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## A few famous atheists:

Billy Joel	Daniel Radcliffe
Angelina Jolie	Steve Wozniak
Keira Knightley	Seth McFarlane
Mick Jagger	James Watson &
Bill Gates	Francis Crick
Brad Pitt	(discoverers of
Steven Hawking	DNA)
John Lennon	Mark Zuckerberg
Eddie Vedder	Ricky Gervais
Warren Buffett	Penn Jillette
Matt Groening	Julianne Moore
Ayn Rand	Jodie Foster
Pat Tillman	Mark Twain
Katharine Hepburn	Carl Sagan

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Have more questions? Email us, text us, come to a meeting, or visit our Facebook page to ask us questions. Just search on [Western Colorado Atheists and Freethinkers](#).

**Everyone can attend Western Colorado Atheists & Freethinkers' regular meetings, held on the first Sunday the month at 3:00 p.m. at the Coffee Trader, 7th Street and Patterson Road, Grand Junction**



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## It's okay to not believe in a god!

Deity: *n.* a supernatural being, like a god or goddess, that is worshipped by people who believe it controls or exerts force over some aspect of the world.



## If someone said they had a purple elephant in their backyard, would you believe it?

### Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence!

You'd probably want to see that elephant before you'd believe it's true. People make similar claims that deities exist. But just as with the purple elephant, you have a right to be convinced by *real evidence*, and to your own satisfaction, before you believe something is true. People who don't believe in deities or gods are called "atheists." Atheists do not affiliate with any religion. In 2015, almost 23% of Americans did not affiliate with any religion, according to Pew research.



**Q. "Isn't atheism a religion?"**

No! Calling atheism a religion assumes it is a belief system that people accept purely on faith. It's not! Atheism is a logical conclusion that people reach based on thinking and evidence.

**Q: "If I say I don't believe in God, people will bully me."**

You don't have to tell anyone you don't believe in a god. But lots of people don't, so you're not alone. Non-believers are America's fastest-growing group. Be proud, not fearful, of your disbelief. WCAF is here to support you.



## Without God, how will I know right from wrong?

**Belief in deities has nothing to do with one's ability to know right from wrong.** All you need to tell right from wrong is a rule many civilizations have embraced since Babylonian times: **"Treat others the way you yourself would like to be treated."** To tell if an action is right or wrong, try it out on yourself first: Before you lie to someone, ask if you would like someone else to lie to you. Before you tease someone, think to yourself would you like to be teased?

## Why do so many people believe in deities?

Belief in deities and gods dates back thousands of years — before science explained natural phenomena. Ancient people thought Earth was flat until around 240 B.C.E, when Greek mathematician and astronomer Eratosthenes performed scientific calculations to determine that the Earth was round. He was also the first person to calculate Earth's approximate circumference and the tilt of Earth's axis, and did so with remarkable accuracy. Today, thanks to hundreds of years of scientific exploration into fields like physics, geology, microbiology, meteorology, biology and astronomy, we now know far more about the Earth and it's history, why Earthly phenomena occur and how the universe works. Before science, people believed deities controlled everything in the universe. Now science explains many formerly mysterious phenomena that people used to be afraid of, like thunder and lightning, eclipses, "shooting stars," avalanches, magnetism, gravity, diseases and more. Science has greatly reduced people's need to rely on the concept of deities for explanations.

