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The Godless Crusade of the New Atheism

Understanding the Militant Anti-Theistic Movement of the 21st Century

by Gary E. Gilley

There is much buzz lately about the so-called "New Atheism." This seems to be an odd term given the fact that there are not very many ways that a person can spin atheism. Old Atheism denied the existence of God and New Atheism does the same.

It is true that practical atheism can be traced throughout history. Psalm 14:1 speaks of such a man, termed a fool, who says in his heart, "There is no God." Most see this fool not as a philosophical atheist who mentally denies the existence of God, but as one who lives as if God does not exist, even though intellectually he knows better. Of course, the practical atheist is far more common than those who adopt atheism as a worldview. Most people, especially in the Western world, give God a nod — 80 percent of Americans say they believe in God — then go about living their lives as if He did not exist.



Biblically speaking, the issue of atheism is problematic. Romans 1:18-23 indicates that God made creation to be a constant reminder of His existence. That a few deny this evidence does not diminish the fact that to some degree they know better. And Romans 2:15 confirms what we already know to be true: God has placed in the hearts of each of us a moral standard. His fingerprints are found on our conscience.

A human is not just another mammal; we are different; we bear the marks of the image of God and on some level even self-avowed atheists know this to be true. But such is the hardening of the
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