

200 Quotations from ApatheticAgnostic.com Volume 3

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

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

1. The tendency has always been strong to believe that whatever received a name must be an entity or being, having an independent existence of its own. And if no real entity answering to the name could be found, men did not for that reason suppose that none existed, but imagined that it was something peculiarly abstruse and mysterious.
John Stuart Mill
2. You find as you look around the world that every single bit of progress in humane feeling, every improvement in the criminal law, every step toward the diminution of war, every step toward better treatment of the colored races, or every mitigation of slavery, every moral progress that there has been in the world, has been consistently opposed by the organized churches of the world. I say quite deliberately that the Christian religion, as organized in its churches, has been and still is the principal enemy of moral progress in the world.
Bertrand Russell
3. How can I believe in God when just last week I got my tongue caught in the roller of an electric typewriter?
Woody Allen
4. The true man walks the earth as the stars walk the heavens, grandly obedient to those laws which are implanted in his nature.
Lemuel K. Washburn
5. The Bible takes much of its colour from whoever is reading it, and it provides a text to support almost every shade of opinion, however preposterous.
Robertson Davies
6. If I had been present at creation, I would have given some useful hints.
Alfonso the Wise
7. Theology: the study of elaborate verbal disguises for non-ideas. Anonymous
8. It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense. Robert G. Ingersoll

9. As long as people believe in absurdities they will continue to commit atrocities.
Voltaire
10. The gods play games with men as balls.
Titus Maccius Plautus
11. The mystery of the beginning of all things is insoluble by us; and I for one must be content to remain an Agnostic.
Charles Darwin
12. Assuming that he believes at all, the everyday Christian is a pitiful figure, a man who really cannot count up to three, and who besides, precisely because of his mental incompetence, would not deserve such a punishment as Christianity promises him.
Friedrich Nietzsche
13. But I cannot give liberty of conscience to the pope and his followers, the papists, so long as they tell me, through all their councils, theologians, and canon laws that their conscience orders them to burn my wife, strangle my children, and cut my throat when they find their opportunity. Abraham Lincoln
14. It is the final proof of God's omnipotence that he need not exist in order to save us.
Peter de Vries
15. By the cold and religious we were taken in hand shown how to feel good; and told to feel bad.

Roger Waters
(The Final Cut - Pink Floyd)
16. God is the big question mark. Heaven is the even bigger question mark. Death is just another question mark.
Emmylou Harris
17. If you love God, burn the church.
Jello Biafra
18. Jesus was all right, but his disciples were thick and ordinary. It's them twisting it that ruins it for me.
John Lennon
19. We are not accountable for the sins of Adam. Robert G. Ingersoll
20. We must therefore ask ourselves: What sort of thing is it reasonable to believe without proof? I should reply: The facts of sense experience and the principles of mathematics and logic -- including the inductive logic employed in science.
Bertrand Russell
21. Kill one man and you are a murderer. Kill millions and you are a conqueror. Kill all and you are God.
Jean Rostand
22. God has always been hard on the poor.
Jean Paul Marat
23. It is easy to ask the ultimate questions - it saves you bothering with the immediate ones.
John Osborne
24. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. That unalterable rule applies both to God and man.
John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton

25. The truth cannot be asserted without denouncing the falsehood.
Leslie Stephen
26. Whomsoever you follow, howsoever great, see to it that you follow the spirit of the master and not imitate him mechanically.
Mohandas Ghandi
27. Scientific education and religious education are incompatible. The clergy have ceased to interfere with education at the advanced state, with which I am directly concerned, but they have still got control of that of children. This means that the children have to learn about Adam and Noah instead of about evolution; about David who killed Goliath, instead of Koch who killed cholera; about Christ's ascent into heaven instead of Montgolfier's and Wright's. Worse than that, they are taught that it is a virtue to accept statements without adequate evidence, which leaves them a prey to quacks of every kind in later life, and makes it very difficult for them to accept the methods of thought which are successful in science.
J.B.S. Haldane
28. The good Lord never gives you more than you can handle. Unless you die of something.
Richard Guindon
29. Our hope of immortality does not come from any religions, but nearly all religions come from that hope.
Robert G. Ingersoll
30. We cannot hope for a society in which formal organized religion dies out. But we can stop behaving as if it was worthy of our collective respect. A.N. Wilson
31. Imagine the people who believe such things and who are not ashamed to ignore, totally, all the patient findings of thinking minds through all the centuries since the Bible was written. And it is these ignorant people, the most uneducated, the most unimaginative, the most unthinking among us, who would make themselves the guides and leaders of us all; who would force their feeble and childish beliefs on us; who would invade our schools and libraries and homes. I personally resent it bitterly. Isaac Asimov
32. A believer is a bird in a cage, a free-thinker is an eagle parting the clouds with tireless wing.
Robert G. Ingersoll
33. Religion to me is much like the story "The Pit and the Pendulum," every time the blade of religious censorship swings it comes closer and closer to severing freedom from the people.
W.J. Wallace Jr.
34. There must be no barriers to freedom of inquiry. There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any errors.
J. Robert Oppenheimer
35. If I had been the Virgin Mary, I would have said no. Margaret "Stevie" Smith

36. The truths which God revealed have been overthrown by the truths which man has discovered.
Lemuel K. Washburn
37. I like to browse in occult bookshops if for no other reason than to refresh my commitment to science.
Heinz Pagels
38. The supernatural is the natural not yet understood. Elbert Hubbard
39. People everywhere enjoy believing things that they know are not true. It spares them the ordeal of thinking for themselves and taking responsibility for what they know.
Brooks Atkinson
40. Science is like a blabbermouth who ruins a movie by telling you how it ends. There are some things we don't want to know. Important things.
Ned Flanders (The Simpsons)
41. The radical novelty of modern science lies precisely in the rejection of the belief, which is at the heart of all popular religion, that the forces which move the stars and atoms are contingent upon the preferences of the human heart. Walter Lippmann
42. Religion will not regain its old power until it can face change in the same spirit as does science.
Alfred North Whitehead
43. Few people can be happy unless they hate some other person, nation, or creed. Bertrand Russell
44. Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly, as I have said, the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing - fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand. It is because fear is at the basis of those two things. In this world we can now begin a little to understand things, and a little to master them by help of science, which has forced its way step by step against the Christian religion, against the churches, and against the opposition of all the old precepts. Science can help us to get over this craven fear in which mankind has lived for so many generations. Science can teach us, and I think our own hearts can teach us, no longer to look around for imaginary supports, no longer to invent allies in the sky, but rather to look to our own efforts here below to make this world a better place to live in, instead of the sort of place that the churches in all these centuries have made it. Bertrand Russell
45. We must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.
Sam Levenson
46. Science is a first-rate piece of furniture for a man's upper chamber, if he has common sense on the ground floor.
Oliver Wendell Holmes

47. Let us put theology out of religion.
Theology has always sent the worst to heaven, the best to hell.
Robert G. Ingersoll
48. Science is the record of dead religions.
Oscar Wilde
49. God cannot be put into the national Constitution without putting liberty out of it. Lemuel K. Washburn
50. The day that this country ceases to be free for irreligion, it will cease to be free for religion - except for the sect that can win political power.
Robert Houghwout Jackson,
U.S. Supreme Court justice
51. I cannot persuade myself that a beneficent and omnipotent God would have designedly created the Ichneumonidae with the express intention of their feeding within the living bodies of caterpillars.
Charles Darwin
52. So many Christians long for integration of church and state because they know it would be a Christian influence on government and politics. But would they still want religion's interference in the state if that religion were Buddhism or some other belief system that differed from their own? If the government were run by Muslim tenets, they'd be crying out for separation of church and state.
Anonymous
53. The greatest achievement ever made in the cause of human progress is the total and final separation of church and state. If we have nothing else to boast of, we could lay claim with justice that the first among the nations we of this country made it an article of organic law that the relations between man and his maker were a private concern, into which other men have no right to intrude. To measure the stride thus made for the Emancipation of the race, we have only to look back over the centuries that have gone before us, and recall the dreadful persecutions in the name of religion that have filled the world. David Dudley Field
54. It is contended by many that ours is a Christian government, founded upon the Bible, and that all who look upon that book as false or foolish are destroying the foundation of our country. The truth is, our government is not founded upon the rights of gods, but upon the rights of men. Our Constitution was framed, not to declare and uphold the deity of Christ, but the sacredness of humanity. Ours is the first government made by the people for the people. It is the only nation with which the gods have nothing to do. And yet there are some judges dishonest and cowardly enough to solemnly decide that this is a Christian country, and that our free institutions are based upon the infamous laws of Jehovah.
Robert G. Ingersoll

55. In addition, the New York Supreme Court, in a well known case (Miami Military Institute v. Leff 129 Misc. 481, 220 N.Y.S. 799, 810) said of the principle of religious freedom that it, 'has always been regarded by the American people as the very heart of its national life.' This would be difficult to maintain in a democracy without institutional separation of church and state. Anson Phelps Stokes
56. We are all capable of believing things which we know to be untrue, and then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right.
George Orwell
57. Certainly the affirmative pursuit of one's convictions about the ultimate mystery of the universe and man's relation to it is placed beyond the reach of law. Government may not interfere with organized or individual expressions of belief or disbelief. Propagation of belief - or even of disbelief - in the supernatural is protected, whether in church or chapel, mosque or synagogue, tabernacle or meeting-house.
Felix Frankfurter,
U.S. Supreme Court justice
58. The government of the United States is in no sense founded upon the Christian religion. The United States is not a Christian nation any more than it is a Jewish or a Mohammedan nation.
U.S. Treaty with Tripoli
59. I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute - where no Catholic prelate would tell the president (should he be Catholic) how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote - where no church or church school is granted any public funds or political preference - and where no man is denied public office merely because his religion differs from the president who might appoint him or the people who might elect him.
John F. Kennedy
60. To hear many religious people talk, one would think God created the torso, head, legs and arms, but the devil slapped on the genitals.
Don Schrader
61. Why should we take advice on sex from the pope? If he knows anything about it, he shouldn't! George Bernard Shaw
62. The Christian view that all intercourse outside marriage is immoral was, as we see in the... passages from St. Paul, based upon the view that all sexual intercourse, even within marriage, is regrettable. A view of this sort, which goes against biological facts, can only be regarded by sane people as a morbid aberration. The fact that it is embedded in Christian ethics has made Christianity throughout its whole history a force tending towards mental disorders and unwholesome views of life.
Bertrand Russell

63. The church doctrines of obedience to authority, repentance, fear of punishment, self-abnegation, acceptance of outer direction rather than inner assurance, elevation of faith over reason, and intolerance make institutionalized religion an ideal instrument of social constraint.
Madalyn O'Hair
64. The myths about Hades and the gods, though they are pure invention, help to make men virtuous.
Diodorus Siculus
65. When one turns from reason to faith, when one rejects the absolutism of reality, one undercuts the absolutism of one's consciousness — and one's mind becomes an organ one cannot trust any longer. It becomes what the mystics claim it to be: a tool of distortion.
Ayn Rand
66. My religiosity consists in a humble admiration of the infinitely superior spirit that reveals itself in the little that we, with our weak and transitory understanding, can comprehend of reality. Morality is of the highest importance - but for us, not for God.
Albert Einstein
67. The chicken probably came before the egg because it is hard to imagine God wanting to sit on an egg for 21 days.
Anonymous
68. I like the silence of a church, before the service begins better than any preaching.
Ralph Waldo Emerson
69. I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, by the Roman Church, by the Greek Church, by the Turkish Church, by the Protestant Church, nor by any church that I know of. My own mind is my own church.
Thomas Paine
70. I feel no need for any other faith than my faith in human beings. Like Confucius of old, I am so absorbed in the wonder of earth and the life upon it that I cannot think of heaven and the angels. Pearl S. Buck
71. Some keep the Sabbath going to Church
I keep it staying at Home
With a Bobolink for a Chorister
And an Orchard for a Dome.

Emily Dickinson
72. The Bible is not my Book and
Christianity is not my religion. I could
never give assent to the long
complicated statements of Christian
dogma. Abraham Lincoln
73. Question with boldness even the
existence of a god; because, if there be
one, he must more approve of the
homage of reason, than that of blind-
folded fear. Thomas Jefferson
74. During almost fifteen centuries has the
legal establishment of Christianity been
on trial. What has been its fruits? More
or less, in all places, pride and indolence
in the clergy; ignorance and servility in
the laity; in both, superstition, bigotry,
and persecution.
James Madison

75. Since evolution became fashionable, the glorification of Man has taken a new form. We are told that evolution has been guided by one great Purpose: through the millions of years when there were only slime, or trilobites, throughout the ages of dinosaurs and giant ferns, of bees and wild flowers, God was preparing the Great Climax. At last, in the fullness of time, He produced Man, including such specimens as Nero and Caligula, Hitler and Mussolini, whose transcendent glory justified the long, painful process. For my part, I find even eternal damnation less incredible, certainly less ridiculous, than this lame and impotent conclusion which we are asked to admire as the supreme effort of Omnipotence. Bertrand Russell
76. He was of the faith chiefly in the sense that the church he currently did not attend was Catholic. Kingsley Amis
77. Not only in peasant homes, but also in city skyscrapers, there lives alongside the twentieth century, the thirteenth. A hundred million people use electricity and still believe in the magic powers of signs and exorcisms . . . movie stars to mediums. Aviators who pilot miraculous mechanisms created by man's genius wear amulets on their sweaters. What inexhaustible reserves they possess of darkness, ignorance and savagery! Leon Trotsky
78. If God kills, lies, cheats, discriminates, and otherwise behaves in a manner that puts the Mafia to shame, that's okay, he's God. He can do whatever he wants. Anyone who adheres to this philosophy has had his sense of morality, decency, justice and humaneness warped beyond recognition by the very book that is supposedly preaching the opposite. Dennis McKinsey
79. Religion restricts the play of choice and adaptation, since it imposes equally on everyone its own path to the acquisition of happiness and protection from suffering. Its technique consists in depressing the value of life and distorting the picture of the real world in a delusional manner — which presupposes an intimidation of the intelligence. At this price, by forcibly fixing them in a state of psychical infantilism and by drawing them into a mass-delusion, religion succeeds in sparing many people an individual neurosis. But hardly anything more. Sigmund Freud
80. Faith may be defined briefly as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable . . . A man full of faith is simply one who has lost (or never had) the capacity for clear and realistic thought. He is not a mere ass: he is actually ill. H.L. Mencken
81. The alleged shortcut to knowledge, which is faith, is only a short circuit destroying the mind." Ayn Rand

82. Christians hold that their faith does good, but other faiths do harm. At any rate, they hold this about the Communist faith. What I wish to maintain is that all faiths do harm. We may define 'faith' as a firm belief in something for which there is no evidence. When there is evidence, no one speaks of 'faith'. We do not speak of faith that two and two are four or that the earth is round. We only speak of faith when we wish to substitute emotion for evidence.
Bertrand Russell
83. We must question the story logic of having an all-knowing, all-powerful God, who creates faulty humans, and then blames them for his own mistakes.
Gene Roddenberry
84. The whole thing (religious belief) is so patently infantile, so foreign to reality, that to anyone with a friendly attitude toward humanity it is painful to think that the great majority of mortals will never be able to rise above this view of life. Sigmund Freud
85. If a man would follow, today, the teachings of the Old Testament, he would be a criminal. If he would follow strictly the teachings of the New, he would be insane.
Robert G. Ingersoll
86. Under certain circumstances, profanity provides a relief denied even to prayer.
Mark Twain
87. Whenever we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and torturous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness with which more than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we call it the word of a demon than the word of God. It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize mankind. Thomas Paine
88. All religions bear traces of the fact that they arose during the intellectual immaturity of the human race - before it had learned the obligation to speak the truth. Not one of them makes it the duty of its God to be truthful and understandable in his communications.
Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche
89. Fanaticism is . . . overcompensation for doubt. Robertson Davies
90. If Christ had died in the 20th Century, Catholic school children would be wearing little electric chairs around their necks. Lenny Bruce
91. Here's another question I've been pondering: What is all this shit about angels? Have you heard this? Three out of four people believe in angels. Are you f..... stupid? Has everybody lost their minds? You know what I think it is? I think it's a massive, collective, psychotic chemical flashback for all the drugs smoked, swallowed, shot, and absorbed rectally by all Americans from 1960 to 1990. Thirty years of street drugs will get you some f..... angels, my friend!
George Carlin

92. One occasion for the theological intervention to prevent the mitigation of human suffering was the discovery of anaesthetics. Simpson, in 1847, recommended their use in childbirth, and was immediately reminded by the clergy that God said to Eve: 'In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children.' And how could she sorrow if she were under the influence of chloroform? Simpson succeeded in proving that there was no harm in giving anaesthetics to men, because God put Adam into a deep sleep when He extracted his rib. But male ecclesiastics remained unconvinced as regards the sufferings of women, at any rate in childbirth."
Bertrand Russell
93. Anyone who engages in the practice of psychotherapy confronts every day the devastation wrought by the teachings of religion. Nathaniel Brandon
94. I have not met an intelligent person whose views were not narrowed and distorted by religion.
James Buchanan
95. I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world.
Richard Dawkins
96. As men's prayers are a disease of the will, so are their creeds a disease of the intellect.
Ralph Waldo Emerson
97. Religion is in the interest of churches That sell other worlds in this to purchase."
Samuel Butler
98. No man who ever lived knows any more about the hereafter . . . than you and I; and religion . . . is simply evolved out of chicanery, fear, greed, imagination and poetry. Edgar Allan Poe
99. The revelations of the devout and learn'd
Who rose before us and as prophets burn'd
Are all but stories, which, awoke from sleep
They told their comrades, and to sleep return'd.

Omar Khayyam
100. Opinion of ghosts, ignorance of second causes, devotion to what men fear, and taking of things casual for prognostics, consisteth the natural seeds of religion.
Thomas Hobbes
101. All fanaticism is a strategy to prevent doubt from becoming conscious.
Henry A. Williams
102. If there's a supreme being, he's crazy.
Marlene Dietrich
103. I have observed that the world has suffered far less from ignorance than from pretensions to knowledge. It is not skeptics or explorers but fanatics and ideologues who menace decency and progress. No agnostic ever burned anyone at the stake or tortured a pagan, heretic, or an unbeliever.
Daniel Boorstin
104. I don't believe in God, but I'm very interested in her. Arthur C. Clarke
105. Hell is paved with Good Samaritans.
William M. Holden.

106. Despite the lack of scientific or historical evidence, and despite the doubts of Biblical scholars, America is so pious that not only do 91 percent of Christians say they believe in the Virgin Birth, but so do an astonishing 47 percent of U.S. non-Christians.
Nicholas D. Kristof
107. Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.
Mark Twain
108. It is not by prayer and humility that you cause things to go as you wish, but by acquiring a knowledge of natural laws. The power you acquire in this way is much greater and more reliable than that formerly supposed to be acquired by prayer, because you never could tell whether your prayer would be favorably heard in heaven. The power of prayer, moreover, had recognized limits; it would have been impious to ask too much. But the power of science has no known limits. We were told that faith could remove mountains, but no one believed it; we are now told that the atomic bomb can remove mountains, and everyone believes it.
Bertrand Russell
109. A fanatic is a man who does what the Lord would do if He knew the facts of the case.
Finley Peter Dunne
110. Christ was only crucified once, and for a few hours. Think of the thousands he has been crucifying in a quiet way ever since. Samuel Butler
111. Men will never be free until the last king is strangled in the entrails of the last priest. Denis Diderot
112. There is no cure for life and death save to enjoy the interval. George Santayana
113. I'm astounded by people who want to know the universe when it's hard enough to find your way about Chinatown. Woody Allen
114. God made everything out of nothing, but the nothingness shows through.
Paul Valery
115. Examine the religious principles which have, in fact, prevailed in the world, and you will scarcely be persuaded that they are anything but sick men's dreams.
David Hume
116. In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments - there are consequences. Robert G. Ingersoll
117. God was satisfied with his own work, and that is fatal. Samuel Butler
118. I say if you're going to go for the Angel bullshit, you might as well go for the Zombie package as well.
George Carlin
119. Christ died for our sins. Dare we make his martyrdom meaningless by not committing them? Jules Feiffer
120. Why, then, eternal punishment for the temporary offenses of so frail a creature as man? David Hume

121. Faith is believing what you know ain't so. Mark Twain
122. The hands that help are better far than the lips that pray.
Robert G. Ingersoll
123. The Christian religion was not only the first attended by miracles, but even at this day cannot be believed by any reasonable person without one.
David Hume
124. I have recently been examining all the known superstitions of the world, and do not find in ours one redeeming feature. They are all alike, founded upon fables and mythologies.
Thomas Jefferson
125. The truths of religion are never so well understood as by those who have lost the power of reasoning Voltaire
126. Trust in Allah, but tie up your camel
Arabian Proverb
127. History is full of religious wars; but, we must take care to observe, it was not the multiplicity of religions that produced these wars, it was the intolerating spirit which animated that one which thought she had the power of governing. Baron de Montesquieu
128. Let others praise ancient times; I am glad I was born in these. Ovid
129. The death of dogma is the birth of morality. Immanuel Kant
130. A lie is an abomination unto the Lord and a very present help in times of trouble. Adlai Stevenson
131. The minister must take his pious grasp off of the throat of Sunday.
Lemuel K. Washburn
132. The advent of the Christian God, as the maximum god attained so far, was... accompanied by the maximum feeling of guilty indebtedness on Earth.
Friedrich Nietzsche
133. The day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter. Thomas Jefferson
134. I cannot see how a man of any large degree of humorous perception can ever be religious -- unless he purposely shut the eyes of his mind & keep them shut by force. Mark Twain
135. In America, sex is an obsession. In other parts of the world, it's a fact.
Marlene Dietrich
136. Because I'm Jewish, a lot of people ask why I killed Christ. What can I say? It was an accident. It was one of those parties that got out of hand. I killed him because he wouldn't become a doctor.
Lenny Bruce
137. The gods too, are fond of a joke.
Aristotle

138. Religion is too important a matter to its devotees to be a subject of ridicule. If they indulge in absurdities, they are to be pitied rather than ridiculed. Immanuel Kant
139. The only thing that keeps god from sending another flood is that the first one was useless. Nicolas Chamfort
140. If you think education is expensive, try ignorance. Derek Bok
141. If triangles made a god, they would give him three sides. Baron de Montesquieu
142. I am also mindful that man should never try to put words into God's mouth. I mean, we should never ascribe natural disasters or anything else to God. George W. Bush
143. If you don't count some of Jehovah's injunctions, there are no humorists in the Bible. Mordecai Richler
144. The Christian religion teaches us to imitate a God that is cruel, insidious, jealous, and implacable in his wrath. Denis Diderot
145. I never believed in Santa Claus because I knew no white dude would come into my neighborhood after dark. Dick Gregory
146. Sometimes I think we're alone in the universe, sometimes I think we're not. In either case, the idea is quite staggering. Arthur C. Clarke
147. The fact that an opinion has been widely held is no evidence that it is not utterly absurd; indeed, in view of the silliness of the majority of mankind, a widespread belief is more likely to be foolish than sensible. Bertrand Russell
148. I would never want to be a member of a group whose symbol was a guy nailed to two pieces of wood. George Carlin
149. There are many scapegoats for our sins, but the most popular one is Providence. Mark Twain
150. Christianity is the most ridiculous, the most absurd and bloody religion that has ever infected the world. Voltaire
151. If there be a soul, it is as mortal as the body. David Hume
152. Once you have denied the principles of science and cast doubt upon the most evident things, everyone knows you may prove whatever you will, and maintain any paradox. Rosalie Colie
153. Many men would have arrived at wisdom had they not believed themselves to have arrived there already. Seneca the Younger
154. I believe Dr. Kevorkian is onto something. I think he's great. Because suicide is our way of saying to God, "You can't fire me. I quit." Bill Mahar
155. Lighthouses are more helpful than churches. Benjamin Franklin

156. If God lived on Earth, people would break his windows. Jewish proverb
157. Vain are the thousand creeds that move men's hearts, unutterably vain, worthless as wither'd weeds.
Emily Bronte
158. Neither in my private life nor in my writings, have I ever made a secret of being an out-and-out unbeliever.
Sigmund Freud
159. I cannot believe in the immortality of the soul.... No, all this talk of an existence for us, as individuals, beyond the grave is wrong. It is born of our tenacity of life -- our desire to go on living -- our dread of coming to an end.
Thomas Edison
160. No gods, no masters. Margaret Sanger
161. I have not the hope of being immortal, because the desire of it has not given me that vanity.." Denis Diderot
162. To be effective a doctrine must not be understood, but has to be believed in. We can be absolutely certain only about things we do not understand. A doctrine that is understood is shorn of its strength. Eric Hoffer
163. No kingdom has ever suffered as many civil wars as the kingdom of Christ.
Baron de Montesquieu
164. It is easier to dream up a system than to work out a theory.
Georges-Louis Leclerc
165. Theological religion is the source of all imaginable follies and disturbances; it is the parent of fanaticism and civil discord; it is the enemy of mankind.
Voltaire
166. The various systems of doctrine that have held dominion over man have been demonstrated to be true beyond all question by rationalists of such power - to name only a few - as Aquinas and Calvin and Hegel and Marx. Guided by these master hands the intellect has shown itself more deadly than cholera or bubonic plague and far more cruel. The incompatibility with one another of all the great systems of doctrine might surely be have expected to provoke some curiosity about their nature.
Wilfred Trotter
167. Honesty may be the best policy, but it's important to remember that apparently, by elimination, dishonesty is the second-best policy.
George Carlin
168. It is the business of the future to be dangerous; and it is among the merits of science that it equips the future for its duties.
Alfred North Whitehead
169. "In God We Trust." It is the choicest compliment that has ever been paid us, and the most gratifying to our feelings. It is simple, direct, gracefully phrased; it always sounds well -- " In God We Trust." I don't believe it would sound any better if it were true.
Mark Twain

170. It may be that our role on this planet is not to worship God, but to create him. Arthur C. Clarke
171. Churchmen are interested in keeping the people ignorant. I call piety a malady of the heart. Baron de Montesquieu
172. Every sensible man, every honest man, must hold the Christian sect in horror. But what shall we substitute in its place? you say. What? A ferocious animal has sucked the blood of my relatives. I tell you to rid yourselves of this beast, and you ask me what you shall put in its place? Voltaire
173. Who says life is sacred - God? Hey, if you read your history, god is one of the leading causes of death.
George Carlin
174. I do not believe in the divinity of Christ, and there are many other of the postulates of the orthodox creed to which I cannot subscribe.
William Howard Taft
175. Superstitions are habits rather than beliefs. Marlene Dietrich
176. As a scientist, I cannot help feeling that all religions are on a tottering foundation.... I am an infidel today. I do not believe what has been served to me to believe. I am a doubter, a questioner, a skeptic. When it can be proved to me that there is immortality, that there is resurrection beyond the gates of death, then I will believe. Until then, no.
Luther Burbank
177. If God wanted sex to be fun, he wouldn't have invented children as punishment. Ed Bluestone
178. There are those who scoff at the schoolboy, calling him frivolous and shallow. Yet it was the schoolboy who said "Faith is believing what you know ain't so." Mark Twain
179. My own view of religion is that of Lucretius. I regard it as a disease born of fear and as a source of untold misery to the human race. Bertrand Russell
180. A pious man is one who would be an atheist if the king were.
Jean de La Bruyere
181. A faith that cannot survive collision with the truth is not worth many regrets. Arthur C. Clarke
182. To regard Christ as God, and to pray to him, are to my mind the greatest possible sacrilege. Leo Tolstoy
183. I believe that the future of mankind lies in the progress of reason through science. I believe that the pursuit of truth through science is the divine ideal to which man should aspire. I believe that all is illusion and vanity which is not among the treasures of verifiable truth that must slowly be acquired. I believe that the sum of those truths which are bound to increase continually will eventually give man incalculable power and equanimity, if not happiness.
Emil Zola

184. One of the proofs of the immortality of the soul is that myriads have believed it. They also believed the world was flat.
Mark Twain
185. Political or religious dissenters are the plague of every totalitarian regime.
William O Douglas
186. By the year 2000, we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not God. Gloria Steinem
187. If they chased every man or woman out of this town who has shackled up with someone else or got drunk, there wouldn't be any government left in Washington. Barry Goldwater
188. TV evangelists say they don't favor any particular denomination, but I think we've all seen their eyes light up at tens and twenties. Dennis Miller
189. As to the gods, I have no way of knowing either that they exist or do not exist, or what they are like.
Protagoras
190. I am determined that my children shall be brought up in their father's religion, if they can find out what it is.
Charles Lamb
191. Irreverence is the champion of liberty and its one sure defense. Mark Twain
192. No matter how cynical you become, it's never enough to keep up.
Lily Tomlin
193. The history of saints is mainly the history of insane people
Benito Mussolini
194. Most of my friends are not Christians, but I have some who are Anglicans or Roman Catholics.
Dame Rose Macauley
195. I detest converts almost as much as I do missionaries. H.L. Mencken
196. Popular religion may be summed up as a respect for ecclesiastics.
Baruch Spinoza
197. I do not know of any salvation for society except through eccentrics, misfits, dissenters, people who protest.
William O Douglas
198. Let the human mind loose. It must be loose. It will be loose. Superstition and dogmatism cannot confine it.
John Adams
199. Properly read, the Bible is the most potent force for atheism ever conceived. Isaac Asimov
200. I find that the further I go back, the better things were, whether they happened or not. Mark Twain