

What Do You Believe?

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

“God exists to meet my needs and help me be a nice person who feels good about myself.”

I. The Bible does not teach the Moralistic idea that God simply wants us to be good. The Christian faith is about much more than helping people be good.

“2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.”

“5. Good people go to heaven when they die.”

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. (James 2:10)

*I have declared to both Jews and Greeks
that they must turn to God in
repentance and have faith in our Lord
Jesus. (Acts 20:21)*

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil.2:12-13)

II. The Bible does not teach the Therapeutic idea that our major problem is low self-esteem and that God's main concern is to make us feel better about ourselves.

II. The Bible does not teach the Therapeutic idea that our major problem is low self-esteem and that God's main concern is to make us feel better about ourselves.

“3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.”

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 18:14b)

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Peter.5:5b)

III. The Bible does not teach Deism – that God created the world but does not remain actively involved in guiding everything according to His purpose.

“1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.”

“4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.”

Paul said that God *works all things according to the counsel of his will.*
(Eph.1:11)

Daniel (Dan.4:24-25) and Paul (Rom.13:1) pointed out how God controls who comes into power in the world.

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's
womb. (Ps.139:13)*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.. (Rom.8:28-29).

“God is not there to conform to us; we must conform to him. He summons us . . . to know him. We are summoned to know him only on his terms. He is not known on our terms. This summons is heard in and through his Word. It is not heard through our intuitions.

“God is not there at our convenience, or simply for our healings, or simply as the Divine Teller handing out stuff from his bank. No, we are here for his service. We are here to know him as he is and not as we want him to be.”

- David Wells