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TAKEN FROM THE WEB SITE OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY CHURCH IN CALIFORNIA by pastor Bryan Griem

*There’s an adage I expect will be repeated by other ministers responding to this question. It goes, “there are no atheists in foxholes.” Meaning, when bombs burst, everyone hedges their bets and prays, “God, save me!”*

Bryan, either your God is pretty stupid, or you believe He's pretty stupid. Who would be dumb enough to allow someone into heaven just because he got scared right before his lights went out? So you really believe that if someone gets scared and says "I believe" right before the end comes, that God will say, "Okay son, you may pass."

*There’s a joke about one combat vet who prayed “Lord, if you’re there, I’ll serve you and attend church every Sunday; just get me through.” The Air Force immediately comes and blasts everything, answering the man’s prayer. He then looks up to heaven and says “never mind….”*

Bryan, you don't get it do you? You think that story showed an ungrateful man, when what it really showed, was that his life was saved by military action ... not by an invisible ghost.

*I know that religious people have security that atheists don’t.*

Bryan, asylum inmates have security that those who have to fend for themselves on the outside, do not. So what?

*If you believe in life after life, you fight harder, risk more, and serve better than a guy who thinks, “this is it!”*

Bryan, that was the most ignorant statement I have ever heard, and I've heard some pretty amazing stuff. If someone doesn't believe in an afterlife they are the ones who are more likely to fight harder. If a soldier believes this world is only a staging area for the real show, why fight at all?

Bryan, you just showed everyone how inept a mind can get on a religious diet.

*If you believe you’re nothing but worm-food at death, you aren’t going to jump on a grenade to save the platoon,*

Sorry Bryan, but reality has proved you wrong a million times over. Nonbelievers have sacrificed themselves. The difference is, they don't do it for rewards from an invisible ghost; they do it for their fellow soldiers, and for their families at home who are counting on them to defend their country.

And Bryan, no matter how strongly you delude yourself into believing fairy tales, the hard truth is that when you die, you *will* be worm food just like every other living creature on the planet.

*or charge a machine-gun nest expecting to meet Jesus.*

Bryan, regardless of what one expects when one charges a machine gun nest, the only thing they are likely to get ... is lead.

*You’re going to be reserved, second-guessing, and probably be a big fat chicken.*

Bryan, once again, more time in history books and less time at Bible study, and your views might start reflecting reality.

*Look, you just read the stats: “Researchers have found that spiritual people have decreased odds of attempting suicide,*

Bryan, that contradicts your last claim where you said that soldiers were more likely to commit suicide than nonbelievers.

Didn't think that one out first, didja?

*and that spiritual fitness has a positive impact on quality of life, on coping and on mental health.”*

Bryan, How is it possible to cope with life in a happy and meaningful way when one is living under the threat of eternal torture?

*Atheists be damned. They will be.*

Bryan, that was so Jesus of you. I guess that was an example of the coping and enjoying mental health you mentioned, wasn't it?

Funny how you Ghost Worshippers derive such intense pleasure and satisfaction from the thought that billions of people will be brutally tortured forever for not submitting to your God - and then turn around and call yourselves mentally healthy. It's hard to imagine anyone sicker than you people.

*So I really don’t care what they think regarding these tests. I’m tired of having their constant nagging, their constant opposition against God — their evil.*

See Bryan, there's where the horror of your religion reveals itself. People who refuse to worship your invisible ghost aren't simply people who disagree with you ... they are evil. No one could have done a better job than you just did, of exposing the hate and bigotry that your religion instills.

As for nagging, I've never seen an Atheist missionary. Sunday mornings are full of shows about religion - perhaps you can name one featuring Atheism? No, you can't. All the nagging comes from your side Bryan.

And it was stupid to claim Atheists oppose God. That's like saying they oppose Santa Claus. They can't oppose something that they don't even believe exists.

Mentally healthy? There is only one reason religious belief isn't classified as a mental illness ... it's because the vast majority of humanity is infected.

*They contribute nothing positive in the long run.*

Bryan, you must live a pretty sheltered life. There are videos on the web that show numerous Atheists who have contributed far more to society than you will ever contribute.

*Their very name, “a” theist, means they are “against,” with a big “no” regarding America’s “creator” and “Nature’s God” (the one mentioned in our Declaration of Independence).*

Bryan, how do you figure your invisible ghost created America? America was thriving long before anyone in North America ever heard of your God; long before Christians invaded, killed them, and took their land.

Also, how do you figure that "Nature's God" refers to your God? That sounds more like Darwin's God to me; or Einstein's God.

*I’m frankly sick of them.*

Well Bryan, better start increasing your private stash of illegal drugs because if you are sick of Atheists now, you won't even believe what Atheists have in store for you Ghost Worshippers in the near future.

*Why they are here on the In Theory cast is beyond me. It’s like saying, “I have no spiritual input because I don’t believe in the spirit. So here’s my ignorance….”*

Bryan, the only ignorance being displayed here is by those who actually believe in a spirit world, just like the ancient Greeks and Romans did. But we can forgive them their ignorance because ... they were ignorant. But modern humans have no excuse to remain thousands of years in the past, when science has provided enough answers to make it clear that your Bible is nothing more than a collection of malicious fairy tales used to torment humans.

*I wonder what the military puts on gravestones of atheists, a thumbs-down?*

Bryan, before veterans get gravestones they get a funeral which is likely to be picketed by foam-at-the-mouth Christians like those at Westboro Baptist. I know what you're thinking Bryan. You're thinking about using the "No true Christian" logical fallacy aren't you? Of course you are.

*Listen, all religions are protected by our laws, but atheists don’t countenance America’s documents that mention God.*

Bryan, and which documents would those be? Certainly not the Constitution. The Founding Fathers forgot to mention Him ... even once!

Allah got as much press in the Constitution as Jesus did.

*They don’t actually deserve rights that even bizarre religionists have.*

Bryan, ALL religionists are bizarre. Any adult who still believes in invisible ghosts is in serious need of psychological counseling. The only reason that doesn't happen is because, with a country that is 75% Christian, if we institutionalize all the Ghost Worshippers, and only leave rational people on the outside, there won't be enough people left to feed the inmates.

*If it could be shown that people who deny God create military weakness, however small, what should commanders do when choosing a winning military?*

Bryan, to choose a winning military you *should* select those who are the most hateful, bigoted, and violence prone. So Christians should be your first choice. But others voluntarily join for other reasons and should not be refused the right to serve their country.

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IN ATHEIST BLITZ, WHERE’S THE OTHER SIDE?

by Bobby Ross Jr.

*Evangelical atheists again? I confess: That’s generally my reaction when I read news stories (and the mainstream media seem to publish them with increasing frequency) about atheists trying to win nonbelievers to their cause.*

So Bobby, why is that not your reaction to news stories (which the mainstream media publish by the millions) about Christians trying to win nonbelievers to their cause? Why is it only a problem for those with whom you disagree?

To win nonbelievers to their cause, Christians have complex missionary networks set up all over the world. Many go door-to-door. There are entire television networks devoted to trying to convert nonbelievers to their cause. It is pretty obvious that what you consider fair, only applies to you; but it somehow becomes wrong when those who don't share your beliefs, do exactly the same thing as you do.

Bobby, your double standard has exposed you as a hypocrite.

*A new Religion News Service report caught my attention today. The top of the story:*

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*The young man in the video pulls in close to his computer camera with the trappings of a typical college dorm room — a loft bed and the clutter of cast-off clothes—piled behind him. Alex Fiorentini isn’t talking about girls, beer or football. Instead, it’s a coming-out moment of sorts.*

*“Is it acceptable to the majority of the population to be an atheist?” he asks the camera. “Nope. Are all of your friends going to accept you as an atheist? Probably not all of them. And yeah, those things are gonna suck. But the real question is, ‘Is it OK to be me?’ That is the real question if you are an atheist.”*

*For Fiorentini, a student at the University of Illinois, the answer is yes. He and scores of other atheists, young and old, have made similar videos for a new campaign designed to build community and support among nontheists around the world.*

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*As puff pieces go, this one isn’t terrible. It contains the relevant facts. It does a nice job of explaining the concept behind the “We Are Atheism” campaign. The story draws a connection between gays who have been bullied and atheists:*

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*Brown was inspired to start the campaign with her husband and a friend when she attended a talk by Jessica Ahlquist, a teenage atheist who was taunted and bullied after she objected to a “school prayer” banner hung in her Rhode Island high school.*

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*These stories are valid, of course.*

Bobby, you must see gays in your sleep. There was nothing in either article even remotely connected to homosexuality. If Brown is somehow connected to a gay campaign, maybe you should have considered mentioning that, so readers wouldn't have to try to read your mind.

*However, my problem with most of these pieces is that they only tell their stories from one perspective: that of the atheists.*

Well Bobby, maybe that's because ... they are about Atheists.

*Specifically, it’s framed through the lens of those atheists trying to draw attention to their cause — which, of course, a news story does. But while the heroes in the story are quoted by name, the villains — those God-believers out there allegedly persecuting atheists — are left vague and nameless.*

Bobby, in the first article, the guy was talking in general, so there was no need to identify anyone specifically. In the second article, why would the names of the bullies be relevant? It was relevant in the original story, and if you wanted the names you could probably find them there. But what have they to do with this story? It is merely a reference to the fact that she had been bullied. Again, no identification is necessary because the story isn't about the bullies.

*No one who believes in a higher power get to react to the atheists. No one gets to debate the facts in any of these clashes. No one engages in dialogue.*

Bobby, what makes you think those things didn't happen? To borrow the logic of Ken Ham, were you there? I think there was plenty of reaction by Ghost Worshippers, and plenty of debate and dialogue. To think otherwise defies common sense.

*No traditional theologians are enlisted to discuss whether, in fact, the atheists are becoming a religious group. Minus the F-word (faith), that is.*

Bobby, you seriously need to return to a basic English class; preferably one that offers dictionary services. If there is one group of people on the entire planet who could not be called a religious group - it would be a group of Atheists.

*Maybe I’m alone, but I read this type of story and want to scream: Wait a minute! I believe in God, and I think atheists are wrong, but this is a free country and they have every right not to believe. Is it asking too much to want to see that point of view reflected?*

Bobby, where in America do you think that view is not being reflected?

*My point is this: If we’re going to keep reading evangelical atheist stories, wouldn’t it be nice to see journalists approach this topic from a wider, more diverse, perspective?*

Okay Bobby, every Atheist story from this point on, will contain a Christian perspective. Therefore you cannot deny, that in return, every Christian story will contain an Atheist perspective.

Didn't like that one too much did you? We both know that Christian stories almost never contain the Atheist side, nor quote Atheist leaders.

You are demanding something that you refuse to grant to others.

*Wouldn’t it be nice to see some believers and scholars quoted? Wouldn’t it be nice to see some actual journalistic skepticism brought to the atheists’ publicity campaigns?*

Bobby, you are all for that, just as long as it isn't applied to your side. Personally, I would be more than happy to agree that both sides always present the positions of the other side. But Christians would riot before they would allow that. Let's face it, science has been extraordinarily cruel to your superstitious beliefs in invisible ghosts, so the best strategy Christians could employ is to continue to keep their flocks as ignorant as possible.

*Just asking.*

Bobby - just tellin' it like it is.

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Want to Know Where Love Is?

Scientists now know

Thanks to modern science, we know that love lives in the brain, not in the heart. But where in the brain is it -- and is it in the same place as sexual desire? A recent international study is the first to draw an exact map of these intimately linked feelings.

No one has ever put these two together to see the patterns of activation. Researchers didn't know what to expect -- the two could have ended up being completely separate. It turns out that love and desire activate specific but related areas in the brain.

Scientists analyzed results from 20 separate studies that examined brain activity while subjects engaged in tasks such as viewing erotic pictures or looking at photographs of their significant others. By pooling this data, the scientists were able to form a complete map of love and desire in the brain.

They found that two brain structures in particular, the insula and the striatum, are responsible for tracking the progression from sexual desire to love. The insula is a portion of the cerebral cortex folded deep within an area between the temporal lobe and the frontal lobe, while the striatum is located nearby, inside the forebrain.

Love and sexual desire activate different areas of the striatum. The area activated by sexual desire is usually activated by things that are inherently pleasurable, such as sex or food. The area activated by love is involved in the process of conditioning by which things paired with reward or pleasure are given inherent value. That is, as feelings of sexual desire develop into love, they are processed in a different place in the striatum.

Somewhat surprisingly, this area of the striatum is also the part of the brain associated with drug addiction. Researchers explain that there is a good reason for this. Love is actually a habit that is formed from sexual desire as desire is rewarded. It works the same way in the brain as when people become addicted to drugs.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

LEWIS THOMAS (biography previously given)

"The capacity to blunder slightly is the real marvel of DNA.

Without this special attribute,

we would still be anaerobic bacteria and there would be no music."