

Burden of proof

When asked to support the claim that a god exists, it's not unusual for a believer to respond with "you can't prove god doesn't exist". This is essentially true, since it is almost impossible to prove a negative. The believer is attempting to shift the burden of proof to the atheist.

However, when debating any issue, the burden of proof is on the person asserting the claim. The atheist cannot know for certain that god does not exist; he or she simply lacks belief due to a lack of evidence. Some religious people will continue to insist that the burden of proof is on the atheist. This would be like trying to disprove the existence of leprechauns, unicorns, or Bertrand Russell's teapot revolving around the sun.



Just because we can't prove that there isn't a china teapot revolving around the sun, it doesn't mean we have to believe there is one.

"I feel no need for any other faith than my faith in the kindness of human beings. I am so absorbed in the wonder of earth and the life upon it that I cannot think of heaven and angels."



-Pearl S. Buck

Curious? Contact us!

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Humanists, Atheists, and
Agnostics of Manitoba



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**About Us: Humanists,
Atheists, and
Agnostics of Manitoba**



*The good life is one inspired by love and
guided by knowledge.*

– Bertrand Russell

Humanism, secularism, and atheism

The core principles of **Humanism** are that

- We can live full, meaningful lives without religious doctrine
- We use democratic principles, logic, and scientific inquiry to find realistic solutions to problems
- We foster good ethics, virtues, and critical thinking in our children to help them grow to be decent, responsible, and active members of society
- We protect and improve the planet for future generations by scientific breakthroughs in medicine and technology
- The separation of religion and state is upheld at all levels to ensure equality and fairness for all

Secularism is the separation of church and state. It provides a framework for a democratic society. It protects both believers and non-believers alike.

Atheism is a lack of belief in gods. Atheists have an obvious interest in supporting secularism, but secularism itself does not seek to challenge the tenets of any particular belief; neither does it seek to impose atheism on anyone.

Join us!

Join a growing community of humanists, atheists, and agnostics to provide a voice of reason in today's issues.

Join us and

- Develop a sense of community with a local group of people, spanning all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.
- Attend meetings to hear speakers on Humanist philosophy, other belief systems, current scientific, political, and social issues, etc.
- Attend other social events such as parties, outings, and field trips.
- Help us support community activities and charities.
- Receive copies of our newsletter, Manitoba Humanist.
- Have lending privileges for our Humanist library.
- Advocate for the separation of religion and government to ensure fair treatment for all Manitobans.

If you think that

- There is no supernatural authority to guide us
- There is no life after death
- Moral values are formed within the framework of human experience

Then you are a Humanist!

What we believe

As there is no evidence of any supernatural power to help, reward, or punish us, our resources for this life are our

- Human experience
- Modern knowledge
- Capacities for reason, compassion, and co-operation
- Modern legal system

We can be good without god!

Misconceptions

“Secularism seeks to destroy religion”

Secularism is the best way to accommodate all faiths (and none) in an increasingly multicultural world.

The fairest way to ensure that the government does not promote any one religion over another is to simply not promote any religion at all. This level of neutrality would ensure that beliefs are not imposed on people, while protecting your freedom to believe in whichever deity you think is the one true god, or to believe in no gods at all.

“You can't be ethical or moral without faith or religion”

Your *beliefs* don't make you a good person, your *behaviour* does.