

New Atheist Creed

Religious

- We believe that there can be no god.¹ (Very different from not believing in god.)
- We believe we are creed-free.² (Creeds are for religious people only.)

Philosophical

- We believe in the Enlightenment (an eighteenth century worldview) and renounce postmodernity (it undermines our belief structure).³
- We believe in logic, reason and science (and have a monopoly on these virtues).⁴

Scientific

- We believe in the expanding empire of science⁵ (a commitment to a Victorian Scientific Imperialism).
- We believe in evolution, and that all true Christians cannot.⁶

Ethical

- We believe religion damages the world⁷ (and subscribe to a myth-based reading of history which confirms this).⁸
- We believe our principle moral duty is therefore to oppose religion⁹ (rather than, say, work for political, economic or environmental justice)

Political

- We believe (consciously or otherwise)¹⁰ in war on terror,¹¹ and that terror has religious motives.¹²

¹ Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, 18; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 9. In fact, the logic is implicit for Dawkins, and Harris, which is why Hitchens is confident enough to say "we" when he composes a shortened creed on p5.

² Dawkins, "My critics are wrong to call me dogmatic, says Dawkins," *The Times*, 18 Feb, 2007; Dennett, Daniel, "To Tell the Truth: Is belief in religion and belief in science the same kind of thing?" in *New Humanist Magazine*, 116.1, 2001; Harris, Sam, *The End of Faith*, 12-16, *The Moral Landscape*, 148, 154; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 5;

³ This is clearly attributable to the New Atheist assumption that all truth is scientific truth, and as such is *objective*. Postmodernism exposes the inadequacy of this view. See Dawkins, *A Devil's Chaplain*, 6-7, 47-53; Dennett, Daniel, "Postmodernism and Truth" (Paper given to the World Congress of Philosophy, Aug 1998); Harris, Sam, *The Moral Landscape*, 27-53; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 283,

⁴ Dawkins' documentary series for Channel 4, entitled *The Enemies of Reason*, argues precisely this. Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, 154; Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation*, 66-67; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 5;

⁵ Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 347; Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, 22; Harris, Sam, *The End of Faith*, 165; the subtitle of Harris' *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values*, is a statement of scientific imperialism; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 9;

⁶ Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 66-67; Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, 310; Harris, Sam, *The Moral Landscape*, 147-152; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 85.

⁷ Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, 515; *Breaking the Spell*, 26; Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 301-308; Harris, Sam, *The End of Faith*, 12-13, 15, 20, 26-36; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 15-36;

⁸ See Hart, David Bentley, *Atheist Delusions*. This elegant work of such painstaking historical research is given over to highlighting the profoundly unhistorical nature of atheist accounts of history, and whilst we may challenge it at certain points, it is impossible for any rational person to refute.

⁹ Dawkins' entire "Out Campaign" is predicated on this assumption. See also Harris, Sam, *The End of Faith*, 14; Hitchens, *God is Not Great*, 283; Implied in Dennett's "Ants, Terrorism and the Awesome Power of Memes," Feb, 2002, (Monterey, CA)

¹⁰ See Eagleton, Terry, "The Liberal Supremacists: Whether they like it or not, Dawkins, Amis, Hitchens and Company have become weapons in the War on Terror," *The Guardian*, 25 Apr, 2009.

¹¹ Harris, Sam, *The End of Faith*, 194-197; Dennett's thinly veiled endorsement is heard in his lecture, "Ants, Terrorism and the Awesome Power of Memes," Feb, 2002, (Monterey, CA); Hitchens, *A Long Short War* (London: Plume Books, 2003). Dawkins opposed the Iraq War, but see previous footnote.

- We believe politics can free itself of religion¹³ (but we can't decide what religion is).¹⁴

¹² Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 301-308, Harris, *The End of Faith*, 28-29; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 208-9, see also 15-36. Dennett treads with more caution here, smuggling this belief under the guise of 'memes'. See "Ants, Terrorism and the Awesome Power of Memes," Feb, 2002, (Monterey, CA).

¹³ Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 304; Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, 18; Harris, Sam, *The End of Faith*, 34,39, 46-47,150-164, 231, 256-57; Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, 283.

¹⁴ See Cavanagh, William, *The Myth of Religious Violence*,