

## Theism Contrasted With Atheism

The influence and consequences of Theism as contrasted with Atheism are conclusive evidences in favor of the doctrine of a God.

(a) Theism furnishes a philosophy of all phenomena, thus accounting for the existence of all things: Atheism is merely and wholly negative, accounting for nothing and affirming nothing. No man can say he knows there is no God, or believes there is no God. He simply doubts the strength of the arguments for a God. Such a negation, as the foundation of man's conclusions, actions, and character, is absurd. Man's nature and condition demand some positive affirmations and beliefs.

(b) Theism furnishes ground for supreme obligation and a standard of right: Atheism can present only utility, and that as seen by man's limited and imperfect vision. The infidel has no standard of right...

(c) Theism affirms, and Atheism denies, moral distinctions. The former promotes morality and virtue, social and civil improvement and happiness; the latter leads to anarchy, and places each individual outside of his supposed obligations to others. The general influence of the two doctrines or theories is seen in the character of the peoples amongst whom the systems respectively prevail. Communities without God are without happiness and progress.

The nations which have enjoyed the greatest degree of progress in intelligence,, literature, art, and government, are those which have held to the idea of a God. The fine arts—painting, sculpture, architecture, etc.—have all prospered under Theism, and retrograded or been darkened by its denial. The history of those nations which have believed in and worshiped God would be the history of human civilization.

( d ) Theism satisfies the affections with a perfect object of love: Atheism proposes no object for highest regard. The one gives peace, rest, and satisfaction to the heart: the other gives unrest, with nothing but a blank in the experiences and close of life.

(e) This world is at best a place of suffering, and human beings are subject to a great variety of trials. Many have supposed relief from these to be the great end of life. Theism—a belief in a personal God—gives comfort to the afflicted in the consciousness of the presence of a loving and mighty friend. In all human troubles sympathy and friendship are desirable and agreeable, and in death itself are a source of joy. Infidelity furnishes nothing of this kind upon which the mind can rest in the shadows of death.

(f) In death Theism furnishes hope: Atheism, despair...

(Lectures on Systematic Theology... by J.J. Butler and Ransom Dunn, Boston, Massachusetts: The Morning Star Publishing House, 1892, 17-18, e-book)