Worldviews  
Mr. Myers

Theology: Fundamental Terms

There’s not that many different ways you can answer the question of “Is There a God?”: “ yes,” “no,” and “I don’t know” are about the only options. Here are the technical terms for each of those answers.

1. Agnosticism: “I don’t know whether or not God exists. There is not enough evidence either for or against his existence to say with certainty.” Even though they don’t disavow God’s existence, agnostics usually live as if there is no God.
2. Atheism: “No, I believe that there is no God. The idea of God is an invention of human beings, a mere fairy tale. Man needs to look to himself for answers and solutions instead of looking for help from a supernatural being.
3. The “yes” positions
   1. Theism: A belief in the existence of a single, supernatural God who is a Creator, Sustainer, Revealer, and Ruler
   2. Pantheism: A belief that identifies the forces/energy of nature with god; god is everything and everything is god
   3. Deism: belief in the existence of a supreme being, specifically of a creator who does not intervene in the universe. God is the First Cause, but that is all. He does not sustain the universe, reveal Himself to the universe, or have a relationship with his creation.
      1. The picture is of someone who makes a watch, winds it up, and then abandons it.
      2. While none of the six major worldviews that we are studying officially take this position, functionally, many, many people live as deists