

GOD AND RELIGION

By Rick Rossi Sr.

The decision as to whether there is a god in your life is one of tremendous importance, perhaps of greatest importance, because many religions offer salvation to the faithful through some type of afterlife (you don't want to miss out on a good deal). Also, there can be serious negative social consequences if it is discovered you do not believe in a god, are not sure, or believe in a different god than most around you. You could be ostracized or even killed. Most people certainly will view you with a suspicious eye. To be sure, the belief in a god is paramount to many and important to most. I have found this to be absolutely amazing because there is not one shred of scientific evidence that any god exists. None. What this means is that there is a high probability there is no God as espoused in the world's religions or none whatsoever, and that all religions may very well be human constructs rather than the teachings of any god. If so, it is possible that many people are leading an untruthful life. They allow their unsubstantiated beliefs to influence decisions they make regularly. But a prudent and critically thoughtful person can come only to one conclusion: There is a possibility that God, as characterized in any form, does not exist. And as long as there is that possibility, all religious teachings are suspect as being instructions and/or interpretations of the word of a god. As I see it, at this point in time, there are two possibilities. One, there is no such thing as a god, or two, there is a God and it has not, or cannot, revealed itself in a way any critical thinker (scientist) can determine its existence. If there is no God, millions of people throughout the centuries have been the victims of false hopes and untrue conclusions. Do you want to base your most important conclusions, your whole life, on non-existent or undiscoverable information?

If there is a God and it has not provided enough verifiable data (given the best way to determine the truth, as I see it, is through the scientific method) on which to base our actions, how can it (the God) claim to judge us and/or reward us based on our behavior? That's assuming it is a just God (and there is a possibility it is not). I maintain that to be a just god, assuming its notion of justice is as ours, or at least takes into account our notion of justice, which it should, it must understand that a thoughtful person, a critical thinker, just doesn't accept things on unquestioning belief that does not require quality proof or evidence. So, we have two possible scenarios. God does not exist or it hasn't made itself knowable using the scientific method. Therefore, to act as though there is a God, is acting on, as yet, unverified conclusions, and therefore possibly basing your life on an incorrect assumption. Personally, I act as though we are alone but I do not deny the possibility that some god might exist. I also maintain that religious teachings are highly suspect as being, in any way, the word of any god. And what of religion? If, as I previously outlined there is no God or it is as yet unknowable, then it is entirely possible someone made the whole thing up (and probably did). Invented it for some reason. The reason could have been for control, for security or any one of a hundred other reasons. In any event, be aware that all religious dogma requires faith, that is, unquestioning belief without regard for rational evidence or proof. There is no way (at this point in time) to tell if any religious teachings are actually supported by any god. That should certainly tell you something about the nature of religion.

I have seen the most scientific of men completely surrender their keen minds to religious teachings. They just surrender their minds. Don't you surrender your mind. Examine everything and take nothing for granted. Base your decisions on good science and valid, true logic. Religion probably offers nothing more than a dubious salvation and mental slavery. Always beware of

anyone asking you to believe in anything for which there is no proof. And by now you should know what constitutes proof. At this point in time, no religion can stand up to scientific evaluation. It couldn't get past the examination of its first and foremost precept, namely, that "God exists" let alone "And he says do this."

Let me conclude the topic of god and religion by saying that when I die, and therefore leave this life and if I happen to awaken, be sentient, in another place or dimension of some sort I certainly will not be sorry. Maybe I can be reunited with my family members. Perhaps death would not force us to be apart forever. What I am saying is that, sure, I'd love to believe we would be together. For some, it's easy to just give their your mind to some blind faith in a god and religion that promises we will all be together in one big paradise in the sky. But I can't. I know better. Now you know better. So treat everyday as though it might be your last. As though you will not see your loved ones again because when you die there is a good chance you will never see them again. Don't waste your time on trivial problems or hate or sadness because there is so little time. One hundred years is just an instant to the cosmos. And you might have much less time.