



[www.OverflowShow.com](http://www.OverflowShow.com)

## **“Biased” Christian Views? – Discussion Guide**

### **Section 1**

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last Overflow Show.

Read Psalms 119:41-47 What are the attitudes of the psalmist toward God’s word, his critics, and venues where he will or will not speak of God’s commands?

### **Section 2**

Go to [www.OverflowShow.com](http://www.OverflowShow.com) and listen to the 5-minute podcast titled “Biased” Christian Views?

### **Section 3**

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

Do you think people’s general impression is that Christians are more opinionated and narrow, and secularists are more mellow and impartial? Why would it seem this way?

Without hearing this podcast, why would this statement sound fair-minded for society?:

“When it comes to matters of public policy, RELIGIOUS people need to leave their religious convictions at the door, because their views are biased by their religion. We can only discuss government or societal matters in a non-biased way that is not skewed by religious views...that it is what is fairest for all.”

What is the flaw with this perspective, according to Tim Keller?

Do atheists have religious views? If so, what are a few of them and how some of those views faith-based?

Why would Keller see the below statements as just as theological as a Christian's views, and what are the theological positions in these statements?

*"All religions are equal. No one view is superior or right...particular doctrines don't matter really."*

*"I just don't think about God and I really don't have much interest in discussing such things."*

How would you rate the above statements regarding open-mindedness vs. narrowness; regarding being inclusive vs. exclusive; regarding being tolerant vs. intolerant?

Whose views are more provable with evidence: atheists or Christians? Why?

Tim Keller contends that if a skeptic can realize that his positions are just as unprovable as the Christian's, and that they are just as much faith positions and religious positions, that warm dialogue will follow. Comment on why you think this is true or not true.

Are you more apt to give your opinions in discussions regarding public policy after hearing this podcast? Why or why not?

#### **Section 4**

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days?

*One suggestion (if needed): Discuss this subject matter with one non-Christian friend by having him view the three statements and identify which ones involve religious faith and why or why not:*

- 1) The Bible has some recommendations and commands that our country should try to obey.
- 2) All religions are equal. No one view is superior or right...particular doctrines don't matter really.
- 3) I just don't think about God and I really don't have much interest in discussing such things.

You could respond with, *"OK, thanks for giving me your views. An author we are reading right now in a discussion group I am in contends that all 3 positions are faith positions and religious views. Would you like to hear how the author supported that and give your opinion on it?"*

For integrity's sake, allow the conversation to drop if it drops. ." But if your friend shows interest, continue on.

Overflow enthusiastically recommends the book THE REASON FOR GOD, by Tim Keller, published by Penguin Group

[www.OverflowShow.com](http://www.OverflowShow.com)