

## What do Humanists do about birth, marriages and deaths?

They celebrate births and marriages and grieve over deaths, like everyone else.

At these times people often look to their religion for a ceremony. Humanists are not required to mark these events if they do not wish to. But nontheistic people do like to mark these moments with special ceremonies, and the people involved can choose exactly the words and music they want.

When we die, our lives can be commemorated in a Humanist ceremony. We believe that we live-on in the memories of family and friends and in the good work that we do in our lives.



## Who are we?

Humanist ideas are part of a long tradition of scepticism, atheism and belief in a nontheistic (no belief in a god) basis for morality. Many famous scientists, philosophers, musicians, comedians, actors and writers are part of that tradition.

Here are just a few of them:

Julia Sweeney (Writer and performer)  
Penn & Teller (Illusionists, magicians)  
Francis Crick (Biologist mapped DNA)  
Richard Dawkins (Scientist)  
Alice Walker (Poet and author)  
John Dewey (Education specialist)  
Albert Einstein (Physicist)  
Steven Fry (Actor and author)  
John Lennon (Singer songwriter)  
Carolyn Tomei (Politician)  
Bill Nye (Scientist and educator)  
Mark Twain (Author)  
Rebecca Goldstein (Author/philosopher)  
Eddie Izzard (Comedian and actor)  
Bill Gates (Entrepreneur, Microsoft)  
Rowan Atkinson (Actor/comedian)  
Steven Hawking (Physicist)  
Neil DeGrasse Tyson (Astrophysicist)  
Angelina Jolie & Bradd Pitt (Actors)  
Gene Roddenberry (Producer/Star trek)  
Sir Terry Pratchett (Novelist)  
Tim Minchin (Musical comedy)  
Madalyn Murray O'Hare (Founder of American Atheists)

**Don't believe in God?**  
You are not alone.

**UnitedC<sup>R</sup>**  
United Coalition of Reason

# What does it mean to be a Humanist?

Your beliefs don't make  
you a better person, your  
behavior does!

## What do Humanists believe?

- 1) Humanists believe that you can live a good life without organized religion or superstition.
- 2) That we should live happy and fulfilled lives and help others to do so to.
- 3) That we only have one life and we should make the best of it, not only for ourselves but for others by using reason, experience and shared human values.
- 4) That the way to achieve this is to **live responsibly, think rationally** about right and wrong, **considering the consequences of our actions** and **trying to do the right thing**.

Humanism is an **ethical** world view



Humanists ask themselves the same questions as everyone else:  
**Why am I here?**



**What's the purpose of life?**  
**How did life begin?**  
**What happens when I die?**

Religion often comes up with answers based on faith in a deity while Humanists look for answers based on reason. Humanists look for evidence before they believe things.

Humanists believe that the way to true happiness is to make others happy, and the way to do that is be happy yourself.

You can enjoy the good things in life as long as you can do so without harming others or the environment.

Humanists believe we all depend on each other.



**What do humanists do at Christian festivals like Christmas or Easter?**

Like most people, Humanists enjoy holidays. We still exchange presents and visit family. We enjoy holidays that cheer up the dark days of winter and welcome the beginning of spring or the New Year.

Many festivals are much older than Christianity, and were simply adopted by early Christians as good times to celebrate.

Humanists respect your personal beliefs, whether in God or any other concept. Your belief is a matter for you and is private.

These days peoples' beliefs are more likely to change with time. It is good that people are not just following blindly but are questioning and coming to their own conclusions, using reason and science.