

The Fool (April Fools Day)

There are several explanations for the origin of April Fools' Day, but here is the most plausible one. April 1st was once New Year's Day in France. In 1582, Pope Gregory declared the adoption of his Gregorian calendar to replace the Julian calendar and New Year's Day was officially changed to January 1st. It took awhile for everyone in France to hear the news of this major change and others obstinately refused to accept the new calendar, so a lot of people continued to celebrate New Year's Day on the first of April – earning them the name April fools. The April fools were subjected to ridicule and practical jokes and the tradition was born. The butts of these pranks were first called “poisson d'avril” or April fish because a young naive fish is easily caught. A common practice was to hook a paper fish on the back of someone as a joke. This evolved over time and a custom of prank-playing continues on the first day of April.

Psalm 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

Psalm 53:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

Feeling foolish – not the same as being a fool!

Our modern word for “fool” comes from the Latin word “follis” which was a leather bag used as a bellows; hence, a fool is a “windbag” or “airhead” – and the Bible would agree with this analysis!

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating (*chattering, babbling*) fool shall fall.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Idioms: act the fool, I'm nobody's fool, a fool and his money are soon parted, sent on a fool's errand, fools rush in where angels fear to tread, living in a fool's paradise, I made a fool of myself, just fooling around

And some biblical expressions are heart breaking ...

1 Samuel 26:21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

2 Samuel 3:33 And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?

In the Bible, being a FOOL refers not to INTELLECTUAL deficiency, but to MORAL deficiency. The fool is not so much a person lacking in mental powers, but a person who misuses the intelligence God gave him. The fool is not one who cannot reason, but one who reasons wrongly.

In Scripture, the “fool” primarily is the person who casts off the fear of God and thinks and acts as if he could safely disregard the eternal principles of God's righteousness.

Proverbs 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Arguments for the Existence of God:

1. The Cosmological Argument, or the Proof from Cause

Whatever is in motion must be put in motion by another (first mover)

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2. The Teleological Argument, or the Proof from Design

Everything in the universe has a purpose to fulfill
Intelligent design – wristwatch, human eye, earth hospitable to life

Acts 14:17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

3. The Historical Argument, or the Proof from Human Witness

How do you know God exists? How do you know China exists? How do you know George Washington existed? History says so!

Proverbs 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

4. The Religious Argument, or the Proof from Worship

Man will worship something or someone – universal in every culture!

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

One of the leading gurus of the Death of God movement, Thomas J.J. Altizer, was lecturing at a major university. He approached the podium and the audience sat with anticipation to hear this great man. Altizer bent down, opened his attaché case and began to feverishly rifle through it. After a few agonizing minutes of not being able to find his notes, he finally found them. Not realizing his mike was on, he uttered in relief, "Oh, thank God!"

5. The Moral Argument, or the Proof from Conscience

Man has a sense of right and wrong – universal in every culture!

Romans 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.

6. The Wager Argument, or the Proof from Probability

I don't believe in God – if I win, I win nothing; if I lose, I lose everything.

I believe in God – if I win, I win everything; if I lose, I lose nothing.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

There was an atheist who was complaining to his friend that there's no holiday for the atheist. Christians have Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. And his friend said, "Then why don't you take April Fools Day?!"

BUT THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF ATHEISTS!

- The **Intellectual** Atheist – **BELIEVES** that there is no God.
- The **Practical** Atheist – **BEHAVES** like there is no God.

The most foolish person in the world today is not the intellectual fool, but rather the practical fool, the one who says they believe in God but has a lifestyle that is godless!

The most famous atheist of the last generation was Madelyn Murray O'Hare. Her son William quotes her as saying: "I'm an atheist, not because I've searched behind every star and looked under every rock to prove there's no God. I'm an atheist because I want to live my life as if there's no God."

Atheism is not a mental problem, it is a moral problem! Atheism is not a head problem, it is a heart problem! Atheism is not a person who cannot believe in God as much as a person who will not believe in God!

The atheist's biggest problem is not in the **evidence** but rather in the **threat** God is to their lifestyle! Think about it ... if there's no God, then there's no judgment, no punishment, no standard of what's right or wrong.

Psalm 10:13 (KJV) Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it.

Psalm 10:13 (NIV) Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"?

Intellectual atheists are frantically trying to get God out of our schools, our courts, our governments – and eventually our churches! And all the while, the practical atheist is silently rooting for the intellectual atheist – because he doesn't want his conscience to call him to accountability!

The same reason people can't find God is the same reason a thief can't find a police officer! When they do, it will mess up their lives!

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

TWO QUESTIONS:

1. **Is there a God?**
2. **How can I have a relationship with Him? (on His terms!)**

In the Bible, only being a "fool for Christ" is viewed positively ...

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.