Eight Examples of How I Agree with Religious Fundamentalists

by Herb Silverman

*For years I’ve been advocating for “big-tent” atheism, which includes agnostics, humanists, secular humanists, freethinkers, and more. It’s a tent where people can choose activities according to their circumstances and comfort levels, a tent where they can follow their passion while respecting and supporting those with a different emphasis. Fortunately, I think the secular movement has mostly stopped arguing about labels and has begun to cooperate on important issues we can all support.*

Herb, then you need to rename your "tent." You listed a bunch of different groups and then tried to label them all atheists which demonstrated that you don't understand that atheism is defined *only* as a disbelief in gods. Perhaps you could call your tent the "Nonbeliever Tent," as that name would include all the groups you mentioned above.

*However, we still have our differences.*

Herb, that is true of any two people on Earth. So what?

*An article in the Guardian, based on a study at the University of Tennessee, described the six types of atheists as: activist (vocal about issues), anti-theist (assertive and outspoken), intellectual (philosophical and scientific), non-theist (apathetic), ritual (enjoy culture and ceremony), and seeker (open to different views). I criticize this categorization, and am disappointed that the largest category of all was not even mentioned: closeted atheists, the ones most likely to change our culture by finally coming out.*

Herb, the fact that rational people are afraid to exercise their freedom of speech because of what they know it will do to their lives, tells you everything you need to know about Ghost Worshipers. Humanity is still in its barbaric, violent infancy.

That fact is the basis for the observation that an agnostic is simply an atheist ... with a wife and kids.

*A thoughtful piece in the Huffington Post by Roy Speckhardt, the Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, is entitled “An End to Arrogant Atheism.”*

Herb, if you listen to my podcast from last week, you'll see that not everyone agrees with you about the "thoughtful" part.

*Roy has no problem with most forms of atheism, but thinks arrogant atheism hinders our ability to build alliances.*

Herb, Roy was guilty of "blaming the victim." He has been unsuccessful in his attempts to stop the culprits so he resorts to attacking those, whom he is not afraid of.

*While I agree with Roy’s point that arrogance and humorless ridicule can be counter-productive in reaching out to others, I considered it worth pointing out that the fundamentalist worldview is far more arrogant than any atheist worldview.*

Herb, same thing I told Roy: atheism is not a worldview ... it is a rejection of a worldview. That is not the same thing.

*Fundamentalist worldview: I know God created the entire universe just for the benefit of humans. He watches me constantly and cares about everything I say and do. I know how He wants me and everyone else to behave and believe. He is perfect and just, which is why we face an eternity of either bliss or torture, depending on whether or not we believe in Him.*

*Atheist worldview: We’re the product of millions of years of evolution.*

Herb, atheism has nothing to do with evolution. Most Catholics accept evolution and some atheists do not. They are two unrelated subjects.

*Most species are extinct, as humans will eventually be.*

Herb, leave the psychic crap to those trained in the art ... like Sylvia Browne. Oh yeah, she's dead. I guess the world is a better place.

*I hope to make a positive difference because it’s the right thing to do, not because of future rewards or punishments in an afterlife.*

Herb, belief in reincarnation does not necessarily require a god.

*When I don’t know something, I say, “I don’t know.”*

Herb, you can find atheists who are just as obstinate about admitting they don't know something.

None of the things you attributed to an atheist worldview are required to be an atheist which again demonstrates your lack of understanding as to exactly what atheism is.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have deleted the rest of Silverman's essay which listed the 8 ways he agrees with fundamentalists. If you want to read them, click here:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2014/01/19/eight-examples-of-how-i-agree-with-religious-fundamentalists/>