" This idea does certainly sound completely asinine and makes theistic claim dubious.

Then we come to animals that have exhibited intelligence. The corvid bird for example. It has been observed to exhibit superb memory. It can also apparently decide which shape stick it should use to pull out a hiding caterpillar from a tree trunk hole.

Anyway, what about birds in general? They gather sticks and make a nest that is almost like a bowl! This is one thing that never ceases to fascinate me. And birds are very social animals. Are they also somewhat, I don't like to use the terms, but "self-aware?" They migrate long distances as well. Perhaps it is basic survival sense. Gorillas can also recognize themselves in a mirror.

Seriously, is there even any difference between us humans and say the green algae I keep seeing on the backyard stones?

Is everything we have come up with, everything, products of hyper-activity? Is there really really a difference between a 747 jumbo jet and a bird's nest?

Let's note how fragile our existence is on this rock. No matter what, we know for sure that the sun will expand billions of years from now. So this party has a shutdown time too.

Is this something that happens over and over through the universe? Thousands and thousands of years...billions in fact. Nobody has showed up from space. The sky, the sun, the moon, the stars...oh so how many ancient lives must have looked up at these! The plants don't even know it yet benefit from it. The same sun that has shone its warmth on my face today afternoon and lit up my room has did the same thing on Mars and Venus. How many strange animals and dinosaurs, and early primates and humans of the ancient world must have been warmed by this very same sun?

deep stuff.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 17 May 2010 04:38:13 GMT

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Sorry for the extra delay. High school exams, graduation, college prep and driving tests all equal a busy schedule.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:God's not going to fry them with a lightning bolt today for those crimes. That doesn't mean we shouldn't punish them with the laws of our land. so who's really sorting the world out?

Good question, isn't it?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32secondly, how do you know God does not want you to set his commandments as the laws of the land?

Because he states in the NT that we should obey the laws of our land, provided they were just.

Oh, really? Your God says it's ok to opt-out of a legal system if it's morally shit?

Excellent.

I'm sure you can guess where I'm going with this.

Yeah. Your many-expressed opinion of what you think my moral beliefs are.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32your entire line of reasoning was based on taking "everything is either mind or matter" as a known fact, which it plainly isn't.

I still have yet to hear why. What can only be categorized in a third?

sigh... i didn't say there was a third option, i said it's bullshit to say these are the only two options.

Um, sure...

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010

08:32Quote:You're missing the point. The idea of my statement being fatuous is an opinion, so I naturally pointed out that you spoke of it as a fact.

don't think i did. i think a bigger problem would be talking about religions as if they're facts.

I just read Starbuzz's post and it's full of crap like this, only it's an "atheists are right" view.

So that kind of talk is only bad when theists use it?
you can talk that way if you like.

You said it's a problem to do it, and now you're OK with me doing it? What's with the change of opinion?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:NT explicitly states that we should be friendly with everyone, NOT make enemies with them.

ah, yes. it also says you should love and forgive your enemies, and turn the other cheek.
what a ridiculous teaching.

shrug

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32greed is usually undesirable, but would you rather have parents who want well-paid jobs or would you rather have parents who follow Jesus's instruction to think nothing of the future and just follow him? (i.e. no investment, no looking after your family, etc etc etc)

If you think Christians do things like that in the name of faith, you are badly misinformed.
why don't they? it's what Jesus supposedly said...

re: badly misinformed

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Not surprising that all of these deal with human error.

well, if there's no God (or if there might be a God but there's no reason to suppose it's anything at all like the depiction in the Bible) then this would be a human error in saying otherwise, wouldn't it?

Kinda stating the obvious here, but yes it would be.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:If the Bible is really God's word, he would have made sure it did not get screwed over by human error.

i think a rebuttal is superfluous

Good for you.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.

don't act as if the two things are the same.

Excuse me? The basis IS the same: an individual changing what he believes.
there's a world of difference.

In the basic premise? I don't think so.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01nobody told starbuzz what he must believe. what he believes is not a result of swallowing dogma.

Sure, I agree that. You just argued against what he already believed.

But now, since he's an atheist (I assume - forgive me if I'm wrong), do you say he now has no belief, whatsoever?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01secondly, i would never dream of saying he has to agree with me and he'll be punished if he doesn't - i'd be ashamed of myself if i said something so sick.

Then let's hope that 'punishment' truly doesn't exist.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01thirdly, it'd be all fine with me if, after breaking free of christianity, he made the free informed choice to follow a different religion.

Thus implying you're more agreeable with religions other than Christianity?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32the line certainly is thin and it's being tested all the time, isn't it?

Yep, and usually by the atheists. Almost every time we hear of a bill in petition, it's about some atheist group wanting so-and-so removed.

Such as?

Pretty much everything that refers to God.

Give a specific example? (or several if you like)

A few years ago, at a graduation, the valedictorian was giving her speech. At one point, she mentioned God - just a passing comment, something like how she, or th class, were truly blessed to be able to gain their education - and the board presiding cut off her microphone. They were afraid her comment might offend someone who didn't believe in God.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Is it a simple assumption, then, that no matter how well a system is designed, there will be people who want no part of it, and deserve rights? this isn't much of a rebuttal, since we don't accept that this system is well-designed at all.

Any system, actually.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01as to the second part of the question - will there always be people who want to assert their basic human rights? i certainly hope so.

Not basic human rights. Any 'rights' that the presiding system denies.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:And if the Biblical system is so bad, why are all the examples I've seen so far been OT based?

cough hell *cough*

There's one. Any more?

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up (not by anyone in partuclar - apparently I need to emphasize this).

by who, then?

The guys in our school system who want to teach it to us.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01 and are you told that you'll be physically punished for daring to question these concepts?

Not sure about physical, per se. They'd certainly give us a lot of grief about it, saying that it's got so much evidence behind it and has been scientifically accepted and boy, we must be stupid to think it could be wrong.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01 Quote: Starbuzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44 Spoony was the most lenient of them all. Why? Even though he offended me a lot and I hated him for it, I kept debating with him because I he never insulted me and or uselessly retorted to name-calling like the others.
I wonder why he does it now, then?
I wouldn't say I "uselessly resorted to namecalling".

I was looking at the "because I he never insulted me" part, actually.

Starbuzz wrote Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58 I just read Starbuzz's post and it's full of crap like this, only it's an "atheists are right" view.

oh wow. Way to misunderstand. I honestly described how I was going to debate you:

Toggle Spoiler 1) you say something first

2) I will state why exactly I don't share that same view

3) you provide clarification further

Here's an example; I asked you where humans learned how to wear clothes. You said it's a "belief thing" and said your god clothed them with animal skins before kicking their butt out of the garden. I then followed it up with why I wasn't sold on that and said something that made sense and also gave examples of people who still don't give much priority to clothing in this world. You didn't follow up to that and I didn't push.

So how dishonest of you to come back and post later I am "full of crap like this" and "atheists are right" view.

I abandoned the theistic position almost a year ago because it was so flawed and untenable This is where the difference between indoctrinated theistic dogma vs thinking for yourself comes in. If you want your religion to be accepted as fact, then asserting, and implying and simply asking to believe is not going to help.

Indeed, what a way to misunderstand!

I was, for the most part, referring to how you described Christians as "having blindfolds" and "having the truth hidden from them".

Starbuzz wrote You are one who "believes" and has asked us to do so over and over

What? No, I haven't.

Starbuzz wrote and when we wanted elementary proof to justify such belief, you called us a "hopeless case" a year ago.

And I've already apologized for that statement.

Starbuzz wrote Say you have kids and you raised them christian and one of them becomes atheist after seeing through it when he is like 23. Are you going to let him go [to hell] just like that? What are all the options you think you will have to get him back?

We'd try to talk with him about it, sure. We wouldn't relentlessly bother him until he came back, though.

Starbuzz wrote Or would you value your child's decision to think freely?

Of course.

Starbuzz wrote You already mentioned earlier that not doing anything when government sets fair laws for homosexuals equals you being accomplices in sin!

Did I?

Starbuzz wrote For someone who directed merciless military campaigns and oversaw systemic genocides, why this change of rule? Why didn't he say this at the start?

He was actively there at the start, that's why.

Starbuzz wrote The "turn your other cheek rule" seriously undermines a human being's right to self-defense, tbh.

What, you think this means not to defend yourself from physical attack? How silly.

Starbuzz wrote The world and christianity doesn't revolve around a modernized, cleaned up revision of christianity being practiced in a small denomination in Tennessee.
"what isn't is what can break them" lol

Neither does it revolve around these bigger, "come one come all" groups.

Starbuzz wrote Anyway, is this a church of christ? May I please ask?

Yes, it is.

Starbuzz wrote Anyway, this is my 10th year in America and I have gone to a couple hundred different churches across many denominations (thanks to having religious zealots as parents). I also lived 3 months in Nashville, Tennessee 9 years ago and went to church there. I have yet to go to an American church where the sermon even mentioned anything about the devil and his horrible mischief to trick us all.

That's surprising....

Starbuzz wrote I did hear how your culturally advanced denomination rejects the basic idea of

god interfering with humanity. And I can see it for what it was; religious revision.

Care to explain how you 'know' it's such?

Starbuzzz wroteSo surprised to hear you reject a basic, supposed, historic fact about your religion.

I'm not so sure it is "basic, supposed, and historic".

Starbuzzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58The religious around here care more about rights than the local atheists.

"around here" , "local"

I understand you are not talking about the whole nation.

I'm sure that the areas like this aren't as small and remote as you'd like me to believe.

Starbuzzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Starbuzzz wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 16:44Why the need for formalities and political correctness? It would be much easier if you just said it's man-made falsehood.

Easier if I lied, then? No.

I didn't believe you because when I read what you said, it seemed to greatly contradict with what you said on page 3:

Altzan wrote on Tue, 30 March 2010 22:43And no, I don't believe there were other gods, although those idolators apparently did.

When you refer to the faithful confident worshippers of another religion with a biblical and offensive smear word such as "idolators," I kinda thought how likely was it for you to be open to the concept of [reincarnation] that is believed by the world's sole remaining "idol-worshipping" religion.

IDOLATER: "A worshiper of idols; one who pays divine honors to images, statues, or representations of anything made by hands".

Is that so offensive? Why?

Starbuzzz wroteIt's scary how you are adamant and endorse the "reason" to kill them and say whining about it is not going to "bring them back!"

Do you even have a heart? It's amazing how corrupted you have been turned into without an ounce of mercy.

It's amazing how I'm labeled a heartless, evil, immoral jackass over one single aspect.

Starbuzzz wroteWhy should they kill the children? They were babies/toddlers. They could have been adopted and raised in the israeli camp, no?

Can you not see just how badly this would have turned out?

Starbuzzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58I know the difference. And I know that I wasn't given 'shady information'. A lot of it has evidence to back it up and simple makes sense.

How can you just assume that you got the right "information" or you were shown the entire information? You got a selective information just enough to make you believe in christianity. Some get information that is enough to make them believe in hinduism. Some get information that makes them muslim. All claim that it makes sense.

What, you don't think we're taught what the other religions believe and why?

Starbuzz wroteAnd what about when the information you were given didn't exist? What information was the child Alexander [the great] given?

?

Starbuzz wroteYou see how "information" keeps changing over generations? That's the steady evolution of religion as new ideas are brought out.

No, I don't, actually.

Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up
I fail to see in this thread where you asked and someone actually said that.

Never said it was someone in this thread, did I?

Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58My question was, what makes you so positive that they worshipped nature first?
recorded history? Animism seems to have been rampant among the early humans and still is in many religions. And I see it as making sense with the development and evolution of religions over our social history.

Ah, yes. Recorded history. Just ignore the fact that we don't have reliable history dating that far back... and if we did, Christianity would have a much stronger case.

Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58And you expect me to believe all Christians are the same. Bull.

We don't discriminate like that!

"sinners"

"the evil world"

"ways of the world"

"lost world"

The recent example is homosexuals and atheists. The discrimination is there.

I fail to see your point. We don't think atheists and homosexuals are "scum".

Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58Because when I refuse to bang my head on the already established "I cannot possibly believe this because it doesn't tie up with basic history, contradictory, immoral, with zero evidence to back it up and requiring "faith" and "belief" to convince myself under threat of hell" brick wall, it's me just refusing to look at the facts.
Fixed. I am trying to get this thru to you.

Ironic how you say that as a result of not understanding what I'm trying to get through to you.

I understand why people will not believe in Christianity. What I refuse to believe is that it is completely and utterly IMPOSSIBLE for anyone to believe that Christianity could be right.

Starbuzzz wrotejeez, "interesting" and "relevant" is not something I would associate with "useless." Anyway...I guess we all like this debate!

You serious? Practically everything humorous is this. It's useless for anything other than a cheap entertainment, but it can easily be seen as interesting.

Starbuzzz wroteAnd like it or not, it's brainwashing by a whole lot. No matter how hard you try to, the solid irrefutable fact remains that you are christian because you were born in America with its majority christian population into a christian family and it would have been different if say you were born in Iran.

Then every single person who is born is brainwashed, no? Even telling a child to not be fooled by all the religions out there is brainwashing in and of itself.

Starbuzzz wroteOh the audacity of you to turn a blind eye to a billion variables that decided who you were going to be before you were even born and then claim your religion is the right one?! Oh my!

One, I don't. I recognize them quite well.

Two, you sound strange here - maybe you should take a break between large blocks of text and clear your mind a bit before continuing.

Starbuzzz wroteThis is just what the average christian thinks atheists are; heartless murderers bent on population planning. How incredibly stupid. Why am I not surprised by you saying this?

Why am I not suprised that you AGAIN took an example LITERALLY? "Oh my!"

I DON'T think all atheists are what you described. It was an EXAMPLE.

And I'm starting to think it flew right over your head.

Starbuzzz wrotel will put it to you in very very simple terms since bigger posts apparently don't work. This ain't about factions, churches, and groups like you would love them to be so you can escape from accountability...it's about a religion that doesn't make sense...

If it isn't, then you changed the subject. Point - don't try to put ME accountable for something in a belief system that I don't believe in. If you find a Catholic belief stupid or wrong, don't run to me - I don't go with it any more than you do.

Starbuzzz wroteAnd so when you reject the religion due to its absurdity and become atheist, the very same morons (parents) that brainwashed you in the first place as a kid bully you to "believe"...they denied me intellectual freedom and still are doing so apparently to save my soul!

If that's really how they're doing it... next time they visit, tell them they're doing it wrong.

Starbuzzz wrote I am leading a double life (like millions of others) because people like you are in the majority

?

Starbuzzz wrote and have undeserved power of influence

Oh really? How?

Starbuzzz wrote No matter how hard you try to put the blame on other factions, groups, denominations, the problem (which you never acknowledge) lies deep within your religion and the all important question of basic intellectual freedom of thought it denies under threat of hell.

What problem, then? Do tell.

If it's about hell, back up - I have acknowledged it. I probably didn't give an answer you liked, though.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzzz](#) on Mon, 17 May 2010 20:06:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38 Sure, I agree that. You just argued against what he already believed.

But now, since he's an atheist (I assume - forgive me if I'm wrong), do you say he now has no belief, whatsoever?

Why do Christians think atheism is a belief? It's not a "belief" system. There's a huge difference between commonsense and upholding dogma:

dogma: homosexuality is wrong!

commonsense: who gives a fuck? nobody can say what adults can do in their sex lives.

Get it?

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38 In the basic premise? I don't think so.

A good "basic premise" analogy would be like jumping off a ship into the deep sea. You are keen on implying that it's like jumping to another ship. It's not...sorry to disappoint.

If you read the book 1984, read the part especially where that O'Brien bitch is torturing Winston to believe $2+2=5$. If O'Brien is a Christian and torturing me or Spoony to believe in your religion, we both would have the exact same "intellectual stumbling block" as Winston did when he was forced to accept $2+2=5$.

It's upto you to see that atheism is about free-thinking and not about any absolutes. You believe in indoctrinated absolutes (like commandments, way of life, punishments (lol) and so on) while we don't because there's no reason/evidence to. And your religion pales away anyway when put to historical scrutiny within a historical context.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01secondly, i would never dream of saying he has to agree with me and he'll be punished if he doesn't - i'd be ashamed of myself if i said something so sick.

Then let's hope that 'punishment' truly doesn't exist.

It doesn't since your hell is a concept ripped off by the jews from other early Mesopotamian religions.

This statement also serves as a sure indicator that you seem to be motivated and inspired by fear of hell(among other motivations) "stay in the faith" because of these indoctrinated fears of hell. Not surprisng...

No matter how you want your religion to be true, I am going to bring up something you avoided replying to from my last post:

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 14:57Secondly, there is no evidence of this system existing with your god at the top, the people on the bottom praying their hearts out while in reality, life remains the same, the sick die, the young die, conquerors and cowards come and go, nations rise and fall, and everyone gets what they worked for in life or being fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, with death, disease, and disasters randomly striking anyone at anytime.

Sorry to be so harsh but despite your belief system and "supernatural protection," we both have about the same chance of losing our lives this week.

My sister's plane (she is a flight attendant) has the same chances of crashing like any other plane despite her prayers before every flight.

That's life...it sucks. A lot. There's absolutely no evidence of anyone running this show. We just have to make sure to not be in thr wrong place at the wrong time and hope nothing goes wrong. Though you certainly have the right to believe in whatever you want if it's comforting to you and makes you feel at ease. Though I will point out why it doesn't make sense if you asked me.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38[Thus implying you're more agreeable with religions other than Christianity?

He is saying that if I got on any religious bandwagon now, it would be under my own power and judgment. Not because I was shoved up there when I was a kid by parents.

There's a ton of difference.

You can fool a kid to get into your car by showing candy; though you won't dare try the same with an adult. Religion works the same way. And they do give out candy in sunday school.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38A few years ago, at a graduation, the valedictorian was giving her speech. At one point, she mentioned God - just a passing comment, something like how she, or th class, were truly blessed to be able to gain their education - and the board presiding cut off her microphone. They were afraid her comment might offend someone who didn't believe in God.

I read the true story was she veered off from the pre-approved speech and started to preach.

Anyway, I find it hard to believe that a child-killing god of a ancient murderous mediterranean tribe was also resonsible for blessing the education of American school students in 2006. Makes sense. It's all very delusional though I can see it being comforting.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01and are you told that you'll be physically punished for daring to question these concepts?

Not sure about physical, per se. They'd certainly give us a lot of grief about it, saying that it's got so much evidence behind it and has been scientifically accepted and boy, we must be stupid to think it could be wrong.

Yeah, causing "grief" and calling christians "stupid" is as bad as us stuck in "eternal screaming roasting in a lake of fire."

I will leave it at that.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38I was, for the most part, referring to how you described Christians as "having blindfolds" and "having the truth hidden from them".

I was specifically referring to children with blindfolds. Thought I was clear on that...

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38

Starbuzzzz wroteYou already mentioned earlier that not doing anything when government sets fair laws for homosexuals equals you being accomplices in sin!

Did I?

Yes, page 1:

Altzan wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 22:22Would I fight against a governemtal decree legally allowing something I consider a sin? Yes, because not doing so would be allowing it, thus being an accomplice to said sin.

What a bullshit excuse to infiltrate into the political process.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzzzz wroteFor someone who directed merciless military campaigns and oversaw systemic genocides, why this change of rule? Why didn't he say this at the start?

He was actively there at the start, that's why.

Doesn't answer the question.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteThe "turn your other cheek rule" seriously undermines a human being's right to self-defense, tbh.

What, you think this means not to defend yourself from physical attack? How silly.

Of course, as expected they teach this crap symbolically on how we should lead our lives. It sets you up as the underdogs.

This is why the bible is so full of contradictions. You are told to love your enemy and turn the other cheek while it also says there's a time for war and a time to kill.

What a screw up.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteThe world and christianity doesn't revolve around a modernized, cleaned up revision of christianity being practiced in a small denomination in Tennessee.

"what isn't is what can break them" lol

Neither does it revolve around these bigger, "come one come all" groups.

Funny how you mentioned the CSI's rallying-call "come one come all" and attempted to use it against me. I didn't even hear of that motto until I looked up that Wikipedia article up for you lol.

What's really ridiculous here is how you are very quick to jump to denominational shitflinging. It's absolutely pathetic. Then again, I found American christians to put more importance on their denominations than anyone else.

Need I tell you that I have been living in America since I was 13 and attending a baptist church? That's the majority of my life. Denominations weren't stressed at all in India and it didnt matter though catholics were the butt of jokes during evening teatime in the terrace.

Anyway, your religion revolves around the bible. That's enough to trump you all with 1 stone since all your doctrinal differences (which doesn't matter anyway) are derived from it.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteAnyway, is this a church of christ? May I please ask?

Yes, it is.

Thanks for sharing. That clarifies a lot for everyone who is in this debate. Now that I know which denomiatio you are a part of, I understand why you have been brought up without being taught much of the stuff in the OldT.

Anyway, I went to a church of christ too 9 years ago when I was in Nashville. Their rejection of

musical instruments (because instruments weren't mentioned in the NewT) shocked me and was something new. I heard there is also a church of christ splinter group that does use musical instruments.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteI did hear how your culturally advanced denomination rejects the basic idea of god interfering with humanity. And I can see it for what it was; religious revision.

Care to explain how you 'know' it's such?

Christianity is almost "religions among religion" considering how many denominations exist because someone had a different opinion and had the power to create a new church.

You don't even know who is reliable...let alone someone who's country/denomination didn't exist 300 years ago! I am being objective here.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteSo surprised to hear you reject a basic, supposed, historic fact about your religion.

I'm not so sure it is "basic, supposed, and historic".

Denial. I will leave it at that considering I understand your denomination's failure to teach you basic OldT stuff.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58The religious around here care more about rights than the local atheists.

"around here" , "local"

I understand you are not talking about the whole nation.

I'm sure that the areas like this aren't as small and remote as you'd like me to believe.

Definitely not representative of the whole country.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38IDOLATER: "A worshiper of idols; one who pays divine honors to images, statues, or representations of anything made by hands".

Is that so offensive? Why?

A dictionary makes it seem harmless. You only need to see where it's mentioned in the bible. Idolater is mentioned right alongside "murderers" for example like as if it's such a bad thing to do!

And it's an offensive term to use. If you talk to hindus atleast. It's like referring to handicapped people as "cripples."

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38It's amazing how I'm labeled a heartless, evil, immoral jackass over one single aspect.

"one single aspect" where you defend/justify children being murdered.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteWhy should they kill the children? They were babies/toddlers. They could have been adopted and raised in the israeli camp, no?

Can you not see just how badly this would have turned out?

How so? They would be raised and integrated. Of course, this would never work with the "chosen people" tripe. And so we have to kill them, eh? It's their fault for even being born.

You are very corrupted, man. Nothing justifies killing helpless children. NOTHING.

Then again, I have come to expect this from you christians. I wonder if you guys would go on a killing spree if your god tells you too. I was reading the book of Nahum yesterday and was shocked at the gleefully-revengeful tone in which it describes the children of Nineveh being dashed against the stones.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58I know the difference. And I know that I wasn't given 'shady information'. A lot of it has evidence to back it up and simple makes sense.

How can you just assume that you got the right "information" or you were shown the entire information? You got a selective information just enough to make you believe in christianity. Some get information that is enough to make them believe in hinduism. Some get information that makes them muslim. All claim that it makes sense.

What, you don't think we're taught what the other religions believe and why?

Read my post again...I quoted it for you. There's a difference between learning about other religions in schools AND getting indoctrinated in one to believe that it is true over the others.

Surely you will admit that you got a biased "information" set in favor of your religion? Were you taken to the worship places of other religions and observed people of different faiths worship? No. But yeah, you were taken to church and you read the bible and such. And guess what? You turned out christian.

In the same vein, I learned about other religions too. Not enough to make me a follower of others religions. Hence my original point of you getting only selective information.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteAnd what about when the information you were given didn't exist? What information was the child Alexander [the great] given?

?

Why question mark when the question is so simple? What did the child Alexander learn and what belief systems did he have?

What about the Ötzi iceman? Just another human being we are fortunate enough to have found his body. What information was he given and what beliefs did he have? Is he in your hell too screaming and kickin? lol

I find all religious folks to not see the past that was before their religions came to power. It's all the more ridiculous when they say they are the one true religion ever.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteYou see how "information" keeps changing over generations? That's the steady evolution of religion as new ideas are brought out.

No, I don't, actually.

sucks.

moving on...

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Ah, yes. Recorded history. Just ignore the fact that we don't have reliable history dating that far back... and if we did, Christianity would have a much stronger case.

I guess the older they are the more factual they would be. What an absurd thing to say over and over in this debate.

There are several older religions that would be a better bet if you were pulling the seniority law, like you did here.

Better yet is the realization that all these religions didn't exist at one point and have been written by man and so are irrelevant today.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38I fail to see your point. We don't think atheists and homosexuals are "scum".

There's no denying christians hold such people in a lesser light.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38I understand why people will not believe in Christianity. What I refuse to believe is that it is completely and utterly IMPOSSIBLE for anyone to believe that Christianity could be right.

When you refuse to believe this, you are plainly refusing to see what are all the factors that affects and motivates a person buying into christianity or any other religion. You did turn a blind eye as well when I told you why exactly I can't believe.

I have dealt with evangelists and pastors personally face to face that my parents brought in to try to re-convince me. They could have converted anyone but they can't really fool someone with their usual biblical bag of tricks when they are getting crossquestioned left and right.

The part they start out is when they tell you something along the lines of "we have all sinned with the fall of man in the garden and you have to accept jesus so whosoever believeth in him shall have everlasting life" jeez, they won't shut the f*** up with the original sin bullshit.

The usual conversion tricks and ploys won't work with someone who is actually thinking for

themselves.

I know how these ministers roll. It's all about intellectual dishonesty like I described in my first post. They tell you the good parts, cheer you up, then they tell you the problem (you have sinned), hand you the solution (accept a 2000 year old dead man to forgive sin).

So that's your potential christian convert. And many of them buy it. It doesn;t matter to them if it makes sense or not...it's comforting and so if it is comforting, it must be true to them.

Not to mention so many people who are suffering really with so many problems with finances, relationships, crappy jobs or no jobs and who want a instant "solution" or seek comfort/refuge in religious delusion thru prayer (I don't blame them) like as if it will solve their problem.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Then every single person who is born is brainwashed, no? Even telling a child to not be fooled by all the religions out there is brainwashing in and of itself.

This statement is it's own refutation in itself.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteOh the audacity of you to turn a blind eye to a billion variables that decided who you were going to be before you were even born and then claim your religion is the right one?! Oh my!

One, I don't. I recognize them quite well.

Two, you sound strange here - maybe you should take a break between large blocks of text and clear your mind a bit before continuing.

If you did, you wont be defending a recent religion to all of us under threat of hell.

As for that ad hominem, atleast dude when you want to pull some insults, then don't make yourself look stupid in the process. At least you could've called me a "atheist mo fo - go to hell!" and I wouldn't have minded it at all!

I guess I need a break from large blocks of texts! C'mon. I have been trying to get another job so I can raise \$1200 within the next few weeks to buy a plane ticket to see my dying grandfather in India. He is past his 11th hour; he is critical, fell recently and broke his leg, and I desperately wish to be holding his hands and talking to him.

What else? I got my sister's electric guitar, been to the music store to buy parts for it and have it strung...and am now learning to play it too.

Trust me, replying to posts on forums barely makes a dent on my time.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38I DON'T think all atheists are what you described. It was an EXAMPLE.

An example that clearly showed what you think atheists are all about. It's wrong as well. Look up eugenicists and stop making yourself look so clumsy.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzzz wroteI will put it to you in very very simple terms since bigger posts apparently don't work. This ain't about factions, churches, and groups like you would love them to be so you can escape from accountability...it's about a religion that doesn't make sense...

Starbuzzz wroteNo matter how hard you try to put the blame on other factions, groups, denominations, the problem (which you never acknowledge) lies deep within your religion and the all important question of basic intellectual freedom of thought it denies under threat of hell.

If it isn't, then you changed the subject. Point - don't try to put ME accountable for something in a belief system that I don't believe in. If you find a Catholic belief stupid or wrong, don't run to me - I don't go with it any more than you do.

I have been from the start of this debate saying how religious indoctrination/and religion challenges our intellectual freedoms. And I still maintain the same.

Your belief system is christianity; anyone from any protestant denomination would have said the same dogma you said all thread.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 17 May 2010 21:20:27 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 21:38Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:You're missing the point. The idea of my statement being fatuous is an opinion, so I naturally pointed out that you spoke of it as a fact.

don't think i did. i think a bigger problem would be talking about religions as if they're facts.

I just read Starbuzzz's post and it's full of crap like this, only it's an "atheists are right" view.

So that kind of talk is only bad when theists use it?

you can talk that way if you like.

You said it's a problem to do it, and now you're OK with me doing it? What's with the change of opinion?

of course i'm ok with you saying stuff that, while it may sound silly, isn't actually harmful.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 May 2010 08:32Quote:I feel the same way when someone is converted to Christianity after visiting our church for some time. It's a simple feeling of elation after conversion.

don't act as if the two things are the same.

Excuse me? The basis IS the same: an individual changing what he believes.

there's a world of difference.

In the basic premise? I don't think so.

what was good about starbuzzz's "conversion" (the word doesn't seem right to me but never mind that now) wasn't the fact he stopped being a christian and became an atheist, it was the fact he gained a basic human right that his religion was denying him... freedom of thought.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01nobody told starbuzzz what he must believe. what he believes is not a result of swallowing dogma.

Sure, I agree that. You just argued against what he already believed.

But now, since he's an atheist (I assume - forgive me if I'm wrong), do you say he now has no belief, whatsoever?

depends what you mean by "belief". the usual meaning of the word seems to be something like "accepting a supernatural claim as factually correct without much or any evidence to support it". but if you asked me if i believed in, say, democracy, i'd say yes... the meaning of the word there is more along the lines of advocating a precept.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01secondly, i would never dream of saying he has to agree with me and he'll be punished if he doesn't - i'd be ashamed of myself if i said something so sick.

Then let's hope that 'punishment' truly doesn't exist.
Do you hope that?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01thirdly, it'd be all fine with me if, after breaking free of christianity, he made the free informed choice to follow a different religion.

Thus implying you're more agreeable with religions other than Christianity?
no.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Give a specific example? (or several if you like)

A few years ago, at a graduation, the valedictorian was giving her speech. At one point, she mentioned God - just a passing comment, something like how she, or th class, were truly blessed to be able to gain their education - and the board presiding cut off her microphone. They were afraid her comment might offend someone who didn't believe in God.
was it a secular school? i wonder what their policy is on this sort of thing.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:And if the Biblical system is so bad, why are all the examples I've seen so far been OT based?
cough hell *cough*

There's one. Any more?

it's a pretty big one on its own. i'd say it's the most cruel idea anybody came up with, and it's done an incalculable amount of psychological damage to humanity.

some of jesus' moral teachings are somewhat ahead of their time (but we're talking about an extremely primitive culture, let's not forget... they're behind the times now), some of them are downright silly, and some of them are harmfully bad (encouraging non-resistance to evil, for example).

as for the idea on how to atone for one's wrongdoings, i think that's done more harm than good too.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up (not by anyone in particular - apparently I need to emphasize this).
by who, then?

The guys in our school system who want to teach it to us.
teachers, you mean?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01and are you told that you'll be physically punished for daring to question these concepts?

Not sure about physical, per se. They'd certainly give us a lot of grief about it, saying that it's got so much evidence behind it and has been scientifically accepted and boy, we must be stupid to think it could be wrong.
i'm not understanding how this is grievous

Quote:Starbuzz wroteSay you have kids and you raised them christian and one of them becomes atheist after seeing through it when he is like 23. Are you going to let him go [to hell] just like that? What are all the options you think you will have to get him back?
We'd try to talk with him about it, sure. We wouldn't relentlessly bother him until he came back, though.
i think you ought to be relentlessly telling your God not to be such an evil piece of shit.

Quote:Starbuzz wroteThe "turn your other cheek rule" seriously undermines a human being's right to self-defense, tbh.

What, you think this means not to defend yourself from physical attack? How silly.
that's my understanding of the turn-the-other-cheek teaching too.

Quote:IDOLATER: "A worshiper of idols; one who pays divine honors to images, statues, or representations of anything made by hands".

Is that so offensive? Why?
i don't think the word is offensive, but according to the bible it's probably the one thing above all which drives your god into a murderous, bloodthirsty rage.

Quote:Starbuzz wroteIt's scary how you are adamant and endorse the "reason" to kill them and say whining about it is not going to "bring them back!"
Do you even have a heart? It's amazing how corrupted you have been turned into without an ounce of mercy.

It's amazing how I'm labeled a heartless, evil, immoral jackass over one single aspect.
i don't know about "evil" or "jackass".

Quote:Starbuzz wroteWhy should they kill the children? They were babies/toddlers. They could have been adopted and raised in the israeli camp, no?

Can you not see just how badly this would have turned out?
given how barbaric the israelis and their god supposedly were? sure, the babies would probably end up just as brutal. however, this doesn't alter the fact that you appear to've concluded that a scenario can be found where the massacre of innocent children is morally permissible (at least)

Quote:Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58I know the difference. And I know that I wasn't given 'shady information'. A lot of it has evidence to back it up and simple makes sense.

How can you just assume that you got the right "information" or you were shown the entire information? You got a selective information just enough to make you believe in christianity. Some get information that is enough to make them believe in hinduism. Some get information that makes them muslim. All claim that it makes sense.

What, you don't think we're taught what the other religions believe and why?
it's not the same. being taught about a religion is absolutely nothing to do with being brought up as a particular religion.

Quote:Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58My question was, what makes you so positive that they worshipped nature first?
recorded history? Animism seems to have been rampant among the early humans and still is in many religiions. And I see it as making sense with the development and evolution of religions over our social history.

Ah, yes. Recorded history. Just ignore the fact that we don't have reliable history dating that far back... and if we did, Christianity would have a much stronger case.
would it? when religions are recent enough that we can look up how they started, they tend to be incredibly feeble fabrications by conmen. (i'm specifically thinking of scientology and LDS/mormonism here)

Quote:Starbuzz wroteAltzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58And you expect me to believe all Christians are the same. Bull.

We don't discriminate like that!

"sinners"

"the evil world"

"ways of the world"

"lost world"

The recent example is homosexuals and atheists. The discrimination is there.

I fail to see your point. We don't think atheists and homosexuals are "scum".
odd, that. like i said, god spent half the old testament trying to make it clear he does.

Quote:Starbuzz wroteAnd like it or not, it's brainwashing by a whole lot. No matter how hard you try to, the solid irrefutable fact remains that you are christian because you were born in America with its majority christian population into a christian family and it would have been different if say you were born in Iran.

Then every single person who is born is brainwashed, no? Even telling a child to not be fooled by all the religions out there is brainwashing in and of itself.

what atheists tend to do (and what we tend to recommend our schools ought to be doing) is encouraging critical thinking. it'd be nice if the ludicrous concept of "faith" was thoroughly discredited too, for the brain-damaging crap it is.

Quote:Starbuzz wroteThis is just what the average christian thinks atheists are; heartless murderers bent on population planning. How incredibly stupid. Why am I not surprised by you saying this?

Why am I not suprised that you AGAIN took an example LITERALLY? "Oh my!"

I DON'T think all atheists are what you described. It was an EXAMPLE.

And I'm starting to think it flew right over your head.
an example which has nothing to do with atheism at all...

Quote:Starbuzz wroteAnd so when you reject the religion due to its absurdity and become atheist, the very same morons (parents) that brainwashed you in the first place as a kid bully you to "believe"...they denied me intellectual freedom and still are doing so apparently to save my soul!

If that's really how they're doing it... next time they visit, tell them they're doing it wrong.
what's your scriptural basis for saying they're doing it wrong?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 17 May 2010 21:22:25 GMT
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nvm

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 20 May 2010 06:14:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Why do christians think atheism is a belief? It's not a "belief" system?

No, it isn't. But declaring yourself an athiest doesn't banish every belief you have. You just have different beliefs... you change them. Surely you can understand that the term "belief" isn't tied to religion alone?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06It's upto you to see that atheism is about free-thinking and not about any absolutes. You believe in indoctrinated absolutes (like commandments, way of life, punishments (lol) and so on) while we don't because there's no reason/evidence to.

That's one way to look at it, I suppose.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Sorry to be so harsh but despite your belief system and "supernatural protection," we both have about the same chance of losing our lives this week. My sister's plane (she is a flight attendant) has the same chances of crashing like any other plane despite her prayers before every flight.

That's life...it sucks. A lot. There's absolutely no evidence of anyone running this show. We just have to make sure to not be in the wrong place at the wrong time and hope nothing goes wrong. Though you certainly have the right to believe in whatever you want if it's comforting to you and makes you feel at ease. Though I will point out why it doesn't make sense if you asked me.

I wish I knew what made you think I believed I was under divine protection.
Other than afterlife issues.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 You can fool a kid to get into your car by showing candy; though you won't dare try the same with an adult. Religion works the same way. And they do give out candy in Sunday school.

My, and I'm the biased one?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38 Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01 and are you told that you'll be physically punished for daring to question these concepts?

Not sure about physical, per se. They'd certainly give us a lot of grief about it, saying that it's got so much evidence behind it and has been scientifically accepted and boy, we must be stupid to think it could be wrong.

Yeah, causing "grief" and calling Christians "stupid" is as bad as us stuck in "eternal screaming roasting in a lake of fire."

I will leave it at that.

I wasn't aware they needed to be compared.
One being worse than the other hardly excuses the lesser.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38 I was, for the most part, referring to how you described Christians as "having blindfolds" and "having the truth hidden from them".

I was specifically referring to children with blindfolds. Thought I was clear on that...

You're not very clear on anything, sorry to say.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Altzan wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 22:22 Would I fight against a governmental decree legally allowing something I consider a sin? Yes, because not doing so would be allowing it, thus being an accomplice to said sin.

What a bullshit excuse to infiltrate into the political process.

I hardly see how "voicing what you believe" compares to "infiltrating the political process".

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38 Starbuzz

wroteThe "turn your other cheek rule" seriously undermines a human being's right to self-defense, tbh.

What, you think this means not to defend yourself from physical attack? How silly.

Of course, as expected they teach this crap symbolically on how we should lead our lives. It sets you up as the underdogs.

This is why the bible is so full of contradictions. You are told to love your enemy and turn the other cheek while it also says there's a time for war and a time to kill.

What a screw up.

Again:

"What, you think this means not to defend yourself from physical attack?"

Starbuzzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Funny how you mentioned the CSI's rallying-call "come one come all" and attempted to use it against me. I didn't even hear of that motto until I looked up that Wikipedia article up for you lol.

I actually didn't know of the CSI or its rallying call. I thought I'd made the term up out of thin air, bad choice of words I guess.

Starbuzzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06What's really ridiculous here is how you are very quick to jump to denominational shitflinging. It's absolutely pathetic. Then again, I found American christians to put more importance on their denominations than anyone else.

The whole denomination thing is an easy way to reference different beliefs among groups, which, as you cannot deny, is very important. Hardly pathetic.

Starbuzzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Anyway, I went to a church of christ too 9 years ago when I was in Nashville. Their rejection of musical instruments (because instruments weren't mentioned in the NewT) shocked me and was something new. I heard there is also a church of christ splinter group that does use musical instruments.

Christian or not, what are, or were, your thoughts on the subject, if I may ask?

Starbuzzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzzz wroteI did hear how your culturally advanced denomination rejects the basic idea of god interfering with humanity. And I can see it for what it was; religious revision.

Care to explain how you 'know' it's such?

Christianity is almost "religions among religion" considering how many denominations exist because someone had a different opinion and had the power to create a new church.

You don't even know who is reliable...let alone someone who's country/denomination didn't exist 300 years ago! I am being objective here.

A description of religion's origins and evolutions hardly explains why you think the idea is made up.

Starbuzzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzzz wroteSo surprised to hear you reject a basic, supposed, historic fact about your religion. I'm not so sure it is "basic, supposed, and historic".

Denial. I will leave it at that considering I understand your denomination's failure to teach you basic OldT stuff.

The denial card... are you sure you'd rather not just back up this claim?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteWhy should they kill the children? They were babies/toddlers. They could have been adopted and raised in the israeli camp, no?

Can you not see just how badly this would have turned out?

How so? They would be raised and integrated. Of course, this would never work with the "chosen people" tripe. And so we have to kill them, eh? It's their fault for even being born.

Raised and integrated by the people who murdered their parents, something they won't forget. Even if they did, the new parents would be loath to lie to the kid's eventual questions. I'm sure you'll revert to chewing me out on the act itself now, but I still wish to know how you think this arrangement would work out.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Then again, I have come to expect this from you christians. I wonder if you guys would go on a killing spree if your god tells you too. I was reading the book of Nahum yesterday and was shocked at the gleefully-revengeful tone in which it describes the children of Nineveh being dashed against the stones.

I guess you'd have to decide what's more important: the morals themselves or who designed them.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Surely you will admit that you got a biased "information" set in favor of your religion? Were you taken to the worship places of other religions and observed people of different faiths worship? No. But yeah, you were taken to church and you read the bible and such. And guess what? You turned out christian.

Then I guess you'd better goto at least one worship service for every religion to make sure you decide fairly.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Why question mark when the question is so simple? What did the child Alexander learn and what belief systems did he have?

What about the Ötzi iceman? Just another human being we are fortunate enough to have found his body. What information was he given and what beliefs did he have? Is he in your hell too screaming and kickin? lol

I find all religious folks to not see the past that was before their religions came to power. It's all the more ridiculous when they say they are the one true religion ever.

Again = ?

What do those people have to do with the topic?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Ah, yes. Recorded history. Just ignore the fact that we don't have reliable history dating that far back... and if we did, Christianity would have a much stronger case.

I guess the older they are the more factual they would be. What an absurd thing to say over and

over in this debate.

Older = less credibility
NOT more factual.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38I fail to see your point. We don't think atheists and homosexuals are "scum".
There's no denying christians hold such people in a lesser light.

Depends on your meaning.
While I hold the acts as sin, I don't think less of a person's character for committing them.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06When you refuse to believe this, you are plainly refusing to see what are all the factors that affects and motivates a person buying into christianity or any other religion.

No, I'm not.
There's a difference between mentally incapable of belief and deciding not to believe.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Then every single person who is born is brainwashed, no? Even telling a child to not be fooled by all the religions out there is brainwashing in and of itself.
This statement is it's own refutation in itself.

I'd love to hear your explanation for this witty remark.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Starbuzz wroteOh the audacity of you to turn a blind eye to a billion variables that decided who you were going to be before you were even born and then claim your religion is the right one?! Oh my! One, I don't. I recognize them quite well.
If you did, you wont be defending a recent religion to all of us under threat of hell.

Implying you are right and that I have yet to realize it. Pathetic.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06As for that ad hominem, atleast dude when you want to pull some insults, then don't make yourself look stupid in the process. At least you could've called me a "atheist mo fo - go to hell!" and I wouldn't have minded it at all!

Stupid is in the eye of the beholder, incase you did not know.
And you surprise me, thinking I would say something like "atheist mo fo - go to hell!". Of course, you've easily misinterpreted things about me before.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06I guess I need a break from large blocks of texts! C'mon. I have been trying to get another job so I can raise \$1200 within the next few weeks to buy a plane ticket to see my dying grandfather in India. He is past his 11th hour; he is critical, fell recently and broke his leg, and I desperately wish to be holding his hands and talking to him. What else? I got my sister's electric guitar, been to the music store to buy parts for it and have it strung...and am now learning to play it too.

Trust me, replying to posts on forums barely makes a dent on my time.

I love how you take every sentence of mine breathtakingly literally. It really livens things up.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38I DON'T think all atheists are what you described. It was an EXAMPLE.

An example that clearly showed what you think atheists are all about. It's wrong as well. Look up eugenicists and stop making yourself look so clumsy.

Dude. I just said that it doesn't represent my view. Repeating it as fact just makes you look like the one in denial.

Being too literal. I was making a point, not sharing an opinion.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01secondly, i would never dream of saying he has to agree with me and he'll be punished if he doesn't - i'd be ashamed of myself if i said something so sick. Then let's hope that 'punishment' truly doesn't exist. Do you hope that?

Hope it doesn't exist? No.

But

Want it to exist? No.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Give a specific example? (or several if you like)

A few years ago, at a graduation, the valedictorian was giving her speech. At one point, she mentioned God - just a passing comment, something like how she, or th class, were truly blessed to be able to gain their education - and the board presiding cut off her microphone. They were afraid her comment might offend someone who didn't believe in God.

was it a secular school? i wonder what their policy is on this sort of thing.

I believe it was a regular, public school.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01Quote:And when I question these "basic evolutionary history and social processes", I am told to shut up (not by anyone in partuclar - apparently I need to emphasize this). by who, then?

The guys in our school system who want to teach it to us. teachers, you mean?

Specific teachers. Mainly science ones, like biology.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Spoony wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 08:01and are you told that you'll be physically punished for daring to question these concepts?

Not sure about physical, per se. They'd certainly give us a lot of grief about it, saying that it's got so much evidence behind it and has been scientifically accepted and boy, we must be stupid to think it could be wrong.

i'm not understanding how this is grievous

Just look at the political world, and how sayings like this can ruin people's reputations. Pathetic manipulation.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Starbuzz wroteSay you have kids and you raised them christian and one of them becomes atheist after seeing through it when he is like 23. Are you going to let him go [to hell] just like that? What are all the options you think you will have to get him back?

We'd try to talk with him about it, sure. We wouldn't relentlessly bother him until he came back, though.

i think you ought to be relentlessly telling your God not to be such an evil piece of shit.

You're just affirming that there really is nothing to say about my belief on this. Just saying.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:I fail to see your point. We don't think atheists and homosexuals are "scum".

odd, that. like i said, god spent half the old testament trying to make it clear he does.

Opposing it doesn't compare to an opinion about it.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20what atheists tend to do (and what we tend to recommend our schools ought to be doing) is encouraging critical thinking.

If only that was all they did.

Or even if that was just the main priority.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Starbuzz wroteThis is just what the average christian thinks atheists are; heartless murderers bent on population planning. How incredibly stupid. Why am I not surprised by you saying this?

Why am I not suprised that you AGAIN took an example LITERALLY? "Oh my!"

I DON'T think all atheists are what you described. It was an EXAMPLE.

And I'm starting to think it flew right over your head.

an example which has nothing to do with atheism at all...

Correct. It had to do with his ridiculous statement about how denominations don't seperate beliefs, and how I should be held against the beliefs of every person who calls himself a Christian.

Me and some other guy could both believe abortion is wrong... and if the other guy decides to blow up the local abortion clinic, apparently I should be in just as much trouble because I opposed abortion just like him.

Makes perrrrrrfect sense.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 16:20Quote:Starbuzz wroteAnd so when you reject the religion due to its absurdity and become atheist, the very same morons (parents) that brainwashed you in the first place as a kid bully you to "believe"...they denied me intellectual freedom and still are doing so apparently to save my soul!

If that's really how they're doing it... next time they visit, tell them they're doing it wrong.

what's your scriptural basis for saying they're doing it wrong?

I don't recall the specific verses, but they said that while you should try to talk to them about it, it's best to not hold company with one who's firmly decided to go against it.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 20 May 2010 06:16:32 GMT

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EDIT: Dangit, I did the same thing.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2010 21:06:26 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14No, it isn't. But declaring yourself an athiest doesn't banish every belief you have. You just have different beliefs... you change them. Surely you can understand that the term "belief" isn't tied to religion alone?

Religious belief is completely different.

I would like to know what "beliefs" you think I have now. And how it is even remotely comparable to "religious beliefs."

Religious people always tend to think atheism is another belief system just to try to bring it down to their level to show it is equal to their lowly dogmas. The fact that you think "not brainwashing a kid with religion itself is brainwashing" tells a lot about you.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Sorry to be so harsh but despite your belief system and "supernatural protection," we both have about the same chance of losing our lives this week.

My sister's plane (she is a flight attendant) has the same chances of crashing like any other plane despite her prayers before every flight.

That's life...it sucks. A lot. There's absolutely no evidence of anyone running this show. We just have to make sure to not be in thr wrong place at the wrong time and hope nothing goes wrong. Though you certainly have the right to believe in whatever you want if it's comforting to you and makes you feel at ease. Though I will point out why it doesn't make sense if you asked me.

I wish I knew what made you think I believed I was under divine protection.
Other than afterlife issues.

Is the only thing that caught your attention there? Considering you are coming from an absolute minority denomination that rejects such dogma, I am not too surprised.

The most important christian claim: that god is omnipresent watching your every move and shifting through your thoughts, punishing you (or "testing" you if you will), hearing prayers, answering them, and providing protection from danger would be too easy to observe or atleast

discern but as I described above, there is no evidence, not a bit, of such a system existing.

If you were conveying your denomination's stance, I would have to say it is one of the biggest daring denominational revisionist frauds I have ever heard in my life and in no way can it be representative of the entire religion.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 I wasn't aware they needed to be compared. One being worse than the other hardly excuses the lesser.

They need not be compared? We were talking about how atheism, unlike christianity, doesn't threaten anyone with punishment for disagreeing with it. You responded to that with a "but they cause us grief and call as stupid" and now you are asking to not compare the two?

Here's what happened:

Spoony: do atheists tell you that you will be punished in a roasting fire if you disagree with them?

Altzan: They don't threaten us with physical punishment! But they make us feel bad and call us "stupid"

Starbuzz: Yeah, and that's as bad as roasting in a fire for eternity eh duuude?

Altzan: STOP comparing the two! Just cuz hell is worse doesn't mean calling me stupid and making me feel bad should be allowed!

You did restate this threat again by saying:

Altzan "Let's hope that punishment truly doesn't exist"

Perhaps you should just concede the obvious; that atheism doesn't threaten anyone with painful eternal punishment for disagreeing with it.

And you said this to Spoony:

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 Just look at the political world, and how sayings like this can ruin people's reputations. Pathetic manipulation.

Nowhere is this comparable to what the church did to intelligent folks when it was in power hundreds of years ago.

And this hardly equals burning in hell and hardly affects you personally with pain and suffering for eternity.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Altzan wrote on Wed, 17 March 2010 22:22 Would I fight against a governmental decree legally allowing something I consider a sin? Yes, because not doing so would be allowing it, thus being an accomplice to said sin.

What a bullshit excuse to infiltrate into the political process.

I hardly see how "voicing what you believe" compares to "infiltrating the political process".

true but first you said "fighting against a governmental decree legally allowing something you

consider to be a sin" which seems like a obvious intrusion into the political system to have the laws influenced to favour your side.

This is actually one of the reasons I dislike certain forms of democracy. It's not without its flaws.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 "What, you think this means not to defend yourself from physical attack?"

Considering this question has been a source of in-fighting among christians for centuries, there isn't an absolute answer (thanks to the bible being so contradictory). So based on your question, it's obvious you were brought up on the pro-defense side that encourages the use of violent force for self-defense while I was brought up to be non-violent and pacifist towards others. While both sides have specific verses to back up their story; it comes down down to the time-honoured christian tradition of nitpicking and choosing what they feel comfortable with and we can thank the bible for giving us such a sound direction. [sarcasm]

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 The whole denomination thing is an easy way to reference different beliefs among groups, which, as you cannot deny, is very important. Hardly pathetic.

As someone who grew up as a "christian" and not as a "baptist" or "catholic" or "methodist" etc etc, I don't see how denominational differences are important; they are at the most superficial really. In America, even if you are a "christian" the question that is automatically asked you is "which denomination are you associated with" like as if that matters.

All christians, despite denominations, believe in the doctrine of creation as in genesis (some differ with the days vs eras in creation), the old testament stories are considered factual, all accept christ as saviour, his teachings and that of his disciples (albeit with some nitpicking), have some view on what is going to happen in the "end times" (either a second coming or rapture), and believe in a heaven and a hell.

The minor denominational differences are hardly important (just a mere sampling of the differences in opinion) in relation to the christian religion as a whole because each denomination is critical of the other and consider themselves to be right. They are in essence the same. You see why I think denominational differences are pathetic? Perhaps "pathetic" is a strong/wrong word to use... "irrelavent" and "pointless" is more aproprate.

Anyone else see how ridiculous denominations are? Despite all their inhibitions, doctrinal differences, fingerpointing and in-fighting, they all worship the same god, accept the same saviour, and are either going to the same hell or the same heaven. I don't know if I should laugh here or not.

I am not holding you personally accountable and never did (that would be stupid) but the crime done against me (encroaching on my intellectual freedom) were all because of YOUR religion. I am holding your religion accountable. Somehow in this thread, you elected yourself to represent the entire religion and play cover for it while hiding behind your denomination. That didn't work very well.

After the 9/11 attacks, did you as an American really give a shit as to whether the terrorists were Shia or Sunni? You would be lying through your teeth if you said yes. So why is it that when I have a complaint about an outrageous atrocity committed against me in the name of your god and your religion that you felt the need to use the denominational card to cover yourself?

So there you go...I couldn't have put this in simpler terms. btw, Spoony got the bullseye on denominations when he said this on page 1:

Spooniness wrote on Thu, 18 March 2010 02:43

I am perfectly happy to recognise the differences between the innumerable flavours of Christianity, so long as they don't deny the similarities (which tend to outnumber the differences)

And that's my point as well.

So anyway, the fact remains that a young adult atheist was forced to go to church against his will by christian parents due to religion (christianity in this case) never respecting an individual's intellectual freedom. Maybe when you are dragged to a mosque against your will, you too will feel the pain of absolute mental rape (which you have the sheer bloody luxury of not having experienced and I hope you never do) and this debate will stop being a "humorous" source of "cheap entertainment" to you. At that time, I would have rather traded their mind-rape for a couple lashes instead.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14It had to do with his ridiculous statement about how denominations don't separate beliefs, and how I should be held against the beliefs of every person who calls himself a Christian.

From the very beginning of this debate I have been saying how religious people don't understand intellectual freedom i.e, I can think whatever I want and come to my own conclusion as to who we are. My example was that of my parents who said "you have to believe, there is no other choice for you." What made them say that? Their religion...not their denomination or their church but their religion. Would they NOT have said the same thing (or something along the same lines) if they were in another denomination? You bet!

Do you get it now?

Instead, you clearly misunderstood every word of it thinking I am blaming you on some silly belief differences, accused me of changing the subject, and you had to bring in denominations and how your denomination doesn't believe this or that and you came up with so many "don't blame me!" statements, and you had to bring in the idiotic example of abortion clinic bombing while that wasn't my point.

And you topped it off with an absurd example of atheists going on a killing spree and showed everyone how you completely misunderstand what atheism really is.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Christian or not, what are, or were, your thoughts on the subject, if I may ask?

Sure, but I don't know what you are asking me. Is it about the lack of musical instruments? If it is, I

was a bit surprised at first that they reject the use of instruments considering the majority of christians favour their use and cite the story of David on the harps. But eitherway, they sung very well and had an impressive voice.

I am left curious as to why a denomination would disregard the first half of the bible and base its doctrine strictly on the second half...so strict of an interpretation infact [please forgive the use of this word but "anal" seems appropriate here] that it went down to affecting their use of musical instruments in worship services.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14A description of religion's origins and evolutions hardly explains why you think the idea is made up.

I wonder how you can honestly say this and actually mean it when you outright claim that a thousand other religions are plain wrong just because you think so. Tell me about the other religions and how they are not made up, if you will.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14The denial card... are you sure you'd rather not just back up this claim?

So I am the one who is making up this claim now? The story of Abraham is in genesis for you to read, how he was from Ur in the Mesopotamian regions, how a god promised him a land with his own people, out came the jews, out came the arabs from Ishmael, then came jesus many generations later, then the christians after that.

Why would magazine writers choose to write "Abraham is the father of all three religions" when the bible itself loudly claims so? Judaism, Islam, and Christianity are also referred to as the Abrahamic religions because all 3 scriptures of these religions give importance to Abraham.

again, am I one who is making this claim? It's not your fault you haven't been told these things.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Raised and integrated by the people who murdered their parents, something they won't forget. Even if they did, the new parents would be loath to lie to the kid's eventual questions.

I'm sure you'll revert to chewing me out on the act itself now, but I still wish to know how you think this arrangement would work out.

Remarkable how you "pre-mention" me going to chew you out for the childkilling itself. I will save it considering you have expressed yourself thoroughly enough on why the children should be killed.

Eitherway, it was one of the only suggestions I can seriously think of to avoid killing the children and make a humane choice instead. And you had to turn that into something you can use against me and pose it as a question!

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Then I guess you'd better goto at least one worship service for every religion to make sure you decide fairly.

So you want multiple indoctrinations like as if one weren't enough? How's that going to work considering how many religions have died out? Sure you can take your kid to the Parthenon for a

good enlightening experience. You are better off teaching them about religions without bias i.e, telling them how many religions existed before yours and how there's no evidence to back it up.

This goes against your brainwashing statement you made too. If I had my own kid in the future, I will definitely tell him the genesis origin story just as I would tell him of all the obsolete religions and their myths. But what I won't do is tell him these stories as if they are factual; that they really happened. If I did, then that would be brainwashing.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06Why question mark when the question is so simple? What did the child Alexander learn and what belief systems did he have?

What about the Ötzi iceman? Just another human being we are fortunate enough to have found his body. What information was he given and what beliefs did he have? Is he in your hell too screaming and kickin? lol

I find all religious folks to not see the past that was before their religions came to power. It's all the more ridiculous when they say they are the one true religion ever. Again = ?

What do those people have to do with the topic?

Why am I not surprised that someone religious doesn't understand this despite me writing plainly...?

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14there's a difference between mentally incapable of belief and deciding not to believe.

So you are saying either a person must be clinically braindead OR simply outright stubborn to not believe?

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Implying you are right and that I have yet to realize it. Pathetic.

You said you understood all the variables that make us to who we are even before we are born. When you jump on a recent belief system (this by no choice of your own!) and lord it over to the rest, you are going to look a bit clumsy to those who do indeed see the other religions too.

What I find pathetic is you rejecting every other religion, even those that came before yours, and also condemning them all to some sadistic roasting for eternity. So are you right? Really? Are you christians really this desperate to be in the middle of the grand scheme of things in the universe? Give me a break!

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14I believe it was a regular, public school.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14Specific teachers. Mainly science ones, like biology

Was your 10th grade biology teacher really this nasty to you? I would be surprised and feel sorry if that was the case. 10th grade is when biology is introduced in the American high school syllabus.

I remember it very clearly and pretty much the entire class (all kids indoctrinated with religious myths thanks to parental influence) were full of silent protest. After the class, I went to my friend

(who was jewish) and bashed evolution to him. We then went up to the teacher and mindlessly argued with her as to how everything was there in the beginning including dinosaurs and giraffes. She just stood there silently probably wishing one day we would both come to our senses and see the real crime.

The great mother of all ironies here is that you complain that you are being told to shut up when infact the real criminals you should be prosecuting is not your poor Biology teachers but your own parents and the criminals at church who had already taken hold of your mind at an early age by indoctrinating it with religious dogma in sunday schools.

Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14If only that was all they did.
Or even if that was just the main priority.

What other things are atheists doing that feels so despicable to you?

I am pretty sure you hate atheists sticking up for homosexuality. Well critical thinking is cumulative. There used to be a time as a christian that I disliked homosexuals and I claimed some awful stuff about them. You can read about in early posts of mine. Then my thick skull realized that I was just thumping dogma and that there really was no reason for me to bitch about homosexuals because:

- 1) they are not hurting anybody
- 2) they are consenting adults
- 3) that I was needlessly interfering into their personal lives
- 4) I, a complete outsider, is interfering with someone else's sex life.

^ thumping the bible doesn't allow you to come up with these reasonings.

Then I realized that I was only feeling "threatened" by them because of me upholding dogma.

It doesn't stop there. Take the pledge of allegiance for example. So there is "under god" in it and tbh, I don't mind it. But is this really "one nation under god?" Under what basis do you imply that this is "one nation under god" and do you have anything solid to say about it? To me it sounds like typical pumped-up mix of christianity and some crude patriotic rhetoric. I am really an outsider here but obviously many Americans feel it needs to go and I don't blame your fellow atheist countrymen for attempting to do so...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 02:10:32 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06Religious people always tend to think atheism is another belief system just to try to bring it down to their level to show it is equal to their lowly dogmas.

Not a belief SYSTEM, no.
But it also is not completely DEVOID of belief.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 The fact that you think "not brainwashing a kid with religion itself is brainwashing" tells a lot about you.

No, telling a kid anything as fact at all (including telling, as a fact, that no higher power exists) is brainwashing.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 The most important christian claim: that god is omnipresent watching your every move and shifting through your thoughts, punishing you (or "testing" you if you will), hearing prayers, answering them, and providing protection from danger would be too easy to observe or atleast discern but as I described above, there is no evidence, not a bit, of such a system existing.

It's most important because it's most popular. People like the idea of a higher power watching over them, rewarding, punishing, and guiding. Therefore it becomes important.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 They need not be compared? We were talking about how atheism, unlike christianity, doesn't threaten anyone with punishment for disagreeing with it. You responded to that with a "but they cause us grief and call as stupid" and now you are asking to not compare the two?

Let me try again - while hell is most assuredly worse than a verbal attack, it does not make a verbal attack insignificant.
Understand now?

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Perhaps you should just concede the obvious; that atheism doesn't threaten anyone with painful eternal punishment for disagreeing with it.

You can't quote me as claiming the opposite, so I don't understand why you're putting words in my mouth.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 true but first you said "fighting against a govermental decree legally allowing something you consider to be a sin" which seems like a obvious intrusion into the political system to have the laws influenced to favour your side.

Did I?

I said I believe in voicing myself, and being heard, on my opinions and thoughts, like everyone else (I think that might be called intellectual freedom by some)... but not that we should take that to a fighting level. No higher than the usual governmental process, which was used to pass the governmental decree in the first place.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 All christians, despite denominations, believe in the doctrine of creation as in genesis (some differ with the days vs eras in creation), the old testament stories are considered factual, all accept christ as saviour, his teachings and that of his disciples (albeit with some nitpicking), have some view on what is going to happen in the "end times" (either a second coming or rapture), and believe in a heaven and a hell.

True.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 The minor denominational differences are hardly important (just a mere sampling of the differences in opinion) in relation to the christian religion as a whole because each denomination is critical of the other and consider themselves to be right. They are in essence the same. You see why I think denominational differences are pathetic? Perhaps "pathetic" is a strong/wrong word to use... "irrelavent" and "pointless" is more aproprite.

Denominations are seperated by small details, yes. But that doesn't make them "pointless". I will use another example at the risk of you misunderstanding once more...

Researchers nearly finish calculations for a new outer-space rocket. However, one of the details in the physical formulas is interpreted two different ways. The researchers split up, unable to resolve the issue. Each build their own rocket, and their calculations are nearly identical, with only the one detail different.

Yes, the detail may be insignificant and will not harm either rocket.

But it is very possible that one interpretation will get the rocket in space and beyond, and the other will end up in the rocket's destruction.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Somehow in this thread, you made me think that you elected yourself to represent the entire religion and that caused my misunderstanding regarding denominations.

Fixed. Yeah, I can do that too.

Look, it's simple. When you make a point against something I believe in, I'll respond; if it's about something I don't believe in or something I agree with you about, I won't. If the majority of Christians believe it and we don't, I won't defend it, and attaching it to me is just plain STUPID if I tell you I don't adhere to it.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 After the 9/11 attacks, did you as an American really give a shit as to whether the terrorists were Shia or Sunni? You would be lying through your teeth if you said yes. So why is it that when I have a complaint about an outrageous atrocity committed against me in the name of your god and your religion that you felt the need to use the denominational card to cover yourself?

See above? If the complaint is about something I believe in, I won't fling the denominational card, plain and simple.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Maybe when you are dragged to a mosque against your will, you too will feel the pain of absolute mental rape (which you have the sheer bloody luxury of not having experienced and I hope you never do) and this debate will stop being a "humorous" source of "cheap entertainment" to you. At that time, I would have rather traded their mind-rape for a couple lashes instead.

I don't share your background, and therefore don't hold this debate on the same mental standpoint as you.

Also, I never said this thread was "cheap entertainment" for me, and claiming such is putting words in my mouth.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Instead, you clearly misunderstood every word of it thinking I am blaming you on some silly belief differences, accused me of changing the subject, and you had to bring in denominations and how your denomination doesn't believe this or that and you came up with so many "don't blame me!" statements, and you had to bring in the idiotic example of abortion clinic bombing while that wasn't my point.

Clearly, you misunderstood ME, actually. That's as false of a summarization as I have ever seen. When I use the denominational aspect, it's over something you want to blame me for despite the fact that I don't believe in it any more than you do.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 And you topped it off with an absurd example of atheists going on a killing spree and showed everyone how you completely misunderstand what atheism really is.

Yes, EXAMPLE. I know what atheism is, thank you. So how long are you going to continue this charade?

I don't think atheists are like that. It was an example, hypothetical - whatever the heck word you please.

Continuing to say that the example represents my view on what atheism is just continues to prove how close-minded and unreasonable you are becoming.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 A description of religion's origins and evolutions hardly explains why you think the idea is made up. I wonder how you can honestly say this and actually mean it when you outright claim that a thousand other religions are plain wrong just because you think so. Tell me about the other religions and how they are not made up, if you will.

I was referring to you saying "I did hear how your culturally advanced denomination rejects the basic idea of god interfering with humanity. And I can see it for what it was; religious revision."

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Remarkable how you "pre-mention" me going to chew you out for the childkilling itself. I will save it considering you have expressed yourself thoroughly enough on why the children should be killed.

Eitherway, it was one of the only suggestions I can seriously think of to avoid killing the children and make a humane choice instead. And you had to turn that into something you can use against me and pose it as a question!

Excuse me for making a counterpoint to your own point - I thought we were supposed to do that in debates, no?

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 17 May 2010 15:06 Why question mark when the question is so simple? What did the child Alexander learn and what belief systems did he have?

What about the Ötzi iceman? Just another human being we are fortunate enough to have found

his body. What information was he given and what beliefs did he have? Is he in your hell too screaming and kickin? lol

I find all religious folks to not see the past that was before their religions came to power. It's all the more ridiculous when they say they are the one true religion ever. Again = ?

What do those people have to do with the topic?

Why am I not surprised that someone religious doesn't understand this despite me writing plainly...?

Why am I surprised that the point you're trying to make apparently cannot be explained any simpler than this?

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010 01:14 there's a difference between mentally incapable of belief and deciding not to believe.

So you are saying either a person must be clinically braindead OR simply outright stubborn to not believe?

Do you think that every time I disagree with you, then what I actually believe is always completely opposite?

Either you or Spoony believes it can be impossible for an individual to believe in Christianity. And now you are claiming I believe that it can be impossible to think as an atheist?

Nope. Try again.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 What I find pathetic is you rejecting every other religion, even those that came before yours, and also condemning them all to some sadistic roasting for eternity. So are you right? Really? Are you Christians really this desperate to be in the middle of the grand scheme of things in the universe? Give me a break!

I'm not, but God is, provided he does exist.

If you are angry about the "nonbelievers are going to burn in hell" aspect, don't blame me for it - I didn't design the system. I believe that the system exists, but it's not how I would have set it up.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Was your 10th grade biology teacher really this nasty to you?

Not me specifically, but a fellow student who got into a discussion with him about it.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 I am pretty sure you hate atheists sticking up for homosexuality.

I'm pretty sure you're wrong.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 1) they are not hurting anybody

That's not absolute, you know. Homosexuality can hurt people in several ways.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 2) they are consenting adults

This is indeed almost always the case

Starbuzzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:063) that I was needlessly interfering into their personal lives

If there's wrong in it (not just wrong in the religious aspect), then it isn't needless

Starbuzzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:064) I, a complete outsider, is interfering with someone else's sex life.

Same as above... you, a complete outsider, are interfering with my beliefs, and I, a complete outsider, am interfering with your ideas.

Starbuzzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06It doesn't stop there. Take the pledge of allegiance for example. So there is "under god" in it and tbh, I don't mind it. But is this really "one nation under god?" Under what basis do you imply that this is "one nation under god" and do you have anything solid to say about it? To me it sounds like typical pumped-up mix of christianity and some crude patriotic rhetoric. I am really an outsider here but obviously many Americans feel it needs to go and I don't blame your fellow atheist countrymen for attempting to do so...

This particular example is one I can agree with on their terms. I can understand why they want it removed.

But what they want removed and censored isn't always this simple.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzzz](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 04:29:11 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Not a belief SYSTEM, no.

good.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10But it also is not completely DEVOID of belief.

so what beliefs does it have?

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10No, telling a kid anything as fact at all (including telling, as a fact, that no higher power exists) is brainwashing.

Actually the child will come to know of the numerous flavours of "higher powers" that have been produced by the numerous religions past and present.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10It's most important because it's most popular. People like the idea of a higher power watching over them, rewarding, punishing, and guiding. Therefore it becomes important.

Let's not forget from which text the people got this "idea" from.

Eitherway, good on you to finally acknowlege this in this thread. It's precisely this concept of a biblical dictatorship for which there is no evidence for.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10while hell is most assuredly worse than a verbal attack
good of you admit this because there is no equal to hell.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Denominations are seperated by small details, yes. But that doesn't make them "pointless".

Researchers nearly finish calculations for a new outer-space rocket. However, one of the details in the physical formulas is interpreted two different ways. The researchers split up, unable to resolve the issue. Each build their own rocket, and their calculations are nearly identical, with only the one detail different.

Yes, the detail may be insignificant and will not harm either rocket.

But it is very possible that one interpretation will get the rocket in space and beyond, and the other will end up in the rocket's destruction.

Analogy doesn't work. So you are saying that despite denominations' and their "small details" and with you agreeing with this:

StarbuzzAll christians, despite denominations, believe in the doctrine of creation as in genesis (some differ with the days vs eras in creation), the old testament stories are considered factual, all accept christ as saviour, his teachings and that of his disciples (albeit with some nitpicking), have some view on what is going to happen in the "end times" (either a second coming or rapture), and believe in a heaven and a hell.

there's still a chance that once of them got it wrong? wrong enough to lead to the "rocket's destruction?" how absurd! These small details don't matter a bit.

According to their dogma, if they accept their jesus and stay away from sin, and live the life, they are either going to heaven or hell.

Anyway, do you have any pointers as to which denomination got it so worryingly wrong?

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Also, I never said this thread was "cheap entertainment" for me, and claiming such is putting words in my mouth.

Here:

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38Practically everything humerous is this. It's useless for anything other than a cheap entertainment, but it can easily be seen as interesting.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Yes, EXAMPLE. I know what atheism is, thank you. So how long are you going to continue this charade?

I don't think atheists are like that. It was an example, hypothetical - whatever the heck word you

please.

Continuing to say that the example represents my view on what atheism is just continues to prove how close-minded and unreasonable you are becoming.

Not saying it represented your view on atheism. It simply confirmed my view on what religious folks first impressions of atheism is and I wasn't surprised when you wrote that example of mass murderers. Good on you if you changed your view.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Excuse me for making a counterpoint to your own point - I thought we were supposed to do that in debates, no?

It was the only suggestion I can think of to avoid killing the children. To turn that into a counterpoint just shows you are more interested in settling some score rather than come to a mutual conclusion.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10That's not absolute, you know. Homosexuality can hurt people in several ways.

have any reasoning behind this?

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:063) that I was needlessly interfering into their personal lives

If there's wrong in it (not just wrong in the religious aspect), then it isn't needless

wow

What do you mean by "wrong" here that you feel justifies you interfering? I would like you to clarify these "aspects" under which you feel interference is necessary into the personal lives of others.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Same as above... you, a complete outsider, are interfering with my beliefs, and I, a complete outsider, am interfering with your ideas.

When was the last time I took a atheist sign and showed up at your door on sunday morning to prevent you from going to church? Christians have more experience doing something like that when they protest other peoples' lifestyle choices. Refuting religious dogmas doesn't count as "interference" unless you are feeling a bit rattled. I don't see you as "interfering" with my atheism on the other hand.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 15:07:37 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06The fact that you think "not brainwashing a kid with religion itself is brainwashing" tells a lot about you.

No, telling a kid anything as fact at all (including telling, as a fact, that no higher power exists) is brainwashing.

i've never met an atheist who advocates telling kids that there's no such thing as god. that there's no evidence that there is one, let alone that anyone has discovered the details, sure. that faith is always a bad thing, sure. kids should be taught those.

but are you suggesting that, for example, teaching a kid that $2+2=4$ in a maths class is "brainwashing"?

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 They need not be compared? We were talking about how atheism, unlike christianity, doesn't threaten anyone with punishment for disagreeing with it. You responded to that with a "but they cause us grief and call as stupid" and now you are asking to not compare the two?

Let me try again - while hell is most assuredly worse than a verbal attack, it does not make a verbal attack insignificant.

Understand now?

a "verbal attack" (i'd love to hear specifics) absolutely is insignificant compared to the two thousand years of hell threats.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 true but first you said "fighting against a governmental decree legally allowing something you consider to be a sin" which seems like a obvious intrusion into the political system to have the laws influenced to favour your side.

Did I?

I said I believe in voicing myself, and being heard, on my opinions and thoughts, like everyone else (I think that might be called intellectual freedom by some)... but not that we should take that to a fighting level. No higher than the usual governmental process, which was used to pass the governmental decree in the first place.

how fortunate you are, then, to live in a country with a secular democratic constitution.

Quote:Researchers nearly finish calculations for a new outer-space rocket. However, one of the details in the physical formulas is interpreted two different ways. The researchers split up, unable to resolve the issue. Each build their own rocket, and their calculations are nearly identical, with only the one detail different.

Yes, the detail may be insignificant and will not harm either rocket.

But it is very possible that one interpretation will get the rocket in space and beyond, and the other will end up in the rocket's destruction.

scientists tend to resolve these questions by testing and observation and evidence, rather than mutual excommunication. and, best of all, the enormously flawed "they're reading the bible wrong" argument.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 Altzan wrote on Thu, 20 May 2010

01:14 there's a difference between mentally incapable of belief and deciding not to believe.

So you are saying either a person must be clinically braindead OR simply outright stubborn to not believe?

Do you think that every time I disagree with you, then what I actually believe is always completely opposite?

Either you or Spoony believes it can be impossible for an individual to believe in Christianity. eh?

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 What I find pathetic is you rejecting every other religion, even those that came before yours, and also condemning them all to some sadistic roasting for eternity. So are you right? Really? Are you christians really this desperate to be in the middle of the grand scheme of things in the universe? Give me a break!

I'm not, but God is, provided he does exist.

If you are angry about the "nonbelievers are going to burn in hell" aspect, don't blame me for it - I didn't design the system. I believe that the system exists, but it's not how I would have set it up. sure, but it's always worth judging how much time any particular christian spends criticising atheists... against how much time they spend criticising the god.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 1) they are not hurting anybody

That's not absolute, you know. Homosexuality can hurt people in several ways. go on?

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 4) I, a complete outsider, is interfering with someone else's sex life.

Same as above... you, a complete outsider, are interfering with my beliefs, and I, a complete outsider, am interfering with your ideas.

define "interfering with your beliefs", please, and explain how it is possibly comparable to interfering with someone's love life.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:06 It doesn't stop there. Take the pledge of allegiance for example. So there is "under god" in it and tbh, I don't mind it. But is this really "one nation under god?" Under what basis do you imply that this is "one nation under god" and do you have anything solid to say about it? To me it sounds like typical pumped-up mix of christianity and some crude patriotic rhetoric. I am really an outsider here but obviously many Americans feel it needs to go and I don't blame your fellow atheist countrymen for attempting to do so...

This particular example is one I can agree with on their terms. I can understand why they want it removed.

But what they want removed and censored isn't always this simple.

"under god" should never have been put into the pledge, and its removal is long overdue.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoon](#) on Wed, 09 Jun 2010 17:12:25 GMT

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another note on the catholic church.

check the list of people who the catholic church has excommunicated.

on the list:

Quote:Mother of a nine-year old Brazilian rape victim, for obtaining an abortion for her daughter.
Also the doctors performing the abortion.

i'm not aware of any catholic priests who were thrown out of the church for raping children (and there are plenty of possible examples).

so in summary...

if your 9-year-old daughter is raped and made pregnant, don't even think about getting her an abortion (even though pregnancy at that age is quite likely to life-threatening). you're going straight to hell if you do that. but you're OK if you're the man who raped her in the first place.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 03:57:33 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10But it also is not completely DEVOID of belief.

so what beliefs does it have?

Either a belief that no higher power exists, or a very skeptical view of the idea of a higher power.

I suppose you could also define atheism as being open-minded and unresolved, maybe, but my impression of an atheist usually incorporates someone who has clearly decided his belief on whether or not any higher power exists.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10there's still a chance that once of them got it wrong? wrong enough to lead to the "rocket's destruction?" how absurd! These small details don't matter a bit.

Seriously? It's happened countless times, a small error ending with the failure of a mission (on any front, not just space exploration).

Plus, as you said yourself:

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10According to their dogma, if they accept their Jesus and stay away from sin, and live the life, they are either going to heaven or hell.

Many details that denominations pick over deal with matters that are sins if done improperly. Baptists, for example, do not believe that baptism is necessary to be saved - if they're wrong, then there's a big problem...

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Also, I

never said this thread was "cheap entertainment" for me, and claiming such is putting words in my mouth.

Here:

Altzan wrote on Sun, 16 May 2010 23:38 Practically everything humorous is [useless]. It's useless for anything other than a cheap entertainment, but it can easily be seen as interesting.

Don't see where I said that this thread was cheap entertainment.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10 Not saying it represented your view on atheism. It simply confirmed my view on what religious folks first impressions of atheism is and I wasn't surprised when you wrote that example of mass murderers. Good on you if you changed your view.

Now you're making assumptions on my first impression of atheism? Nice try, but wrong.

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10 It was the only suggestion I can think of to avoid killing the children. To turn that into a counterpoint just shows you are more interested in settling some score rather than come to a mutual conclusion.

If it's the only suggestion, it's automatically valid?

Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10 Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10 That's not absolute, you know. Homosexuality can hurt people in several ways. have any reasoning behind this?

One example is health - homosexuality can be physically unhealthy.

Another could be how people's relationships can be ruined by the homo/hetero social gaps. I suppose that could be attributed to a public lack of acceptance of the lifestyle, but there you are.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07 i've never met an atheist who advocates telling kids that there's no such thing as god. that there's no evidence that there is one, let alone that anyone has discovered the details, sure. that faith is always a bad thing, sure. kids should be taught those.

but are you suggesting that, for example, teaching a kid that $2+2=4$ in a maths class is "brainwashing"?

Conceded.

It's not brainwashing if it's fact. It's difficult, however, to explain to a child the evidences against a religion while avoiding drawing conclusions for him or her.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07 Quote: Let me try again - while hell is most assuredly worse than a verbal attack, it does not make a verbal attack insignificant.

Understand now?

a "verbal attack" (i'd love to hear specifics) absolutely is insignificant compared to the two thousand years of hell threats.

But not so insignifigant that it should be ignored.

It's ridiclous to vindicate any abuse over an idea by comparing it to another.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07Quote:Either you or Spoony believes it can be impossible for an individual to believe in Christianity.
eh?

Here:

Spoony: what i can't do is flick a switch and make myself believe any of this, it's not the way the mind works, or at least not the way my mind works.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:064)
I, a complete outsider, is interefering with someone else's sex life.
Same as above... you, a complete outsider, are interfering with my beliefs, and I, a complete outsider, am interfering with your ideas.
define "interfering with your beliefs", please, and explain how it is possibly comparable to interfering with someone's love life.

It's quite plain to see that challenging my ideas and beliefs is "interference". Not negative, but interference nonetheless.

I don't know what you mean by a comparison to their love life - it's just another debate over a different topic, that one being homosexuality. Challenging their ideas on it and calling that "interfering with their love life" is the same as challenging a religious person's ideas and calling that "interfering with their religious life".

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 08:25:53 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Either a belief that no higher power exists, or a very skeptical view of the idea of a higher power.

I suppose you could also define atheism as being open-minded and unresolved, maybe, but my impression of an atheist usually incorporates someone who has clearly decided his belief on whether or not any higher power exists.

When there is no evidence of a "higher power watching over, rewarding, punishing, and guiding" then there's no need to believe so.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Seriously? It's happened countless times, a small error ending with the failure of a mission (on any front, not just space exploration).

The rocket analogy is just fine but comparing it to denominational differences isn't since denominations are just differences in opinions.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Many details that denominations pick over deal with

matters that are sins if done improperly. Baptists, for example, do not believe that baptism is necessary to be saved - if they're wrong, then there's a big problem...

So a person can be a very devout christian; accept jesus as saviour, be prayerful, faithful, reading the scriptures, being compassionate, and loving everyone around yet go to hell just for not being baptised?

The entire concept of baptism (like every other christian concept) comes down to wrangling and nitpicking bible verses to form such varied opinions. There is absolutely no reason to think that baptism is necessary to be saved.

These differences are really trivial.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57 Now you're making assumptions on my first impression of atheism? Nice try, but wrong.

I didn't have to assume anything considering you illustrated well with that example:

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58

Fine. I'll go on a murdering spree and kill everyone even remotely religious, saying that they're poisoning our civilization and ruining our gene pool, and that I'm purifying the human race.

Oh, and I'll mention how I'm an atheist.

And you can't say that he's not a true atheist to cover yourselves, because that's just "pulling a fast one".

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57 If it's the only suggestion, it's automatically valid?

You miss the point. That's the only suggestion I could come up with to avoid killing the children. What suggestions have you brought up to avoid having them killed? That's the point of this.

And christians have better morals than atheists? Here's someone who can't bring himself to object to the mass-murder of children. And I will remind you that there were so many cities the israelis raided and slaughtered off the populations that did not have practice any child-sacrifices.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57 One example is health - homosexuality can be physically unhealthy.

You are too vague here.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57 Another could be how people's relationships can be ruined by the homo/hetero social gaps. I suppose that could be attributed to a public lack of acceptance of the lifestyle, but there you are.

There used to be a time when a non-white person in America was treated differently than a white

person. And your country was more christian then. And it's scary to think how "normal" it was. It is unthinkable now.

imo, "public lack of acceptance" is irrelavent. Tyranny of the majority shouldn't stop anyone from enjoying their lives. It was the same with race, it was the same with gender, it was the same with interracial marriages, and I feel is is the same with homosexuals.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57It's difficult, however, to explain to a child the evidences against a religion while avoiding drawing conclusions for him or her.

so here's a christian concerned about atheists inadvertently "drawing conclusions" for their child. The irony kills me.

I wonder what makes you think atheists are going to cram such topics to a "child" in the first place?

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57But not so insignifigant that it should be ignored. It's ridiclous to vindicate any abuse over an idea by comparing it to another.

There's no need for you to play victim here. And I don't know how you came to the conclusion that we are "vindicating abuse" when what we are saying is hell and verbal threats are absolutely not equal.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07Quote:Either you or Spoony believes it can be impossible for an individual to believe in Christianity. eh?

Here:

Spoony: what i can't do is flick a switch and make myself believe any of this, it's not the way the mind works, or at least not the way my mind works.

You too would be unable to "flick a switch" and just believe if a person from another religion was trying to sell it to you. Won't you request solid proof, evidence, and actually think about it while trying to come to a decision? It's the same deal with atheists about christianity.

It's crazy what religious indoctrination can do to a person...it makes them absolutely sure that they are right. I have the luxury of knowing what it feels like i.e, having "faith." And you cannot have "faith" if you take away childhood brainwashing.

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57It's quite plain to see that challenging my ideas and beliefs is "interference". Not negative, but interference nonetheless.

Simply stating it is interference doesn't make it so. How is it interfering? Any specifics?

Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57I don't know what you mean by a comparison to their love life - it's just another debate over a different topic, that one being homosexuality. Challenging their ideas on it and calling that

"interfering with their love life" is the same as challenging a religious person's ideas and calling that "interfering with their religious life".

Trying to have laws that prohibit a certain lifestyle is definitely interfering. You would be obstructing and hindering someone from living out their life in whichever way they choose to live just because YOU have a problem with it.

How did someone challenging your beliefs obstruct and hinder you from practising your faith?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 13:40:21 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57

Another could be how people's relationships can be ruined by the homo/hetero social gaps. I suppose that could be attributed to a public lack of acceptance of the lifestyle, but there you are.

seriously, why are you still arguing with altzan?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 12 Jun 2010 16:57:33 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10But it also is not completely DEVOID of belief. so what beliefs does it have?

Either a belief that no higher power exists, or a very skeptical view of the idea of a higher power.

I suppose you could also define atheism as being open-minded and unresolved, maybe, but my impression of an atheist usually incorporates someone who has clearly decided his belief on whether or not any higher power exists.
sigh

once again, it's theism that's being rejected, not merely deism. religious people don't just say that they think there's likely to be a 'god'... they claim to know quite a lot of details.

there's nothing closed-minded about the position that nobody's come up with the slightest shred of convincing evidence, or even a decent logical argument, that there's a god at all LET ALONE that they know the details (i.e. what religions claim)

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10According to their dogma, if they accept their

jesus and stay away from sin, and live the life, they are either going to heaven or hell.

Many details that denominations pick over deal with matters that are sins if done improperly. Baptists, for example, do not believe that baptism is necessary to be saved - if they're wrong, then there's a big problem...

i'll repeat what i said earlier...

if your god is going to torture people for ever and ever if they don't get this question right, isn't he a COLOSSAL prick for not making it very clear to begin with? isn't it a huge indictment of His incompetence as well as His cruelty?

i don't normally use capital letters for that, but we hear so often of His love and His mercy etc

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10Altzan wrote on Sun, 06 June 2010 21:10That's not absolute, you know. Homosexuality can hurt people in several ways. have any reasoning behind this?

One example is health - homosexuality can be physically unhealthy.

You're just seeing homosexuality as a form of sex. It's not just a form of sex, it's a form of love too (maybe the bigger part of the two is the love part, not that I am in a position to know).

love can hurt heterosexual people too, can't it?

as to the part you seem to be getting at... are you referring to AIDS and other STDs? well, homosexual women are much, much less likely to get and pass around STDs than heterosexual couples are. that'll do as a counterargument for starters. i'd also be willing to wager that rape is far more common in a heterosexual context, i.e. a male perpetrator and a female victim, other than in prisons.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07i've never met an atheist who advocates telling kids that there's no such thing as god. that there's no evidence that there is one, let alone that anyone has discovered the details, sure. that faith is always a bad thing, sure. kids should be taught those.

but are you suggesting that, for example, teaching a kid that $2+2=4$ in a maths class is "brainwashing"?

Conceded.

It's not brainwashing if it's fact. It's difficult, however, to explain to a child the evidences against a religion while avoiding drawing conclusions for him or her. so far so good.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07Quote:Let me try again - while hell is most assuredly worse than a verbal attack, it does not make a verbal attack insignificant. Understand now?

a "verbal attack" (i'd love to hear specifics) absolutely is insignificant compared to the two thousand years of hell threats.

But not so insignificant that it should be ignored.

It's ridiclous to vindicate any abuse over an idea by comparing it to another.
i'm just waiting to hear specifics

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07Quote:Either you or Spoony believes it can be impossible for an individual to believe in Christianity.
eh?

Here:

Spoony: what i can't do is flick a switch and make myself believe any of this, it's not the way the mind works, or at least not the way my mind works.
ah.

how do you define "believe in"? if it's just a matter of acknowledging something's factual correctness, then it would be possible for me to "believe in" Christianity just so long as sufficient evidence was provided.

if instead "believe in" means worshipping, then someone would just have to answer my many moral objections against Christianity, and nobody's done that either.

but my point was a repetition of something i'd said earlier, because you kept referring to belief as though it was a choice. evidently my mind works very differently to yours. i can't choose to believe something. i can, by evidence and logical argument, be persuaded that something is correct when i previously doubted it, but i can't choose to believe it as a matter of policy.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 07 June 2010 10:07Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 03 June 2010 17:064) I, a complete outsider, is interefering with someone else's sex life.
Same as above... you, a complete outsider, are interfering with my beliefs, and I, a complete outsider, am interfering with your ideas.
define "interfering with your beliefs", please, and explain how it is possibly comparable to interfering with someone's love life.

It's quite plain to see that challenging my ideas and beliefs is "interference". Not negative, but interference nonetheless.
odd way to look at it

Quote:I don't know what you mean by a comparison to their love life - it's just another debate over a different topic, that one being homosexuality. Challenging their ideas on it and calling that "interfering with their love life" is the same as challenging a religious person's ideas and calling that "interfering with their religious life".
if only religious people were content JUST to verbally challenge homosexuality. what a better world that would be. well, i'm all for free speech.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sat, 12 Jun 2010 17:14:05 GMT
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Actually, due to my proximity to Brighton, Sussex, homosexual rape is on the increase, but Brighton has a very large proportion of homosexual individuals.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [rcmorr09](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 08:05:29 GMT

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I have not and will not read these past 9 pages, but I figure why not throw in my opinion. Hell I did not even finish the article posted so delete my post mods if I am off topic.

I don't believe queers should be able to adopt children, yea I said queers get over it. There are certain things in life that you learn from a mother and certain things in life you learn from a father. Those are just my beliefs and they will never change. I had a great friend in high school who never even met his dad, was only raised by his mother, and for that he's slightly off. He never had a male influence in his life and it shows. I understand the world is not perfect but if I were an adoption agency I would want the children to go to a solid home with a mother and father. not 2 fathers or 2 mothers. I am not saying homos can't take care of kids, but I think there will be a lack of teaching 2 fathers can accomplish.

There will always be instances of "normal" couples improperly raising and abusing children, but there will no doubt be the same instances if the amount of gay parents are allowed adoption.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 08:30:14 GMT

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I have a list as long as my arm of homosexual couples I know, and would do a better job of raising children than several heterosexual couples (many years my elder) I've had to deal with.

I do not agree that it is nessecary to have 1 father and 1 mother, it's having parents who are good people that is important.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 08:47:09 GMT

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rcmorr09 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 03:05I have not and will not read these past 9 pages, but I figure why not throw in my opinion. Hell I did not even finish the article posted so delete my post mods if I am off topic.

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There will always be instances of "normal" couples improperly raising and abusing children, but there will no doubt be the same instances if the amount of gay parents are allowed adoption.

It is scientifically proven that your opinion is bullshit. gtfo.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 09:40:07 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 03:47rcmorr09 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 03:05I have not and will not read these past 9 pages, but I figure why not throw in my opinion. Hell I did not even finish the article posted so delete my post mods if I am off topic.

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There will always be instances of "normal" couples improperly raising and abusing children, but there will no doubt be the same instances if the amount of gay parents are allowed adoption.

It is scientifically proven that your opinion is bullshit. gtfo.

He does make one valid point. I agree that there are positives to be derived out of both sexes; and to be lacking one is a cause to be lacking aspects of character.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:05:00 GMT

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Quote:

... aspects of character

Such as?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:24:45 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:

... aspects of character

Such as?

With both genders come predefined behaviors and characteristics that are imparted to their children as they mature and grow. The exact stereotypical behaviors and characteristics that I refer to are arguable; yet I'm sure the majority of us can reach mutual agreement on some of them.

For example; common male attributes include pride, strength, confidence, assertiveness etc. Children imitate behavior, especially from their parents. If a male child were to grow up without any male influence; his personal development would be different to a child who did.

To be influenced by both sexes is to promote balance. Without openly stating that this is the "right" way for a child to grow; or saying that same sex parents is detrimental to a child's development; I would of preferred to have a balance if I could change the past when I was a child.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:33:09 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 11:24CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:

... aspects of character

Such as?

With both genders come predefined behaviors and characteristics that are imparted to their children as they mature and grow. The exact stereotypical behaviors and characteristics that I refer to are arguable; yet I'm sure the majority of us can reach mutual agreement on some of them.

For example; common male attributes include pride, strength, confidence, assertiveness etc. Children imitate behavior, especially from their parents. If a male child were to grow up without any male influence; his personal development would be different to a child who did.

To be influenced by both sexes is to promote balance. Without openly stating that this is the "right" way for a child to grow; or saying that same sex parents is detrimental to a child's development; I would of preferred to have a balance if I could change the past when I was a child.

I've met more women than men with those attributes. Society's face is changing.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:35:10 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:24CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:
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its quite astounding how backwards the majority of this forum is on some issues.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [rcmorr09](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:36:42 GMT

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Well England must be full of girly men, like your soccer teams keeper.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:41:30 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:33snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 11:24CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:
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I've met more women than men with those attributes. Society's face is changing.

I'm no parenting expert, I'm no psychologist; so [insert whatever qualities a father imparts that a mother can't here] that you agree with. And yea, you're right; I bet there are a lot of women with more of those qualities than men; yet give me a reason why Fathers shouldn't be a part of a child's life.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:42:53 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:35snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:24CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:
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its quite astounding how backwards the majority of this forum is on some issues.

Comprehension troubles or troll? I can't decide.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:43:13 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:41CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:33snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 11:24CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:
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I've met more women than men with those attributes. Society's face is changing.

I'm no parenting expert, I'm no psychologist

k bye.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [rcmorr09](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:54:57 GMT

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Ziggy how much cock do you have for breakfast each morning? I'm only curious

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:55:04 GMT

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Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [rcmorr09](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:58:26 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:55Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?

Did you not grow up in a 2 parent household? Are there not certain things that only your father taught you? Are there not things only your mother taught or showed you? I assure you that you picked up emotions and behavioral instincts from both parents even if you don't realize it

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 10:59:57 GMT

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rcmorr09 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:54Ziggy how much cock do you have for breakfast each morning? I'm only curious
you're witty!

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:07:21 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:55Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?

I can see this getting deeper and deeper into a debate about whether it is 100% necessary for a father to be a part of a child's life; whether it is not "Right" for one not to be.

So; as you you would say, WikiPedia to the rescue!

First paragraph sir.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:21:02 GMT

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1. open google scholar or a similar search tool

2. search for "gay parents", "lesbian parents", "homosexual parents" or "i'm a bigoted fucknut"
3. success.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:23:48 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:211. open google scholar or a similar search tool
2. search for "gay parents", "lesbian parents", "homosexual parents" or "i'm a bigoted fucknut"
3. success.

Still can't decide.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:34:00 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:23Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:211.
open google scholar or a similar search tool
2. search for "gay parents", "lesbian parents", "homosexual parents" or "i'm a bigoted fucknut"
3. success.

Still can't decide.

seems like you're indecisive. Maybe your father didnt teach you pride, strength, confidence and assertiveness?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:39:57 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:59

you're witty!

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:43:16 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:23Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:211.
open google scholar or a similar search tool

2. search for "gay parents", "lesbian parents", "homosexual parents" or "i'm a bigoted fucknut"

3. success.

I ignore science. damn faggots dont be good parents, is all im sayin'

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:45:45 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:43snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010
06:23Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:211. open google scholar or a similar search
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I ignore science. damn faggots dont be good parents, is all im sayin'

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 11:47:07 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 12:07CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:55Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?

I can see this getting deeper and deeper into a debate about whether it is 100% necessary for a father to be a part of a child's life; whether it is not "Right" for one not to be.

So; as you you would say, WikiPedia to the rescue!

First paragraph sir.

All of those studies completely miss the point, good parents are good parents, regardless of gender.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 12:10:48 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:47snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 12:07CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:55Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?

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So; as you you would say, WikiPedia to the rescue!

First paragraph sir.

All of those studies completely miss the point, good parents are good parents, regardless of gender.

It seems to me that you've just side stepped all the points I've made and have gone straight to "Good parents are good parents, so what does it matter." - Which I can agree with.

But if you don't agree / don't want to acknowledge previous points; that's ok by me. I've seemed to of lost interest in this debate once again.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 12:19:32 GMT

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I did respond - those studies don't address the question, they so much as:

Quote:

completely miss the point

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 12:28:08 GMT

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snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 07:10CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:47snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 12:07CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 06:55Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?

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But if you don't agree / don't want to acknowledge previous points; that's ok by me. I've seemed to of lost interest in this debate once again.

you havent made any points. All you do is spout some vague shit about values or attributes that cant be obtained unless you have a father and a mother. science disagrees. that is all.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 19:47:30 GMT

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That 'father' article reads as if it were written by someone involved with 'Focus on the Family,' or a similar organization.

None of it is factual...

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 19:49:03 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 07:19I did respond - those studies don't address the question, they so much as:

Quote:

completely miss the point

snpr1101 wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:24CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:05Quote:
... aspects of character

Such as?

With both genders come predefined behaviors and characteristics that are imparted to their children as they mature and grow. The exact stereotypical behaviors and characteristics that I refer to are arguable; yet I'm sure the majority of us can reach mutual agreement on some of them.

For example; common male attributes include pride, strength, confidence, assertiveness etc. Children imitate behavior, especially from their parents. If a male child were to grow up without any male influence; his personal development would be different to a child who did.

To be influenced by both sexes is to promote balance. Without openly stating that this is the "right" way for a child to grow; or saying that same sex parents is detrimental to a child's development; I would of preferred to have a balance if I could change the past when I was a child.

Maybe I'm not making myself clear; or perhaps I'm confused. So again I'll restate - Both sexes have something to contribute to their child as they grow. If you take away one; the child's development will be different.(Different is vague, I know; but to avoid getting into further debate about whether having same sex parents can be detrimental to development; or a cause for a lack in some aspects of a child's character.) - In which case I have touched on previously; hence to link to the Wikipedia page that lists the values that a Father can impart to their child; for example. And yes, I realize a lot of women possess more of those values then men; but like I said, insert whatever value that only the father or mother [male/female] can impart to their child that you agree with here

Admittedly; I have not read the whole thread. Maybe I am missing the point; which is what? After you asked CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 05:55Why do Fathers have to be a part of a child's life?I presume that everything I've said in relation to why a father should be a part of a child's life has actually been quite to the point.

Please, enlighten me.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 21:12:44 GMT

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Quote:And yes, I realize a lot of women possess more of those values than men
Oh my.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 13 Jun 2010 21:17:38 GMT

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1) To be honest, so long as the parents have good qualities to impart, does it matter which qualities?

2) A person's personality is not dictated by the gender of their parents, and nothing else. A lot of my personality comes from school, for example.

I see nothing wrong with same-sex parents provided they are healthy individuals, in terms of personality. The issue comes when a parent is a bad rolemodel.

3) I also fail to see why the opinions of one faith should dictate the law, fortunately in the UK, it doesn't.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 02:40:40 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Seriously?
It's happened countless times, a small error ending with the failure of a mission (on any front, not just space exploration).

The rocket analogy is just fine but comparing it to denominational differences isn't since denominations are just differences in opinions.

"Differences in opinions" can have the same result if only one of the two can possibly be correct.

Take baptism. If it truly isn't necessary, both sides are likely to be in the clear, provided God doesn't have a problem with baptism. But if it is required, then those who do not do so are not obeying, which is sin.

Saying that every denomination's opinion doesn't matter is a generalization, and generalizations are almost always incorrect.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25The entire concept of baptism (like every other christian concept) comes down to wrangling and nitpicking bible verses to form such varied

opinions. There is absolutely no reason to think that baptism is necessary to be saved.

Despite the fact that many verses say it is?

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25Altzan wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 22:57Now you're making assumptions on my first impression of atheism? Nice try, but wrong.

I didn't have to assume anything considering you illustrated well with that example:

Altzan wrote on Thu, 13 May 2010 00:58

Fine. I'll go on a murdering spree and kill everyone even remotely religious, saying that they're poisoning our civilization and ruining our gene pool, and that I'm purifying the human race.

Oh, and I'll mention how I'm an atheist.

And you can't say that he's not a true atheist to cover yourselves, because that's just "pulling a fast one".

That doesn't represent my opinion of atheists.

Go ahead and keep ignoring the points I try to make, and turn around my statements to mean something else. The only people who can't see past it don't concern me anyhow.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25You miss the point. That's the only suggestion I could come up with to avoid killing the children. What suggestions have you brought up to avoid having them killed? That's the point of this.

Mine would be trying to diplomatically change their religious practices, or perhaps doing an act similar to the plagues on Egypt.

It's logical to see that they very likely would not have worked, since those acts' influences would have hit them by the first times they were done anywhere, or not at all.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25imo, "public lack of acceptance" is irrelevant. Tyranny of the majority shouldn't stop anyone from enjoying their lives. It was the same with race, it was the same with gender, it was the same with interracial marriages, and I feel it is the same with homosexuals.

What do you mean by "tyranny of the majority"?

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25I wonder what makes you think atheists are going to cram such topics to a "child" in the first place?

Resentment?

I'm sure plenty of atheists feel hostile to the religious, and try to ensure that their children are never fooled by such things.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25There's no need for you to play victim here.

That's awfully bigoted

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25And I don't know how you came to the conclusion

that we are "vindicating abuse" when what we are saying is hell and verbal threats are absolutely not equal.

It was your response, or perhaps excuse.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25It's crazy what religious indoctrination can do to a person...it makes them absolutely sure that they are right. I have the luxury of knowing what it feels like i.e, having "faith."

The irony seeps off of this... seeing as how you speak in the air of one who knows he is right. I'm not sure how "being absolutely sure they are right" is better the second time around rather than the first.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25And you cannot have "faith" if you take away childhood brainwashing.

Then how do people who've never been religious all their life hear the message and study it, and decide to become Christians? That's not childhood brainwashing.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25Simply stating it is interference doesn't make it so. How is it interfering? Any specifics?

Interference = hindrance, intrusion
Debating over the topic is surely a hindrance at the least.

Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25How did someone challenging your beliefs obstruct and hinder you from practising your faith?

I'd think this was obvious.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57it's theism that's being rejected, not merely deism. religious people don't just say that they think there's likely to be a 'god'... they claim to know quite a lot of details.

I understood that when you said it earlier. My apologies if I spoke contrary to it.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57if your god is going to torture people for ever and ever if they don't get this question right, isn't he a COLOSSAL prick for not making it very clear to begin with? isn't it a huge indictment of His incompetence as well as His cruelty?

As far as baptism goes, it's quite clear, although many try to pull verses out of context to dispute it.

Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57You're just seeing homosexuality as a form of sex. It's not just a form of sex, it's a form of love too (maybe the bigger part of the two is the love part, not that I am in a position to know).

It's safe to say that the vast majority of homosexual couples practice homosexual intercourse.

And as for the unhealthy part, here's an example:

Quote:For example, one 1982 study mentioned in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the anal cancer rate for homosexuals is way above normal, maybe as high as 50 times normal.¹ And a 1997 New England Journal of Medicine study again drew attention to the "strong association between anal cancer and male homosexual contact."² (The reason for the connection is that the lining of the anus, as opposed to the much thicker lining of the vagina, is only a single cell in thickness, tears easily, and thus is an easy point of entry for viruses and bacteria. Just as repeatedly assaulting lung tissue with cigarette smoke increases one's lung cancer risk, repeatedly damaging the anus and rectum increases one's anal cancer risk. Anal sex frequently results in damage to the anus and rectum. Too, this helps explain why AIDS is spread so easily in the homosexual community. However, even when there are not any tears in the anal lining, there is still a high risk for HIV infection because certain cells in its mucous lining [M-cells and Langerhans cells] can be infected and will then carry HIV deeper into one's body.)

Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57Quote:I don't know what you mean by a comparison to their love life - it's just another debate over a different topic, that one being homosexuality. Challenging their ideas on it and calling that "interfering with their love life" is the same as challenging a religious person's ideas and calling that "interfering with their religious life". if only religious people were content JUST to verbally challenge homosexuality. what a better world that would be. well, i'm all for free speech.

The only two acts I support are verbal challenge and voting on the issue politically.

CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 16:171) To be honest, so long as the parents have good qualites to impart, does it matter which qualities?

It might if there really are certain qualities that only one gender can impart. Determining whether or not there are such qualities is a whole different problem, though.

CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 16:172) A person's personality is not dictated by the gender of their parents, and nothing else. A lot of my personality comes from school, for example.

True.

CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 16:173) I also fail to see why the opinions of one faith should dictate the law, fortunately in the UK, it doesn't.

Opinions of one faith shouldn't dictate the law.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 09:38:01 GMT

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Meet the woman who saved my life, she'll show you a woman is quite capable of imparting all the qualities listed as "requiring a father". (Whilst you're in a Judo hold.)

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 10:01:09 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 04:38Meet the woman who saved my life, she'll show you a woman is quite capable of imparting all the qualities listed as "requiring a father". (Whilst you're in a Judo hold.)

Kill Bill?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 11:42:15 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 04:38Meet the woman who saved my life, she'll show you a woman is quite capable of imparting all the qualities listed as "requiring a father". (Whilst you're in a Judo hold.)

SHE SHALL GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN AND SHUT HER MOUTH!!

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 12:22:25 GMT

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Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 12:42CarrierII wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 04:38Meet the woman who saved my life, she'll show you a woman is quite capable of imparting all the qualities listed as "requiring a father". (Whilst you're in a Judo hold.)

SHE SHALL GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN AND SHUT HER MOUTH!!

Lol, good luck with that.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 12:35:49 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 07:22Ziggy Sobotka wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 12:42CarrierII wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 04:38Meet the woman who saved my life, she'll show you a woman is quite capable of imparting all the qualities listed as "requiring a father". (Whilst you're in a Judo hold.)

SHE SHALL GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN AND SHUT HER MOUTH!!

Lol, good luck with that.

this thread is just laughable and sad

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzzz](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 14:56:51 GMT

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imo, I don't see how one parent being a male has to do anything with imparting attributes to a child. My uncle bought a bicycle to my cousin at an early age and he learned how to ride it. Now he has his own motorbike. On the other hand, my dad didn't buy me a bicycle and I grew up without knowing how to ride a bicycle. It wasn't until last year I had to buy my own bicycle and learned to ride it.

Now what did the male gender of my dad and my uncle have to do with anything here while it was simply their mindset that made them to buy or not buy their kid a bicycle?

Anyway, I see this whole deal as another feeble attempt by the homophobes citing vague generalizations in an attempt to stop people from doing what they object to. This seems just as absurd as the "sanctity of marriage" drivel they came up with to stop same-sex marriages.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40

Starbuzzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25 It's crazy what religious indoctrination can do to a person...it makes them absolutely sure that they are right. I have the luxury of knowing what it feels like i.e, having "faith."

The irony seeps off of this... seeing as how you speak in the air of one who knows he is right. I'm not sure how "being absolutely sure they are right" is better the second time around rather than the first.

Way to miss the point. I speak of one who now understands the basic irrefutable premise that I turned out to be christian only because I was born into a christian home and was raised up with the christian upbringing (read my first post in this thread about religious brainwashing). And I can see clearly now that if I were born into a hindu family, I would be spouting hindu myths just as I would be spouting islamic dogma if I were born into a muslim family.

So nice try with the claim that I am "absolutely sure the second time around" because that is not the case. I have a billion more questions now because I am now at the point where I was in my childhood before my christian parents and sunday school had the chance to plant any bullshit stories into my mind.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40 What do you mean by "tyranny of the majority"?

Why is there even a debate on homosexual rights? Because the majority object to it.

The fact that I cannot be openly atheist just because my entire family is christian is another example. Just yesterday, the son-of-a-bitch that I have for a father told me over the phone while discussing something unrelated that "you are fucked because you choose to be an atheist and questioned christianity." He thinks I am some sort of criminal for being atheist.

It's the same for homosexuals in this country and elsewhere. The fact they cannot do whatever they want just because the majority of Altzans object to it on the basis of a deep whine.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25I wonder what makes you think atheists are going to cram such topics to a "child" in the first place?

Resentment?

I'm sure plenty of atheists feel hostile to the religious, and try to ensure that their children are never fooled by such things.

We don't resent the "religious" but certainly do so to religion. There's a huge difference.

besides you missed the point. Discussing the theories of human origins is an inappropriate topic to a young child. And look what is done in sunday schools...by the age of 10, the myths are firmly impressed upon them. My brother thinks there is big man sitting with a feather pen and a big book on a giant judge's chair. He is going to turn 11 next month.

so yes, I absolutely resent the fact that little children are taught biblical mythologies like as if they are facts. Religion has just labeled itself to be true without any evidence to back it up.

And finally, you whine about atheists trying to "ensure that their children are never fooled by such things" (give me a good reason as to why they should be fooled by religion) when you christians go to such great lengths to ensure that your child is not impressed by any religion other than your own.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25And you cannot have "faith" if you take away childhood brainwashing.

Then how do people who've never been religious all their life hear the message and study it, and decide to become Christians? That's not childhood brainwashing.

Are you serious?

How about telling your children about religion when they are mature enough to actually think on their own and come to a conclusion using their own judgment? Telling a 8 year old is just brainwashing since kids can be easily fooled.

Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25How did someone challenging your beliefs obstruct and hinder you from practising your faith?

I'd think this was obvious.

It isn't.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 2010 15:47:26 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25I wonder what makes you think atheists are going to cram such topics to a "child" in the first place?

Resentment?

I'm sure plenty of atheists feel hostile to the religious, and try to ensure that their children are never fooled by such things.

plenty of atheists certainly feel hostile to religion, given the enormous amount of damage it's done and continues to do. i certainly think children ought to be protected from religion.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25And you cannot have "faith" if you take away childhood brainwashing.

Then how do people who've never been religious all their life hear the message and study it, and decide to become Christians? That's not childhood brainwashing.

exactly, and that's why it's fine when that happens. you want to proselytise to an adult like me, you're very welcome to try... just keep the fuck away from children.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25Simply stating it is interference doesn't make it so. How is it interfering? Any specifics?

Interference = hindrance, intrusion

Debating over the topic is surely a hindrance at the least.

there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. whenever you hear someone say that debating a particular question is a bad thing, you'll invariably have a religious justification.

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25How did someone challenging your beliefs obstruct and hinder you from practising your faith?

I'd think this was obvious.

it sure is!

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57if your god is going to torture people for ever and ever if they don't get this question right, isn't he a COLOSSAL prick for not making it very clear to begin with? isn't it a huge indictment of His incompetence as well as His cruelty?

As far as baptism goes, it's quite clear, although many try to pull verses out of context to dispute it. or say that they aren't convinced that the book was inspired by god, or say that they aren't convinced that there's a god at all, or say they think there are different gods than Yahweh, or don't see the point in a baptism even if god does want it... i expect the people in the world who don't go in for baptism (clearly a majority, despite christianity's incessant brainwashing of the young) would probably give all sorts of different answers.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57You're just seeing homosexuality as a form of sex. It's not just a form of sex, it's a form of love too (maybe the bigger part of the two is the love part, not that I am in a position to know).

It's safe to say that the vast majority of homosexual couples practice homosexual intercourse. sure, but i think the point needs making. people need to understand we're talking about love here.

Quote:And as for the unhealthy part, here's an example:

Quote:For example, one 1982 study mentioned in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the anal cancer rate for homosexuals is way above normal, maybe as high as 50 times normal.¹ And a 1997 New England Journal of Medicine study again drew attention to the "strong association between anal cancer and male homosexual contact."² (The reason for the connection is that the lining of the anus, as opposed to the much thicker lining of the vagina, is only a single cell in thickness, tears easily, and thus is an easy point of entry for viruses and bacteria. Just as repeatedly assaulting lung tissue with cigarette smoke increases one's lung cancer risk, repeatedly damaging the anus and rectum increases one's anal cancer risk. Anal sex frequently results in damage to the anus and rectum. Too, this helps explain why AIDS is spread so easily in the homosexual community. However, even when there are not any tears in the anal lining, there is still a high risk for HIV infection because certain cells in its mucous lining [M-cells and Langerhans cells] can be infected and will then carry HIV deeper into one's body.) sure, anal sex can be damaging... how about oral sex or handjobs, for example? if it were established that these practices were not harmful, would you be fine with homosexuals enjoying their love lives that way?

Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57Quote:I don't know what you mean by a comparison to their love life - it's just another debate over a different topic, that one being homosexuality. Challenging their ideas on it and calling that "interfering with their love life" is the same as challenging a religious person's ideas and calling that "interfering with their religious life". if only religious people were content JUST to verbally challenge homosexuality. what a better world that would be. well, i'm all for free speech.

The only two acts I support are verbal challenge and voting on the issue politically.
you earlier said that a verbal challenge is "interfering". (i personally depart from you there)

Quote:CarrierII wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 16:173) I also fail to see why the opinions of one faith should dictate the law, fortunately in the UK, it doesn't.

Opinions of one faith shouldn't dictate the law.[/quote]

if, after you die, god asks you to explain yourself on this point, what will you say to Him?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Thu, 17 Jun 2010 03:40:49 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 09:56Why is there even a debate on homosexual rights? Because the majority object to it.

Where does the 'tyranny' come in?

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 09:56 The fact that I cannot be openly atheist just because my entire family is christian is another example. Just yesterday, the son-of-a-bitch that I have for a father told me over the phone while discussing something unrelated that "you are fucked because you choose to be an atheist and questioned christianity." He thinks I am some sort of criminal for being atheist.

I'm sorry to hear that.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 09:56 It's the same for homosexuals in this country and elsewhere. The fact they cannot do whatever they want just because the majority of Altzans object to it on the basis of a deep whine.

And finally, you whine about atheists trying to "ensure that their children are never fooled by such things" (give me a good reason as to why they should be fooled by religion) when you christians go to such great lengths to ensure that your child is not impressed by any religion other than your own.

1) What's with you thinking I'm 'whining'? I certainly don't think that of you, despite the fact that we're both debating the same thing in roughly the same manner.

2) Quick question - what is it that homosexuals want to do that is being held back by the 'tyranny of the majority'?

3) I certainly don't care whether or not atheists try to guard their children against religion. If they want to make sure their child stays free of mind through their childhood, it's fine by me.

Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 09:56 Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40 Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25 And you cannot have "faith" if you take away childhood brainwashing.

Then how do people who've never been religious all their life hear the message and study it, and decide to become Christians? That's not childhood brainwashing.

Are you serious?

How about telling your children about religion when they are mature enough to actually think on their own and come to a conclusion using their own judgment? Telling a 8 year old is just brainwashing since kids can be easily fooled.

Didn't answer the question.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47 exactly, and that's why it's fine when that happens. you want to proselytise to an adult like me, you're very welcome to try... just keep the fuck away from children.

I don't plan on trying to teach it to children. Sure, parents will teach theirs, that's not likely to change, but when it comes to teaching it to others, it doesn't include children.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25Simply stating it is interference doesn't make it so. How is it interfering? Any specifics? Interference = hindrance, intrusion
Debating over the topic is surely a hindrance at the least.
there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. whenever you hear someone say that debating a particular question is a bad thing, you'll invariably have a religious justification.

I never said it was a bad thing, actually

Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47sure, anal sex can be damaging... how about oral sex or handjobs, for example? if it were established that these practices were not harmful, would you be fine with homosexuals enjoying their love lives that way?

In a worldly sense, I suppose.

Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47Quote:Spoony wrote on Sat, 12 June 2010 11:57Quote:I don't know what you mean by a comparison to their love life - it's just another debate over a different topic, that one being homosexuality. Challenging their ideas on it and calling that "interfering with their love life" is the same as challenging a religious person's ideas and calling that "interfering with their religious life".
if only religious people were content JUST to verbally challenge homosexuality. what a better world that would be. well, i'm all for free speech.
The only two acts I support are verbal challenge and voting on the issue politically.
you earlier said that a verbal challenge is "interfering". (i personally depart from you there)

So you wish the "homophobes" would only interfere in that manner?

Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47Quote:Opinions of one faith shouldn't dictate the law. if, after you die, god asks you to explain yourself on this point, what will you say to Him?

While it depends on what or why he's asking for an explanation, I'd point out that changing governmental laws to favor religion against the wishes of the populace generally harbors disfavor to said religion, and that hardly helps to teach it to others.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 17 Jun 2010 18:01:27 GMT

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Altzan wrote on Wed, 16 June 2010 22:40Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 09:56The fact that I cannot be openly atheist just because my entire family is christian is another example. Just yesterday, the son-of-a-bitch that I have for a father told me over the phone while discussing something unrelated that "you are fucked because you choose to be an atheist and questioned christianity." He thinks I am some sort of criminal for being atheist.

I'm sorry to hear that.

on what theological basis do you disagree with starbuzz's father? the bible seems to say that starbuzz is a heinous criminal, as am i. god's a cruel, bloodthirsty tyrant at the best of times, but his merciless rage is at its worst when someone doesn't worship him correctly. and before you say

that's just in the OT, christians have been telling us for two thousand years that we'll suffer even worse than what the victims of the old testament supposedly suffered, as punishment for the worst crime of all: doubt.

Quote:2)Quick question - what is it that homosexuals want to do that is being held back by the 'tyranny of the majority'? marriage, in a lot of places. also, stop me if i'm wrong, but there are sodomy laws in some states? so they can't legally have a sex life, even in private with a consenting adult.

Quote:3)I certainly don't care whether or not atheists try to guard their children against religion. If they want to make sure their child stays free of mind through their childhood, it's fine by me. do you think it's fine by your God?

Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 09:56Altzan wrote on Sun, 13 June 2010 21:40Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25And you cannot have "faith" if you take away childhood brainwashing. Then how do people who've never been religious all their life hear the message and study it, and decide to become Christians? That's not childhood brainwashing. Are you serious? How about telling your children about religion when they are mature enough to actually think on their own and come to a conclusion using their own judgment? Telling a 8 year old is just brainwashing since kids can be easily fooled.

Didn't answer the question. i think i did, didn't i? if an adult wants to study a religion and then makes a free hindered choice to start practicing in it, you won't find many atheists objecting to that.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47exactly, and that's why it's fine when that happens. you want to proselytise to an adult like me, you're very welcome to try... just keep the fuck away from children.

I don't plan on trying to teach it to children. Sure, parents will teach theirs, that's not likely to change, but when it comes to teaching it to others, it doesn't include children. cool.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47Quote:Starbuzz wrote on Thu, 10 June 2010 03:25Simply stating it is interference doesn't make it so. How is it interfering? Any specifics? Interference = hindrance, intrusion Debating over the topic is surely a hindrance at the least. there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. whenever you hear someone say that debating a particular question is a bad thing, you'll invariably have a religious justification.

I never said it was a bad thing, actually you compared it to the "hindrance" christians inflict to homosexuals, such as supporting laws that deny them of their basic human rights. it's ridiculous to even mention the two situations in the same breath.

Quote:So you wish the "homophobes" would only interfere in that manner?

yes, and i'd defend their right to do so. freedom of speech... that's a basic human right, as is the right to enjoy your love life with a consenting adult. as is the right to make your own free choice of religion without being threatened with punishments...

i say all of the above are basic human rights, but religions invariably disagree.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 June 2010 10:47Quote:Opinions of one faith shouldn't dictate the law.

if, after you die, god asks you to explain yourself on this point, what will you say to Him?

While it depends on what or why he's asking for an explanation, for example, if he says "i thought i made it clear that everyone's got to worship me and follow my rules or there will be trouble"

Quote:I'd point out that changing governmental laws to favor religion against the wishes of the populace generally harbors disfavor to said religion, and that hardly helps to teach it to others. quite a cunning answer, but it's still a point against your religion... it shouldn't have the power it says it should have, because then everyone will realise how evil it is?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Sun, 20 Jun 2010 04:19:44 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 June 2010 13:01on what theological basis do you disagree with starbuzz's father?

As I've said, I disagree on his methods... constantly nagging on him and treating him badly because of his decision is just stupid.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 June 2010 13:01Quote:2)Quick question - what is it that homosexuals want to do that is being held back by the 'tyranny of the majority'? marriage, in a lot of places. also, stop me if i'm wrong, but there are sodomy laws in some states? so they can't legally have a sex life, even in private with a consenting adult.

So the problem is that homosexuals cannot be officially and legally married because the majority are against it. Hmm.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 June 2010 13:01Quote:3)I certainly don't care whether or not atheists try to guard their children against religion. If they want to make sure their child stays free of mind through their childhood, it's fine by me. do you think it's fine by your God?

"Fine by him"? I'm sure he doesn't want it to happen, no, but I don't know about any other detail pertaining to that... unless I'm misunderstanding you.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 June 2010 13:01you compared it to the "hindrance" christians inflict to homosexuals, such as supporting laws that deny them of their basic human rights. it's ridiculous to

even mention the two situations in the same breath.

Not my point. I'm just validating my use of the word "interference".

Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 June 2010 13:01for example, if he says "i thought i made it clear that everyone's got to worship me and follow my rules or there will be trouble"

That says nothing about actions, only words.

Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 June 2010 13:01quite a cunning answer, but it's still a point against your religion... it shouldn't have the power it says it should have, because then everyone will realise how evil it is?

That's opinionated, but anyway, where does it say it should have power?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Rocko](#) on Sat, 31 Jul 2010 08:00:47 GMT

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i have never seen anyone as naive or dumb as altzan

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2010 02:45:33 GMT

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Rocko wrote on Sat, 31 July 2010 03:00i have never seen anyone as naive or dumb as altzan

Honestly, I'd be ashamed if you approved of my answers.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2010 07:22:27 GMT

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i had a thought a while ago, altzan. you said god isn't interfering in the world anymore, not since the time of jesus. does that mean that when somebody prays for some help in the here and now, as so many people in the world do (for example, if they have a relative in the army and they pray for his safety), they're completely wasting their time?

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 05:04:50 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010 06:58Quote:That doesn't change the fact that once it and the people within it are gone, they're gone for good... if there's no afterlife.
Yes, but the party will go on. The human race goes on, the planet's still here, our friends and relatives are still here...

After many years of neglect, I finally bought Brave New World by Aldous Huxley; started reading it last night. I have no idea why I waited so long to buy the book when I had known since at least 2009 that it is a must-have for me.

So anyway, here I am on page thirty four and I read a passage that totally catches me by surprise...the sort of thing that forces a long-buried memory to gush out; it made me remember the statement quoted above that you wrote back in 2010!

Quote:"You all remember," said the Controller, in his strong deep voice, "you all remember, I suppose, that beautiful and inspired saying of Our Ford's: History is bunk. History," he repeated slowly, "is bunk."

He waved his hand; and it was as though, with an invisible feather whisk, he had brushed away a little dust, and the dust was Harappa, was Ur of the Chaldees; some spider-webs, and they were Thebes and Babylon and Cnossos and Mycenae. Whisk. Whisk-and where was Odysseus, where was Job, where were Jupiter and Gotama and Jesus? Whisk-and those specks of antique dirt called Athens and Rome, Jerusalem and the Middle Kingdom-all were gone. Whisk the place where Italy had been was empty. Whisk, the cathedrals; whisk, whisk, King Lear and the Thoughts of Pascal. Whisk, Passion; whisk, Requiem; whisk, Symphony; whisk.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 09:45:35 GMT

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the Arch-Community Sing was a well-written scene, you'll like that. and John's conversations with the Controller near the end

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Major-Payne](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 10:24:56 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Mon, 02 August 2010 00:22i had a thought a while ago, altzan. you said god isn't interfering in the world anymore, not since the time of jesus. does that mean that when somebody prays for some help in the here and now, as so many people in the world do (for example, if they have a relative in the army and they pray for his safety), they're completely wasting their time?

There is no god. Anyone who invests any time in any kind of god is wasting it, and they will never ever get it back.

Subject: Re: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality

Posted by [Ethenal](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 12:36:53 GMT

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Starbuzz wrote on Wed, 03 October 2012 00:04Spoony wrote on Thu, 22 April 2010

06:58Quote:That doesn't change the fact that once it and the people within it are gone, they're gone for good... if there's no afterlife.

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My friend found this book a couple of weeks ago, it was extremely tattered and damaged - anyway, I know he's read like 100 pages and said it's absolutely insane, I read to like page 20 and was mind blown enough as it is.

What really blows my mind about that book is that it was written like 15 years before 1984 was.
