

---

# FAITH AND UNBELIEF: THE CHURCH AND ATHEISM

Faith, Unbelief, and Culture

## AN-ECCLESIALISM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYlpqY>

- Characteristics
  - Jesus without the Church
  - It is enough to believe and follow Jesus
  - Organized religion is against Jesus
  - Jesus would be appalled at today's church
- Positive aspects
- Dangers

## “SPIRITUALITY”

- Characteristics
  - The search for a higher power is what is important
  - Religion only obscures the human search for spirituality
  - Any spiritual practices are valid and helpful
- Forms
  - Wicca
  - Shamanism
  - Various New Age practices
- Positive aspects
- Dangers

## INDIFFERENTISM

- Characteristics
  - Religion has no real impact on life
  - Religion is a private matter, so each person can follow what they want
  - Science is what guides life
- Positive aspects
- Dangers

## AGNOSTICISM

- Characteristics
  - There may be a God, but life is better if we don't think too much about this God
  - Too many wars have been fought in the name of dogmatism; non-religions is the better way
- Positive aspects
- Dangers

## ATHEISM

- Characteristics
  - There is no God
  - Reasonable people cannot be naïve enough to believe in a God
- Positive aspects
- Dangers

## MILITANT OR “EVANGELICAL” ATHEISM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nAos1M-Ts>

- Characteristics
  - Religion is bad for humanity
  - Religion promotes evil
- Positive aspects
- Dangers

## CHRISTIAN “ATHEISMS”

- God beyond names: Pluralism option
  - Characteristics
    - There is no one way to God
    - All religions are valid insofar as they are lived well
  - Positive aspects
  - Dangers
- God beyond concepts
  - Characteristics
    - It is important to be Christian, but Christianity is about faith, not dogmas
    - Concepts about God are merely the result of human projections
  - Positive aspects
  - Dangers