

# Where Atheists and Christians agree

## Atheists and Christians share the same dream

It's the atheist dream to "live free, die unbothered." So is the Christian dream. Atheists and Christians actually share the same dream!

They even agree in their definitions of living free and dying unbothered, too. To "live free" for both atheists and Christians is the freedom to do whatever you want and be whatever you wish to be. Atheists may be surprised that Christians believe in this kind of freedom, but the Bible states clearly "It is for freedom that Christ set us free."

And what kind of freedom is it? The same freedom God has. God is free of all restraints. He needs no rules, rituals or religious duties governing his behaviour. He can do whatever he wants and be whatever he wishes to be. And why is that? Because everything he thinks and does is motivated by love. That's because he is love. The only constraint on God's freedom is his own nature. He simply couldn't do anything selfish, because it's not in his nature to be selfish.

But having a nature like that means he's free, because he's not going to do anything to hurt himself or anybody else. When you've got a nature that's entirely loving, there's no worry about what you might do, is there? You can enjoy life to the full because you have no fear of backlash from a hurt relationship, no guilty conscience, no getting upset if you don't get your own way, no being eaten up by jealousy or hatred, no need to get revenge, no pride being pricked, no hurts you can't forgive, no anger at people who don't meet your expectations, no grudges, and no danger of being pushed over the edge and doing something stupid that you really regret later. You're free of all that.

And it's God's greatest desire to share his nature with us. He'd love us to experience the freedom that comes with a nature like his. It's been his plan all along, that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we can cast off the nature we've got, that gives us so much grief, and take on his nature instead.

I don't suppose atheists think this is anything to write home about, because freedom to them has nothing to do with God, or taking on his nature. The less God is involved, the better. Freedom is living life as one wishes and doing what's best based on decency and logic, not on the rules and dictates of a religion or church. It's a life lived to the full without feeling fearful of God's punishment for not fitting in with his plan, and it's dying unbothered by visions of torment in eternal hellfire.

But I don't blame atheists wanting to be free of all that awful, negative, life-sapping stuff churned out by religion, and by much of Christianity. I don't want anything to do with it, either. But it never had anything to do with God in the first place. It was Jesus' aim to set us free from the ridiculous restraints and guilt-trips of religion to a life without restrictions and restraints. We could be free to do whatever we want, be whatever we want to be, and die completely unbothered by what's going to happen to us after we die, because he gives us a nature that doesn't need restrictions and fear to keep us in line.

["If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed,"](#) Jesus said. He meant really free, free of religious rules, free of hypocrisy, free of pride, free of judging others, free of ulterior motives, and free of all the other junk that separates humans into conflicting camps.

With his nature in us we have no worries. We can enjoy life, free in the knowledge that Jesus is more than willing to renew his nature in us every day too, so we can forever remain free of all that plagues us as humans.

In other words, we can fulfill the dream that both Christians and atheists share, to live free and die unbothered.