

## Questions Atheists Ask: Did Man Invent the Idea of “God”?

One of the dangerous beliefs of atheism is that there are no worldwide moral standards. Most atheists view God, and thus all moral teachings, to be the product of society (culture). The issue is this: Did God make man or did man imagine God?

The issue is answered by first admitting that the universe could not create itself and secondly by learning that “the prophetic word” could not have been written without supernatural help (Heb. 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:19, 21).

There are many contradictory teachings concerning God and gods because of the corruption of original truth. Ephesians 4:17-19 describes the process of corruption. It begins with a hardened heart, which ignores and suppresses some knowable truth. The natural result of ignoring true information is ignorance. Those who are ignorant are easily confused (“their understanding darkened”). Those who are morally confused take the next step into perversion (“past feeling”). Since they have no “moral compass,” they feel no guilt or shame—practically any and everything is acceptable. Typically, the only thing that is unacceptable to these people is the act of identifying their decisions as unacceptable (*Go figure?!?! Remember that confusion preceded their perversion*).

Romans 1:18-32 shows this process happening with the subject of “God.” In ancient times, men ignored and eventually perverted the original revelation of God. This explains ancient idolatry and modern Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Wicca, etc. It is true that certain cultures cling to particular false ideas, but that does not prove that the original truth never existed. It simply illustrates that *wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it* (Matthew 7:13-14).

Even today, mankind continues cycling through these stages, corrupting practically every truth God has revealed. When man does not like what God has said he hardens himself against that teaching, in time forgets what he once knew, and replaces God’s word with his own ideas. Read Matthew 19:4-9 to see how this process has happened regarding marriage. The families of America suffer because God’s revelation concerning marriage is being corrupted. Many Americans are in the “ignorant” phase—completely unaware of what God has said about marriage (though many are not ignorant—just hard-hearted). The “confusion and perversion” phase has already begun in some parts of American society. This process can only be reversed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jehovah is over all cultures. He showed this in Egypt (Ex. 8:17-19). Ancient Athens was so confused about the true God that they had dozens of gods and altars, even an altar “To The Unknown God” (a combination of ignorance, confusion, and perversion). Paul told them of the true God who made everything, gave man life, and is near all men (Acts 17:22-23). Paul taught truth, not cultural beliefs. The historical reality of the resurrection of Jesus separates the reality of the Bible from cultural myths.

God made man before any culture existed. Ignoring the facts proving that truth begins an ancient process which no theory, formula, or discovery can stop. No matter what nation you

belong to, return to the original revelation of God found in the pages of Scripture. Learn of His ways through the teachings and authority of Jesus Christ. Cultures and their fallible ideas come and go—Jesus Christ is over all, the eternally blessed God. (Rom. 9:5).