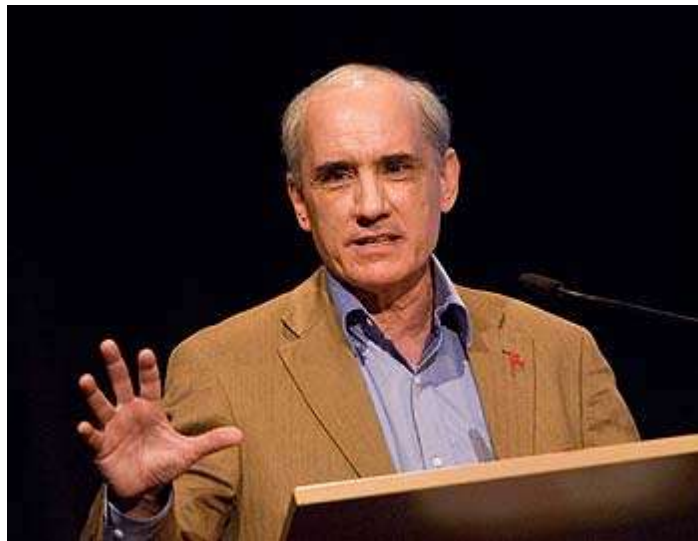


# Brief Descriptions of Popular Opponents of Christianity

“Standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by *your* opponents”<sup>1</sup> ... “With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition.”<sup>2</sup>

## The New Atheists



**Barker, Dan**

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<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). (Php 1:27–28). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). (2 Ti 2:25). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Former Pastor and co-president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation

"Speaking for myself, if the Bible heaven and hell exist, I would choose hell. Having to spend eternity pretending to worship a petty tyrant who tortures those who insult his authority would be more hellish than baking in eternal flames. There is no way such a bully can earn my admiration." (Godless, page 170)

### Books:

Godless: How an Evangelical Preacher Became One of America's Leading Atheists

God: The Most Unpleasant Character in All Fiction

Just Pretend: A Freethought Book for Children

Maybe Yes, Maybe No: A Guide for Young Skeptics

Maybe Right, Maybe Wrong: A Guide for Young Thinkers

Life Driven Purpose: How an Atheist Finds Meaning

The Good Atheist: Living a Purpose-Filled Life Without God

Losing Faith in Faith

### Debates:

"Does God Exist?" vs. [Matt Slick \(link\)](#), vs. Dinesh D'Souza ([link](#)), vs. Bill Pubols ([link](#)), vs. Jerry Bergman ([link](#)), vs. [Phil Fernandes \(link\)](#), vs. Peter Youngren, vs. [Kyle Butt \(link\)](#), vs Todd Friel ([link](#)), vs John-Mark Miravalle ([link](#)), vs John Mark Reynolds ([link](#))

["Does the Triune God Live?"](#) vs. Doug Wilson

["Does the God of the Bible Exist?"](#) vs. Russell DiSilvestro, vs [Kyle Butt \(link\)](#)

["Christianity vs Atheism"](#) vs. Dinesh D'Souza

["Is Religion the Problem?"](#) vs. Dinesh D'Souza

"Is God the Problem?" vs. Dinesh D'Souza

["Is the World Better with Christianity?"](#) vs Eugene Curry

["What's More Reasonable: Christian Theism or Atheism?"](#) vs Paul Manata

["Can We Be Good Without God?"](#) vs. Dinesh D'Souza, vs Jon Kaus ([Link](#)), vs Constantine Campbell ([link](#))

[“Is There a Reason to Be Good Without God?”](#) vs. [Matt Slick](#)

[“Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?”](#) vs [Mike Licona](#)

[“Jesus of Nazareth: Lord or Legend”](#) vs Justin Bass

[Evolution and Intelligent Design](#) vs. John Rankin

[“Is the Bible Full of Errors and Deceit?”](#) vs. John Rankin

[“Was Jesus a Myth?”](#) vs. [James White](#)

[“Jesus: Myth or Messiah?”](#) vs [James White](#)

[“The Triune God of Scripture Lives”](#) vs [James White](#)

[“Is Christianity the One True Faith?”](#) vs. Greg Clark

[“Is There Life after Death?”](#) vs. Joe Boot

“Creation or Evolution” vs. Brian Young

“Is There an Absolute Basis for Morality?” vs. Lucas Laborde

“Without God We Are Nothing” vs. George Pell



**Dawkins, Richard**

Professor at Oxford, England—possibly the most well-known vocal atheist, originally known for his support of biological evolution

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully” (The God Delusion).

### Books:

The God Delusion

The Selfish Gene

The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution

The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design

The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True

Climbing Mount Improbable

River Out of Eden

A Devil's Chaplain: Reflections on Hope, Lies, Science, and Love

The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Life

An Appetite for Wonder: The Making of a Scientist

### Debates:

[“Has Science Buried God?”](#) vs. [John Lennox](#)



## **Dennett, Daniel**

Philosophy professor; co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies—known for developing naturalistic philosophies of the mind

“The Kindly God who lovingly fashioned each and every one of us and sprinkled the sky with shining stars for our delight—that God is, like Santa Claus, a myth of childhood, not anything a sane, undiluted adult could literally believe in. That God must either be turned into a symbol for something less concrete or abandoned altogether.”

### Books:

Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon

Caught in the Pulpit: Leaving Belief Behind

Science and Religion: Are They Compatible (with Alvin Plantinga)

Consciousness Explained

Sweet Dreams: Philosophical Obstacles to a Science of Consciousness (2005)

Darwin’s Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meanings of Life

Freedom Evolves

Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking

Elbow Room: The Varieties of Free Will Worth Wanting

The Mind’s I: Fantasies and Reflections on Self and Soul

## Debates:

[“Is God a Man-Made Invention”](#) vs. Dinesh D’Souza

[“God and Religion”](#) vs Alister McGrath



## **Harris, Sam**

Co-Founder, Chief Executive of Project Reason—known partly for proposing moral absolutes and spiritual values in a purely natural universe

“We are faced with the task of convincing a myth infatuated world that love and curiosity are sufficient and you don’t have to delude yourself and frighten yourself with Iron Age fairy tales. This is a monumental task. I don’t think there is an intellectual struggle more worthy of our efforts.”

## Books:

The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason

Letter to a Christian Nation

Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality without Religion

The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values

Free Will

Lying

Ham: Slices of Life: Essays and Stories

## Debates:

[“The God Debate”](#) vs. [William Lane Craig](#)



### **Jillette, Penn**

Vegas entertainer; one of America’s best magicians; now using his spotlight to promote atheism

“Behaving morally because of a hope of reward or a fear of punishment is not morality. Morality is not bribery or threats. Religion is bribery and threats. Humans have morality. We don't need religion.”

### Books:

Every Day is an Atheist Holiday

God, No! Signs You May Already Be an Atheist and Other Magical Tales



## **Krauss, Lawrence**

Physicist—known for his redefinition of “nothing” to explain the origin of the universe

“The amazing thing is that every atom in your body came from a star that exploded.... Forget Jesus, the stars died so you could be born.”

### Books:

A Universe from Nothing: Why There is Something Rather Nothing

Atom: A Single Oxygen Atom’s Odyssey from the Big Bang to Life on Earth... and Beyond

Hiding in the Mirror: The Quest for Alternative Realities, From Plato to String Theory

Quintessence: The Missing Mass of the Universe

The Physics of Star Trek

### Debates:

[“Has Science Buried God?”](#) vs. [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Is it Reasonable to Believe in God?”](#) vs. [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Why is There Something Rather Than Nothing?”](#) vs. [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Does the Cosmos Leave Space for God?”](#) vs. [John Lennox](#)





## Maher, Bill

Comedian and host of the talk show Real Time—known for his sound-bite style and often vulgar dismissal of God and Christianity (Not to be mistaken for the Christian missionary by the same name)

“We are a nation that is unenlightened because of religion. I do believe that. I think religion stops people from thinking. I think it justified crazies.”

### Books:

New Rules: Polite Musings from a Timid Observer

The New New Rules: A Funny Look at How Everybody But Me Has Their Heads up Their...

True Story: A Novel

Does Anybody Have a Problem with that?

### Talkshow “Debates”:

[vs. Russ Douthat](#)

[vs. Evangelical Minister](#)

[vs. Bill O’Reilly](#)

vs. Stephen Colbert



## **Nye, Bill**

Possibly the most recognizable scientist for any child of the 90s—he continues to have an interest in education

“There's nothing I believe in more strongly than getting young people interested in science and engineering, for a better tomorrow, for all humankind”...

“Evolution is the fundamental idea in all of life science.”

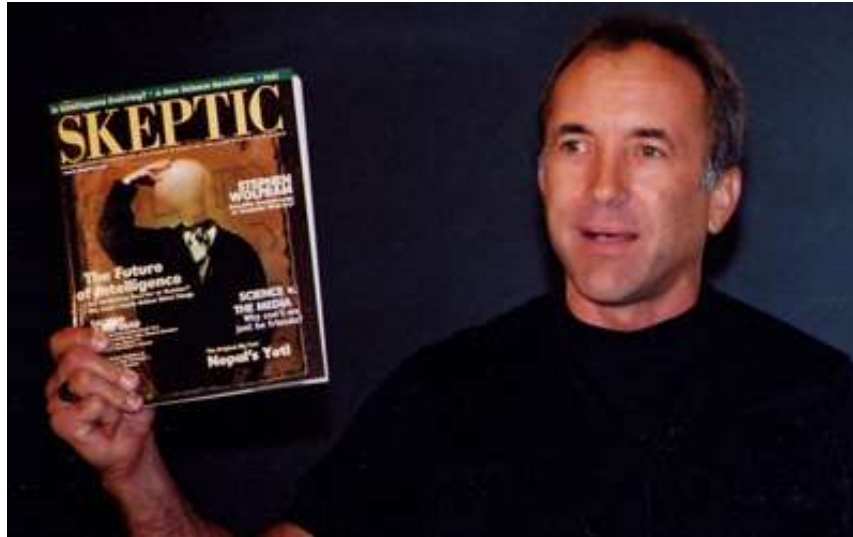
### Books:

Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World

Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of Creation

### Debates:

[“Is Creation a Viable Model of Origins in Today’s Modern Scientific Era?”](#) vs. Ken Ham



## **Shermer, Michael**

Founder of the Skeptic Society and Skeptic magazine—known for naturalizing beliefs that are beyond man

“Religious faith depends on a host of social, psychological and emotional factors that have little or nothing to do with probabilities, evidence and logic.”

### Books:

The Moral Arc: How Science Makes Us Better People

Why People Believe Weird Things: Pseudoscience, Superstition, and Other Confusions of Our Time

The Skeptic Encyclopedia of Pseudoscience

Skeptic: Viewing the World with a Rational Eye

The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies—How We Construct Beliefs and Reinforce Them as Truths

How We Believe: Science, Skepticism, And the Search for God

The Borderlands of Science: Where Sense Meets Nonsense

Science Friction: Where the Known Meets the Unknown

Denying History: Who Says That the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say it?

### Debates:

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs. [John Lennox](#)

[The Nature of Evil and Suffering](#) vs. [John Lennox](#)

[“Is Atheism Rational?”](#) (short) vs. [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Is Religion a Force for Good or Evil?”](#) vs. Dinesh D’Souza

[“What Better Explains Morality? God or Science?”](#) vs. [Frank Turek](#)

[“Is the Bible Bogus?”](#) (short) vs. Ben Witherington III

[Intelligent Design](#) vs. [Stephen Meyer](#) (et al)

[“Design vs. Darwin”](#) (short) vs [Stephen Meyer](#)

[Creationism vs. Evolution](#) vs. Eric Hovind

[Evolution](#) vs Kent Hovind

God Debate vs. Doug Geivett

Vs. Barry Minkow

“Why We Believe What We Believe” vs. Karl Giberson



**Silverman, David**

President of the American Atheists—creator of the Reason Rally—known as a social activist on behalf of atheists and the liberal

“Let’s talk about how Christianity causes suffering on a broad scale—by stymying science. Christianity hates science, because science keeps proving religion wrong. In all of history science has never proven that any God exists.”

### Books:

Fighting God: An Atheist Manifesto for a Religious World

Cognitive Science: An introduction to the Study of the Mind

Doing Qualitative Research

### Debates

[“Which Offers a Better Explanation for Reality: Atheism or Theism?”](#) vs [Frank Turek](#)

[“Is Christianity Good for America?”](#) vs Dinesh D’Souza

[“Is Christianity Good for America?”](#) vs. [Alex McFarland](#)

[“Is the New Testament Evil?”](#) vs. [James White](#)

[“Can Darwinian Evolution Produce a Healthy Society?”](#) vs. John Rankin

(With A.C. Grayling) vs. Austin, Texas, pastors



## **Tabash, Eddie**

Chairs the center for Inquiry, social activist—uses his authority as a lawyer to divide church and state issues; promotes atheism throughout all political persuasions.

“The arguments against the supernatural are powerful both from a philosophical and scientific standpoint. These arguments must be put before the public so that everyone will have access to the compelling reasons for coming to an Atheistic worldview.”

\*Not an author

### Debates:

[“Secular Humanism versus Christianity”](#) vs [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Is the Supernatural Real?”](#) (short) vs [J.P. Moreland](#)

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs [Matt Slick](#)

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs [Phil Fernandes](#)

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs Randy Martin

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs Tom Trenton

[“Does God Exist?”](#) ([Closing statements](#)) vs. Greg Bahnsen

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs Peter Payne

[“Does God Exist?”](#) vs. Joel Reif

Vs. [Frank Turek](#)

Vs. Peter Van Inwagen

Vs. Richard Swinburne

**See also:**

Neil De'Grasse Tyson

Ricky Gervais

A.C. Grayling

Matt Dillahunty

P.Z. Meyers

Aron Ra

Victor Stenger

Richard Carrier

David Mills (“Atheist Universe: The Thinking Person’s Answer to Christian Fundamentalism”)

George Smith (“Atheism: The Case Against God”)