

Reflect on Your Assumptions about Atheism & Spirituality

1- Do you agree or disagree: (Bloesch, Forbes, & Adams, 2004)

- Atheists should not be allowed to work with children
- Atheists are immoral
- People who support the rights of atheists are probably atheist themselves
- Atheists should be avoided whenever possible
- I could never be friends with an atheist

Bloesch, E., Forbes, G. B., & Adams, C., Leah E. (2004). A brief, reliable measure of negative attitudes toward atheists. *Psychological Reports, 95*(3, pt. 2), 1161-1162.

2. Do you think that someone who is an atheist is likely to be shallow, materialistic, empty, lost, or devoid of an interior life?
3. Do you think that atheists hate god? Do you think they hate religious people? Do you think they want to “convert” religious people to atheism?
4. Do you believe that all values and morals develop from a religious or spiritual foundation in an individual’s life?
5. Have you ever thought about the use of the word “god” in our pledge of allegiance, on our money, in legal proceedings, etc? Do you think that it is ok to use “god” in this way because everyone believes in god in one way or another?
6. Do you assume that when you speak of spirituality you are being inclusive of all people and their perspectives (e.g., that everyone is spiritual in some way)?
7. Do you assume that when campuses and student affairs professionals focus on religious pluralism and spiritual development that they are being inclusive and attentive to all students? **Which groups of students might feel excluded or alienated by religious pluralism and spiritual development discussions?**
8. Do you believe that the most appropriate framework for addressing students non-cognitive needs and getting at issues of authenticity, connectedness, social justice, etc. is spirituality? **What other ways can those issues be addressed in the curriculum and co-curriculum?**

Please help me as I continue to think about the topics of atheism, potential biases in how we discuss spirituality on campus, and how to make sure all students have the opportunity to develop a sense of meaning and purpose in their lives. Please consider sharing your reaction to this poster presentation, your response to any of the reflection items, or examples of ways your campus is inclusive or exclusive in working with students to understand their authentic selves and their place in the world. You can contact me at the Email address below.