

WHO NEEDS GOD

Atheism 2.0

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Introduction

*Do we need **God** anymore?*

Some say **yes**, but they don't always live like it.

Some say **no**, but find God difficult to completely **dismiss**.

For some: *Who needs **religion**?*

More Americans than ever are backing away from religion. Consequently, **God**. Not because atheism is all that attractive. Religion is less so. "It's the problem."

I. The 9/11 Effect and the New Atheists

- A. After 9/11/2001 there was a temporary surge in religious fervor.
 - 1. Churches had two packed weekends.
 - 2. One might have expected it to last. Islamic terrorists attacked Christian America—*The Great Satan*.
 - 3. But it didn't last. Instead, something else happened.
- B. Following the destruction of the World Trade Center, philosopher and neuroscientist Sam Harris began writing . . .

[Andy showed a slide with a picture of the book *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* by Sam Harris]

- 1. This book is a scathing critique of all religion. More than twelve publishers turned it down.
 - 2. Was the U.S. ready for a critique of Christianity this close to 9/11? *The End of Faith* remained on the *New York Times* Best Sellers List for 33 weeks!
- C. Two years later, in response to the feedback he received from irate Christians, Sam released *Letter to a Christian Nation*, an open letter to American Christians, which went to number seven on the *New York Times* Best Sellers List.