



# THE HERITAGE OF FREETHOUGHT

Freethought has no sacred scripture. But it does have respect for many things that many people have said in support of liberty of thought, of doubt and free inquiry, of separation of church and state, of a reliance on facts and reason, of sincere human feeling, and in recognition of the dangers of an over-reliance on tradition, authority and established belief. A very few examples follow:

"A man never reaches that dizzy height of wisdom that he can no longer be led by the nose."

"It was the schoolboy who said, 'Faith is believing what you know ain't so.'"

"The gods offer no rewards for intellect. There was never one yet that showed any interest in it."

- Mark Twain

"If 50 million people believe a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing"

"The average man does not know what to do with his life, yet wants another one which will last forever."

- Anatole France

"When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

"The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason: The Morning Daylight appears plainer when you put out your Candle."

"I have found Christian dogma unintelligible. Early in life I absented myself from Christian assemblies."

- Benjamin Franklin

"Eternity is not the hereafter. Eternity has nothing to do with time. ... This is it. If you don't get it here, you won't get it anywhere."

- Joseph Campbell

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts."

"Most of the greatest evils that man has inflicted upon man have come through people feeling quite certain about something which, in fact, was false."

"The most savage controversies are those about matters as to which there is no good evidence either way. Persecution is used in theology, not in arithmetic."

"Many people would rather die than think; in fact, most do."

- Bertrand Russell

"I don't have to know an answer. I don't feel frightened not knowing things, by being lost in a mysterious universe without any purpose, which is the way it really is as far as I can tell. It doesn't frighten me."

"God is always invented to explain those things that you do not understand. Now, when you finally discover how something works, you get some laws which you're taking away from God; you don't need him anymore."

- Richard P. Feynman

"To love justice, to long for the right, to love mercy, to pity the suffering, to assist the weak, to forget wrongs and remember benefits -- to love the truth, to be sincere, to utter honest words, to love liberty, to wage relentless war against slavery in all its forms, to love wife and child and friend, to make a happy home, to love the beautiful; in art, in nature, to cultivate the mind, to be familiar with the mighty thoughts that genius has expressed, the noble deeds of all the world, to cultivate courage and cheerfulness, to make others happy, to fill life with the splendor of generous acts, the warmth of loving words, to discard error, to destroy prejudice, to receive new truths with gladness, to cultivate hope, to see the calm beyond the storm, the dawn beyond the night, to do the best that can be done and then to be resigned -- this is the religion of reason, the creed of science. This satisfies the brain and heart."

"Blaspheme is what an old dogma screams at new truth."

- Robert G. Ingersoll

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"Human beings never welcome the news that something they have long cherished is untrue; they almost always reply to that news by reviling its promulgator. Nevertheless, a minority of bold and energetic individuals keep plugging away, and as a result of their hard labors and resultant infamy, the sum of human knowledge gradually increases."

- H.L. Mencken

"Man is certainly stark mad. He cannot make a flea and yet he will be making gods by the dozen."

- Montaigne

"The believer is happy; the doubter is wise."

- Hungarian Proverb

"Faith means not wanting to know what is true."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

"Our wretched species is so made that those who walk on the well-trodden path always throw stones at those who are showing a new road."

"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is an absurd one."

"Let us therefore reject all superstition in order to become more human; but in speaking against fanaticism, let us not imitate the fanatics: they are sick men in delirium who want to chastise their doctors. Let us assuage their ills, and never embitter them, and let us pour drop by drop into their souls the divine balm of toleration, which they would reject with horror if it were offered to them all at once."

"If we believe absurdities, we shall commit atrocities."

"I am very fond of the truth, but not at all of martyrdom."

- Voltaire

"But the longer I live, the more obvious it is to me that the most sacred act of a man's life is to say and to feel, 'I believe such and such to be true.'"

- Thomas H. Huxley

"The wish to believe is a reason to doubt." - ANON

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS  
TO THE NTCOF ARE NEEDED,  
APPRECIATED,  
AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!!**

**COMING NEXT MONTH:  
"RELIGIOUS INDEPENDENCE"**

**>>> Sunday, July 1st, 2012 <<<  
SHERATON GRAND DFW AIRPORT  
SE CORNER OF 114 AND ESTERS**

**All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar (yes, website has now been updated thanks to Sarah and Rusty Nejd!), or through our meetup page, from which you can RSVP, at: [www.meetup.com/church-of-freethought](http://www.meetup.com/church-of-freethought) - **JOIN THE NTCOF MEETUP GROUP !!!****

**Social Luncheon:** Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and discussion at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Grapevine, located just across from the Grapevine Mills Mall, at 2605 E. Grapevine Mills Circle, phone (972) 874-7900. To reach Golden Corral from the Sheraton, cross over the freeway and make a left onto John W. Carpenter Freeway (114) going west. Then take the first exit RIGHT onto International Parkway (121), then Grapevine Mills Parkway exit. Turn LEFT on Stars and Stripes Way, continuing on to E. Grapevine Mills Circle.

**Freethought Salon:** Get together to discuss today's service topic or other conundrums of interest to Freethinkers. Most Sundays, over breakfast, at the Hilton Vineyard in Grapevine; see the meetup site!

**Game Night:** The regular game night crew meets nearly every Friday night at the IHOP on 2310 Stemmons Trail (I-35), near Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Plan to arrive at about 7:30 PM, and stay late playing Risk, Rummikub, and other fun games!

**Secular Singles:** Freethinkers have met their life-partners with whom they have begun families through the Secular Singles group. Check the meetup site for the next date, time and location!

**"It is wrong, always,  
everywhere, and for anyone,  
to believe anything on  
insufficient evidence."**

- William K. Clifford in *The Ethics of Belief* (1877)



**DFWCOR**

Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason

The North Texas Church of Freethought  
The Fellowship of Unbelievers

Presenters:	David Burgess Tim Gorski
Welcome Coordinator	Mark Barnick
Videographer:	John Gauthier
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