

A Sermon on Defining Good Faith

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for November 22nd, 2020 (and beyond)

Today I'm going to prove that atheists and/or agnostics are liars or comedians. Good faith requires a commitment to truth which means honesty, including intellectual honesty. How does the law define "good faith"? "Good faith is an abstract and comprehensive term that encompasses a sincere belief or motive without any malice or desire to defraud others. It derives from the translation of the Latin term bona fide, and courts use the two terms interchangeably." Source: <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/good+faith> So, "bad faith" is dishonest, including intellectually dishonest. And, atheists and agnostics are either liars or comedians as a matter of logic.

Recently, I asked Bill Maher (a famous atheist) on Twitter whether or not he believed in the sense of humor and whether he could prove the sense of humor exists. That was part of a longer Tweet Thread available at: <https://twitter.com/heal247/status/1323393235876605952> The sense of humor is an abstract intangible evidenced whenever you think something is funny but don't outwardly express that or evidenced by your experience and expression. "Abstract" is defined by Oxford Languages via Google as "existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence" and "consider (something) theoretically or separately from something else". Oxford Languages via Google defines "intangible" as "unable to be touched or grasped; not having physical presence," "difficult or impossible to define or understand; vague and abstract," and "(of an asset or benefit) not constituting or represented by a physical object and of a value not precisely measurable." Oxford Languages via Google defines "humor" as "the quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech," "the ability to express humor or make other people laugh," and "a mood or state of mind." Oxford Languages via Google defines "mood" as "a temporary state of mind or feeling" and "feeling" as "an emotional state or reaction," "a belief, especially a vague or irrational one," "an opinion, typically one shared by several people," and "a sensitivity to or intuitive understanding of." So, if humor is a mood and a mood is a feeling which is a belief then to have a sense of humor or acknowledge that is to confirm or affirm the existence of abstract intangibles.

For me, God is the abbreviation for all the good that exists tangibly and/or intangibly. So, for me humor is a virtue or something I define as a virtue. God is all Truth and Virtue in a perpetual abstract archetype though in that state intangible unless we individually manifest by exhibiting honesty, truth, and virtue in our lives. But, if you would deny the existence of any abstract intangibles, including a sense of humor, I have to believe you are ignorant, lying, or joking. I have a sense of humor and recognize the existence of humor. If you deny that humor exists, you'll never convince me that you are correct because I feel I know it exists from my own experiences of it. Therefore, anyone who sincerely denies it is someone I feel needs to be introduced to comedy or has given me a challenge to see if I can make them laugh so if they experience it they'll know humor too. For me, Humor is also one of the many names of God. But, if lying you are just another false prophet which is often revealed by malignant narcissism and no sense

of humor. If a comedian, I don't know how denying the existence of a sense of humor or any abstract intangible is funny, but, I'm open to the possibility. It sounds like the most robotic and unpleasant world if there are no abstract intangibles and no possibility of that. But, I can see where some comedians might make that case so that anything they say that is actually funny gets a bigger laugh because of the fear and comedy tango.

Bill Maher might say "The world is a shit hole. America is in the toilet. Everyone is crazy and destructive and stupid. God doesn't exist. How do you feel? Pretty rotten, well, here's a funny, feel better?" And, since he uses comedy to #TaoFu respond to fear or dread, he is arguably a church leading by example though ignorant regarding how abstract intangibles like a sense of humor and/or God are omnipresent in his life. Otherwise, he's joking or lying. He is a comedian and likely assumes God is humble enough to deal with any denial of God's existence which is meant as an attack on false prophets, not actual Houses of God such as where the sense of humor resides.

But, I don't speak for Bill Maher and believe his atheism is a joke and agnostics haven't fully examined the logic of their position on the existence of abstract intangibles like a sense of humor or God. I believe an examination of the logic of whether abstract intangibles exist will prove by consensus and experience that they do in fact exist which is why we've named them, defined them, and included them in discourse including at law. (Please also see <https://www.cope.church/manifestevidence.htm> for more on abstract intangibles.)

I'm a theologian as is co-founder Priest John Wycliffe. Oxford languages via Google defines "theologian" as "a person who engages or is an expert in theology" and "theology" as "the study of the nature of God and religious belief" deriving from Greek words "theos" meaning "God" and "logia" from the Greek "logos" which means "word". "Logos" is also the root for the word "logic" also known or referred to as "the art of reason". I'm particularly thankful for religious liberty and my right to practice my religion per my understanding of the meaning of words as well as the spirit or inspiration behind them.

Here's how the Holy Bible (King James Version and The Wycliffe Bible.) logically defines God in terms of abstract intangibles (which is why having studied symbolic logic as well as theology I understand or hold the position I hold on the meaning(s)):

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [KJV]

John 1:1: In the bigynnyng was the word, and the word was at God, and God was the word. [Wycliffe] [Translated: In the beginning was the word, and the word was at God, and God was the word.]

1 John 4:8: He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**. [emphasis added] [KJV]

1 John 4:8: He that loueth not, knowith not God; for God is charite. [Wycliffe] [Translation: He that loves not, knows not God; for God is charity. (Middle English for Charite is defined as: "The supreme virtue of Love or Charity according to Christian doctrine, comprising affection, devotion, benevolence, kindness, mercy, gratitude as between God and human, and, human and human." Source: https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_field=hnf&q=charite)]

1 Corinthians 13:4-8: 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [a]puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [NKJV]

1 Corinthians 13:4-8: Charite is pacient, it is benygne; charite enuyeth not, it doith not wickidli, it is not blowun, 5 it is not coueytouse, it sekith not tho things that ben hise owne, it is not stirid to wraththe, it thenkith not yuel, 6 it ioyeth not on wickidnesse, but it ioieth togidere to treuthe; 7 it suffrith alle thingis, it bileueth alle thingis, it hopith alle thingis, it susteyneth alle thingis. 8 Charite fallith neuere doune, whether prophecies schulen be voidid, ethir langagis schulen ceesse, ethir science schal be destried. [Wycliffe] [Translation: Charity (or Love) is patient, it is benign [Middle English "benygne" is defined as "Of persons: gracious, gentle, kind, generous, merciful; showing good will" Source: https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_field=hnf&q=benygne]; charity envies not, it does not wickedly, it is not destructive [Middle English "blowun" means to blow down/destroy, same dictionary as linked above.], it is not covetous, it seeks not those things that are his own, it is not stirred to wrath, it think not evil (yuel= vice or sin same source), it rejoices not on wickedness, but, it rejoices in the whole truth; it tells the truth of all things, it believes all things, it trusts all things, it sustains all things. Charity never falls down, whether prophecies should be voided, either/or languages should cease, either/or science shall be destroyed.]

So, if you take umbrage with the fact that I not only believe, but, insist I know abstract intangibles such as love exist and that love and all the other abstract intangible virtues that exist do so in the truth or in light of the truth, your stupidity offends me and I take umbrage with that. And, "iniquity" is defined by Oxford Languages via Google as "immoral or grossly unfair behavior". So, based on logic if the Word is God and God is love and love does not rejoice in iniquity (wickedness, vice, sin), but, rejoices in the truth, that sounds like a reasonable basis on which to say I know God (AKA Gnosis). Now, I believe everyone knows God and I'd prefer to believe those who deny it just don't realize it.

I find atheism and agnosticism illogical and if the basis of civilization at all, the most boring ever. I honestly don't want to live in a world without abstract intangibles, luckily, abstract intangibles exist and enough people agree on that even if not on how to reference abstract intangibles in discourse without being overly emotional about semantics.

Have a great Thanksgiving to all who celebrate it! God bless you!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>