

New Religious Landscape Study from Pew Research

Post by "Titus" of February 28, 2025 at 12:25 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Unfortunately for many religious people they are united by their distrust in the world, and their hope for something other than the world ---> seeking to transcend the world rather than inhabit the world, and seeking for a heavenly afterlife.

Ironically, from an outsider's perspective it almost always seems to materialize in socialising, setting up frameworks etc. I can hardly recognize anything otherworldly. It's always about this world.

Yes, every kind of religious system is imperfect, but:

[Quote from Cassius](#)

So yes even supernatural religion "can" sometimes lead to success, and in fact Epicurus says it would be better to believe in such things rather than give in to hard determinism.

This is the point. People aren't yet ready for the philosopher's stone. One ideology seems to exchange for another and even the atheist's pursue new agendas.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

But I don't think that observations makes "both statements true" in terms of them "making sense." It does not "make sense" to structure one's life based on fantasies and made-up notions about supernatural forces unless you are in an extremely unusual situation -- extreme to the point of practical nonexistence.

I speak from a perspective of Epicurean "universalism". 😊

I would argue that even if they say they pursue the afterlife and are not seeking pleasure they are lying or not recognising their reality. It's as obvious as water is wet and the sunlight at noon is bright to me.

I agree with you, that the stories may misguide them but on the other hand the force of our innate pleasure-pain-mechanism is immensely powerful. No-one can escape this reality.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

If supernatural religion, and life after death with reward and punishment are true, then the Epicurean worldview makes no sense.

Even in this case people are seeking pleasure (reward). Additionally, as long as I am in this world, I am still rewarded with pleasant impressions.

I know, from a logical point of view both arguments exclude each other. But I think, the Epicurean perspective overturns this logic epistemologically.