

**P.S. :**

Some things we do not have at the NTCOF are dogmas or creeds of faith. Ours is a religion of thinking, not of believing.

But thought has rules and we strive to follow them. Thus we often say that “You can’t think when you’re believing,” and “You can’t believe when you’re thinking.”

Beliefs are good and valuable things. But they are merely stopping-off places for thought. Thinking involves at least a partial suspension of beliefs in order to consider whether there might be better ones. How we arrive at beliefs, and how we hold them is what is important. That is the essence of Freethought, a religion of rational discovery.

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When I do good, I feel good.  
When I do bad, I feel bad.  
That’s my religion!

- Abraham Lincoln

# The North Texas Church of Freethought

## A Fellowship of Unbelievers

***An Introduction  
to the Church***



Mailing address:  
1001 N Waldrop Dr #815  
Arlington, TX 76012

**(214) 702-2050**

**[www.chuchoffreethought.org](http://www.chuchoffreethought.org)  
[info@chuchoffreethought.org](mailto:info@chuchoffreethought.org)**

## Welcome to The North Texas Church of Freethought

We atheists, agnostics, rationalists, humanists, doubters, skeptics – Freethinkers! – are as interested in and concerned about life’s “big questions” as anyone else. We just can’t make sense of the supernatural solutions that the other churches insist are “the answer.”

About 10% of Americans don’t believe in god(s). But that’s no reason for us not to have our own churches. For we also enjoy gathering for friendship, mutual support and to learn about and grow together in our opinions about “religious questions” of life, meaning, love, and living the good life. Since 1994, we have been doing what other churches do, providing the same intellectual, emotional, social, and “spiritual” support as other churches. But we do it with the “paradigm shift” of rejecting superstitious dogmas and doctrines. We also take it as very important that our community can serve as a tool for parents trying to raise children who will develop a high level of comfort with thinking for themselves.

## Freethought: A Religious Stance For Unbelievers

Freethinkers hold that all understanding – of anything – is best arrived at through the use of facts and reason, and not by way of authority, tradition, or established belief. We are not free to believe whatever we want. Our thought is free because we may consider anything, and make sense of it in whatever way we can factually and reasonably justify. We reject the idea of belief based on faith, on personal preference, or as a measure of one’s self-worth or moral status. We hold that such belief is fundamentally incompatible with the highest ideals of good to which human beings can aspire: honesty, integrity, intelligence, insight, creativity, and compassion and respect for others, to name the most important.

If we have a creed it is, roughly, that we are:

- ✦ Working to understand and live by the rule of reason
- ✦ Enjoying fellowship, sharing our rational outlook and learning from each other
- ✦ Serving something larger than our own egos, caring and helping others through life’s passages or who are hurting
- ✦ Demonstrating that the rule of reason and a love for this one life we know is sufficient

## About the NTCOF

Our regular service on the first Sunday monthly is the foundation of our church. It’s free and open to the public. We typically consider one or a few subjects chosen to inform, entertain, inspire, or even trouble us in our shared journey through the human condition. We draw from a wide range of materials, often emphasizing the thought of those who contributed to our heritage of innovation and progress in thinking about the world and its meaning.

Services usually last about an hour. There is free childcare and a school at which youngsters may learn about the world of science and nature, works of art and technology, geography, current events, and the special challenges of growing up without faith beliefs. Afterwards, many of us gather for lunch at a nearby restaurant. Newcomers are welcome, as are curious believers. There’s never any pressure to “join.” What we ask is that you get to know us and decide for yourself if this is something that deserves your attention and/or support. Come dressed up or casual; the choice is yours.

The NTCOF sponsors many other activities including regular social events, Game Nights, a Singles Group, and special events such as blood drives. If you have an idea for something else just let us know – and help us do it! We also offer officiation for marriages, funerals, and other pastoral services.

QUESTIONS?? Just ask us!

My country is the world and my religion is to do good.  
My own mind is my own church.

- Thomas Paine