

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TRULY BELIEVE IN

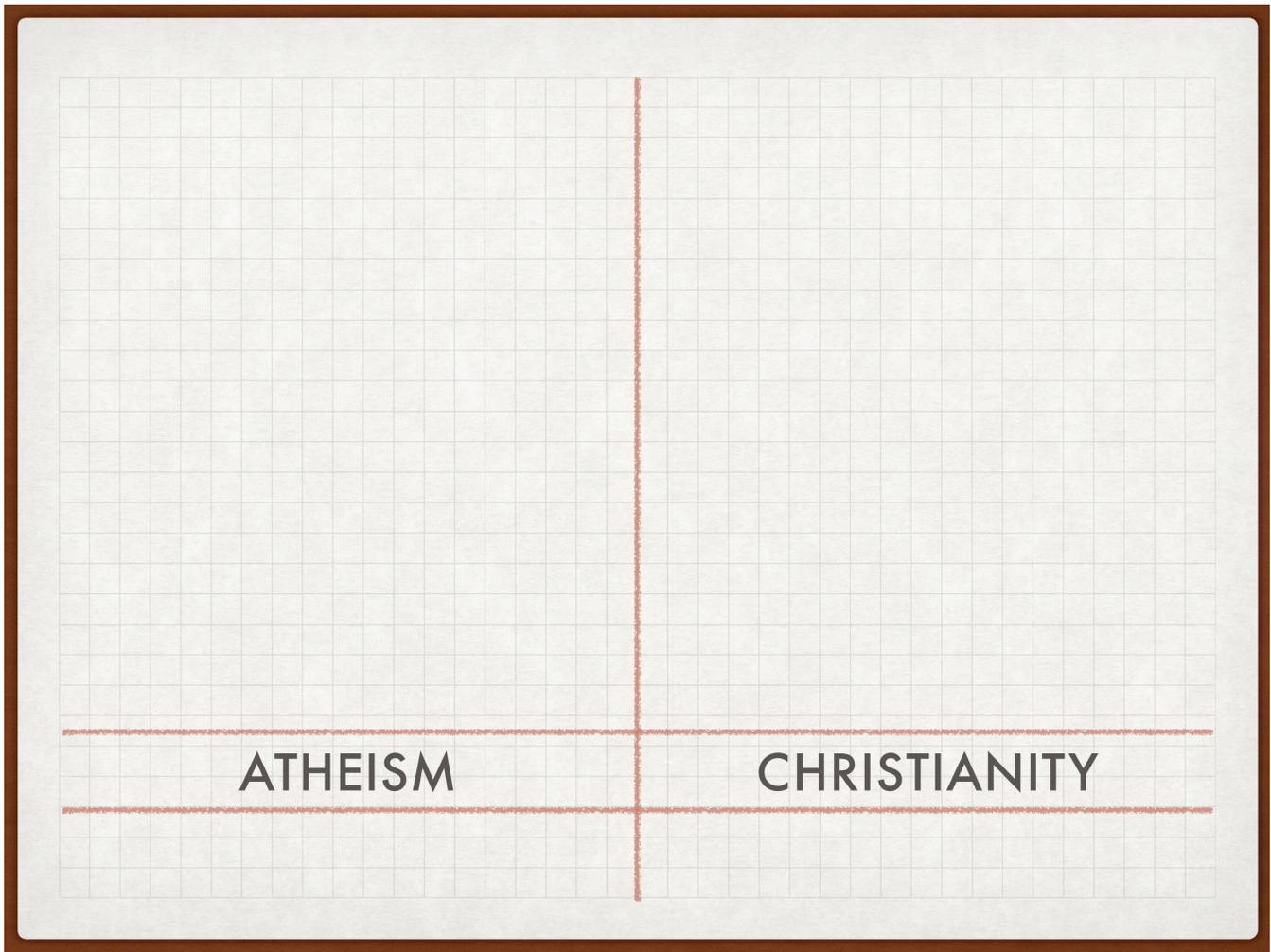
ATHEISM?

VS

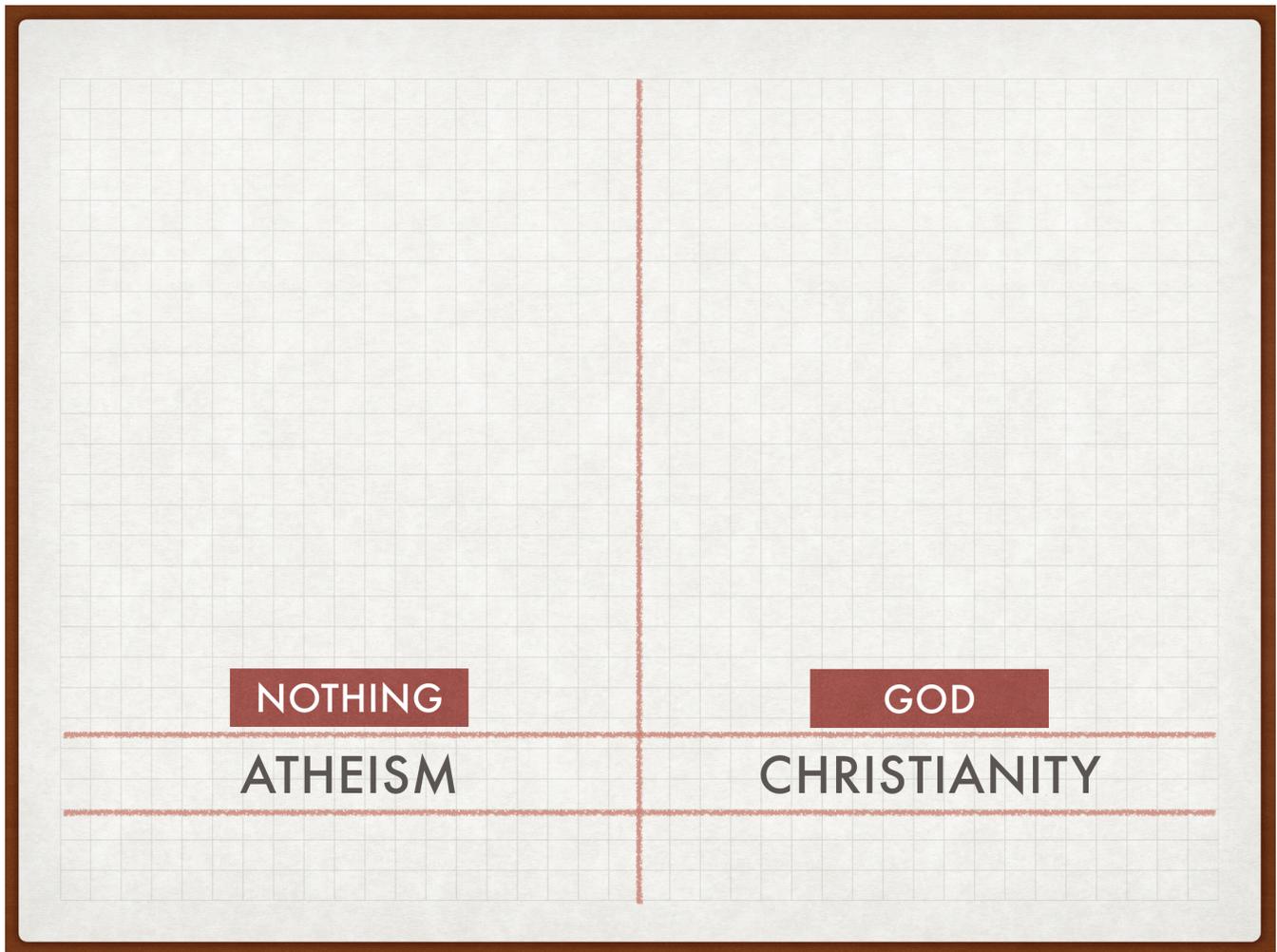
CHRISTIANITY?

In this booklet we're going to take a comparative look at two major belief systems that encompass much of the world's population: Atheism and Christianity. The question we're asking and answering is this: **What does it mean to truly believe in Atheism VS Christianity?**

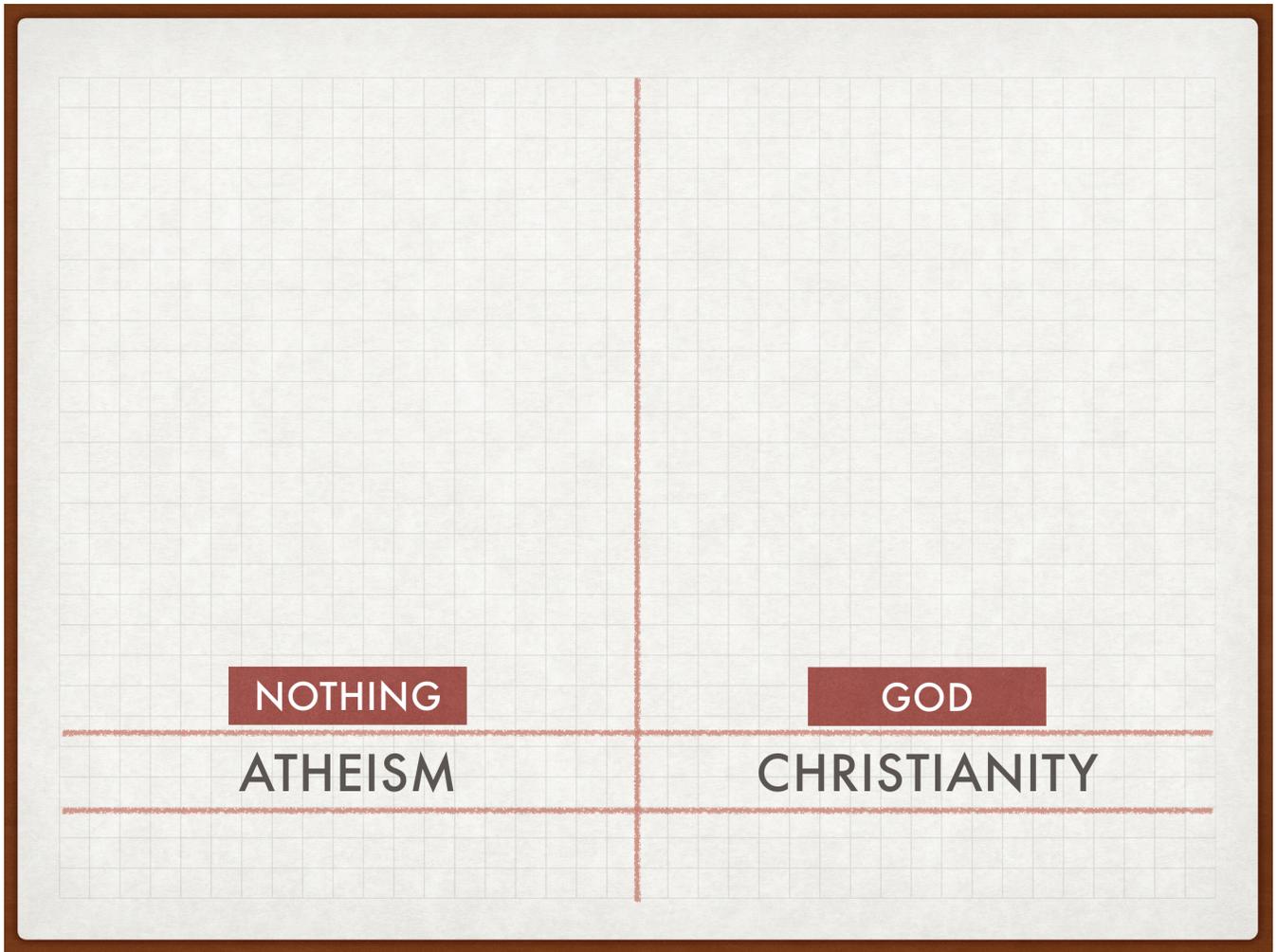
Christianity is more than "God loves you" and Atheism is more than "There is no God" and it's important that people on either side recognize and admit the true implications that are involved in both. As a Christian, my goal is to possibly help some in the Atheist camp realize they may not truly be Atheists after all. **Let's get started...**



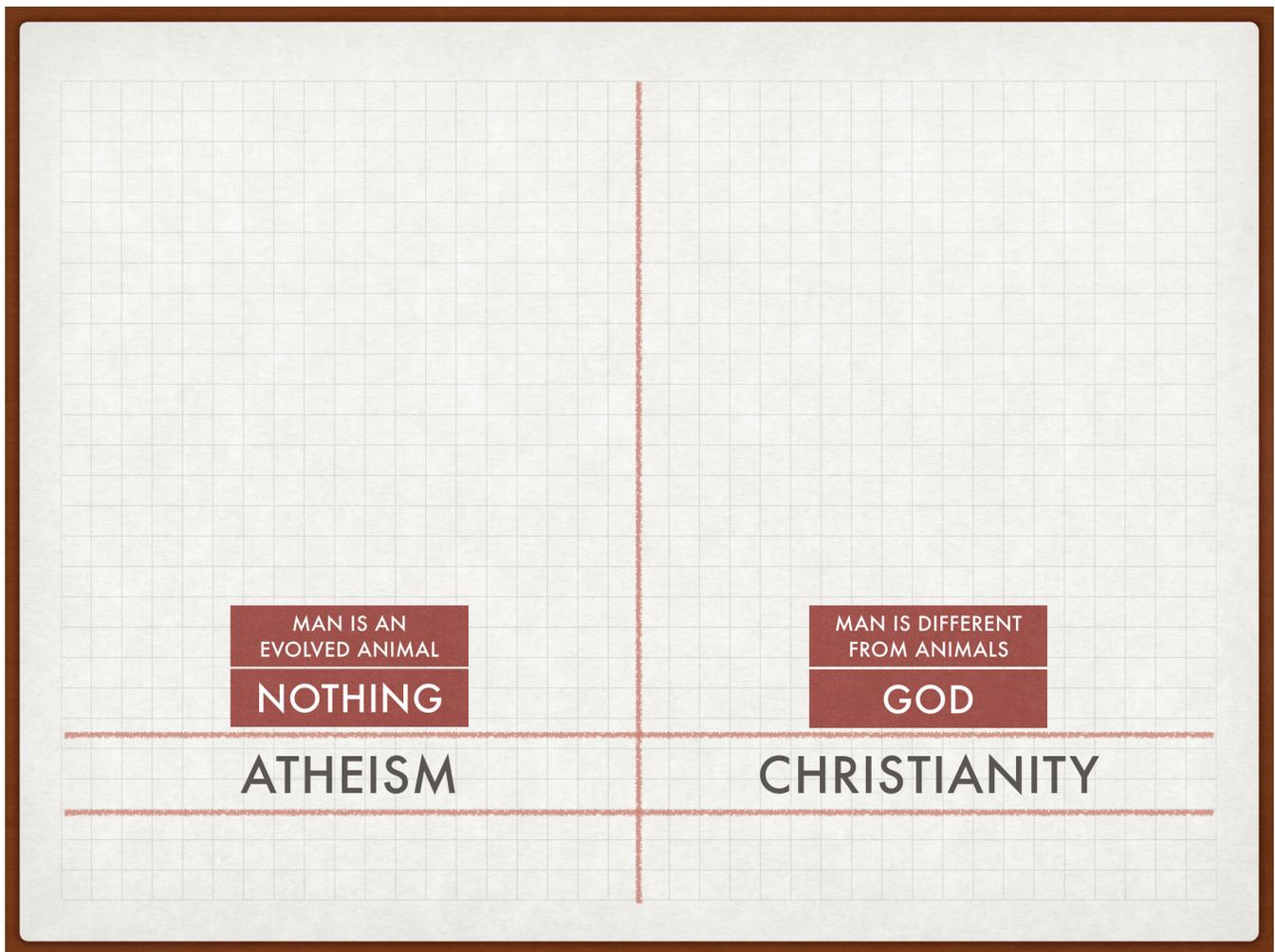
We begin with two sides. On one side we have Atheism and on the other, Christianity. The divide between them is clear and great. Polar opposites of belief. And it starts at the very foundational level...



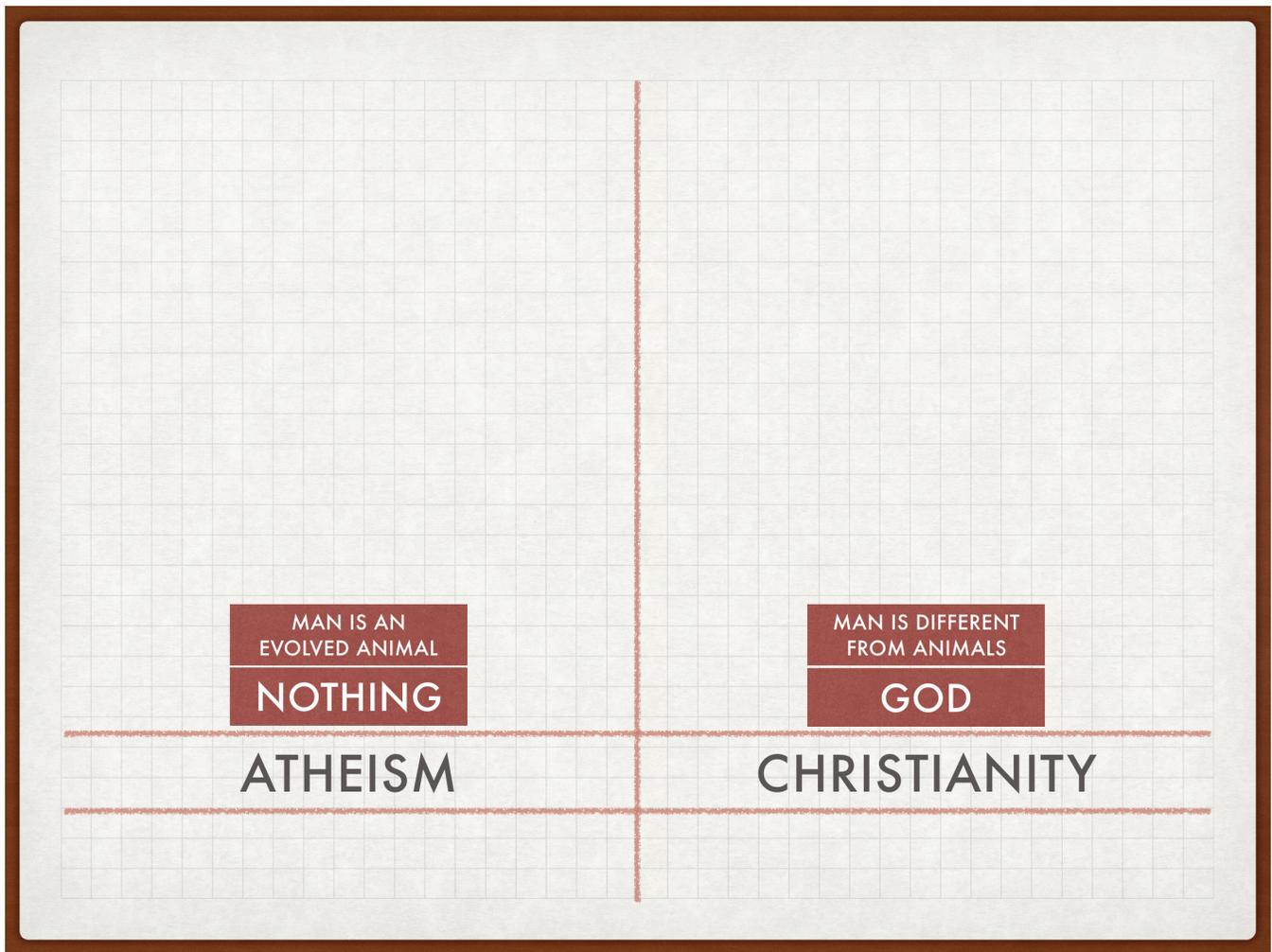
Christianity begins with God. Without God there is no Christianity. The ultimate reference source of Christianity is the Bible, which Christians believe is the inspired word of God. The Bible tells us God had no beginning and has no end. He is described as the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 22:13) meaning He has always existed and always will. Nothing created God because there's nothing bigger or outside of God. Through God all things - seen and unseen, physical and spiritual - have come into existence and this is how the Bible begins: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1) We exist because God made us.



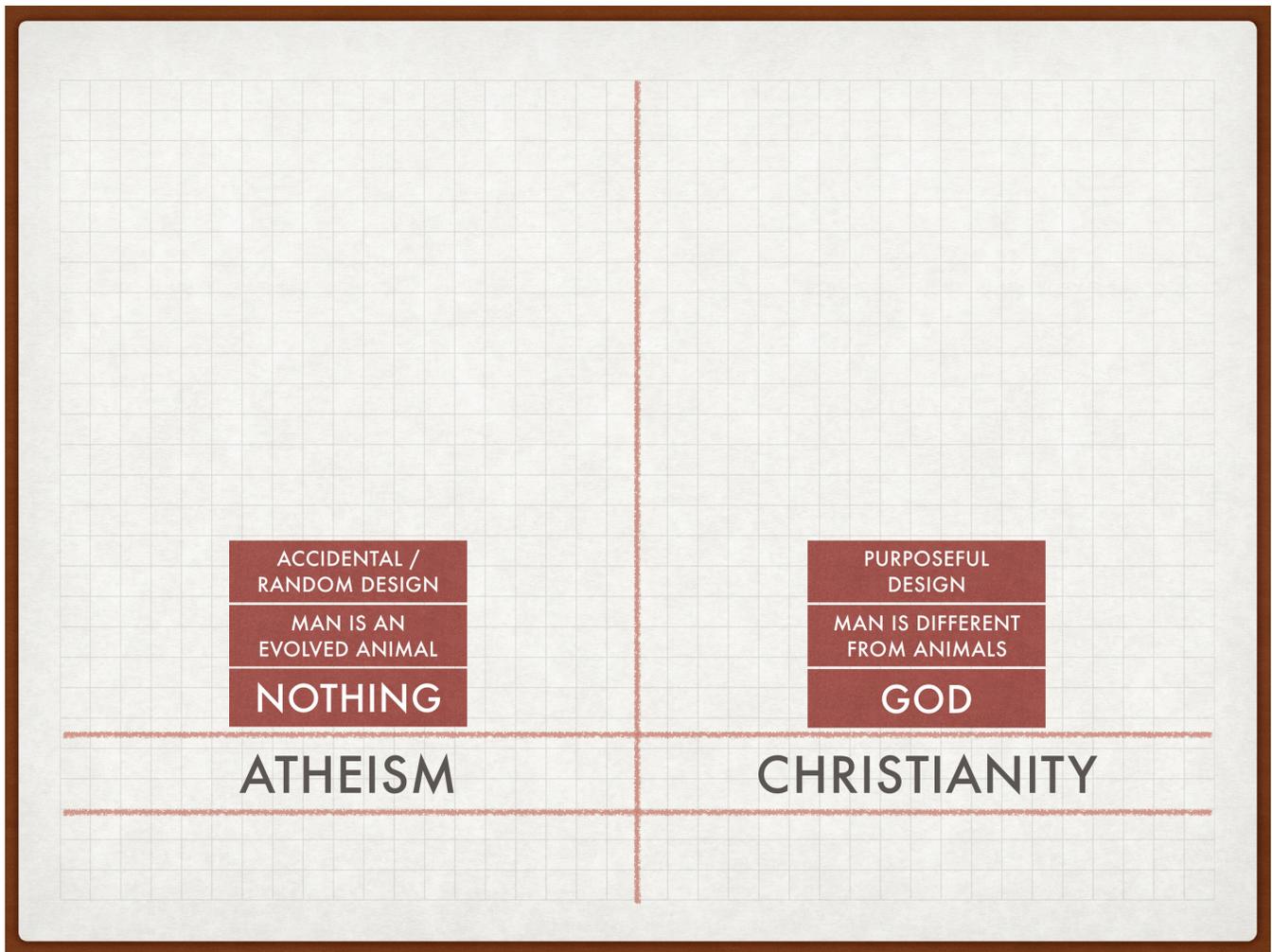
With Atheism, there is no God, therefore no creator, therefore our existence is owed to something else, but what? Atheism looks completely to science, nature and material things to explain our existence and for now that explanation has come to be called the Big Bang. Where and how the Big Bang happened, no one completely knows and the best guess that the world's most renowned scientific minds can come up with is that we came from nothing. So the something else is actually nothing. Nothing created all of this.



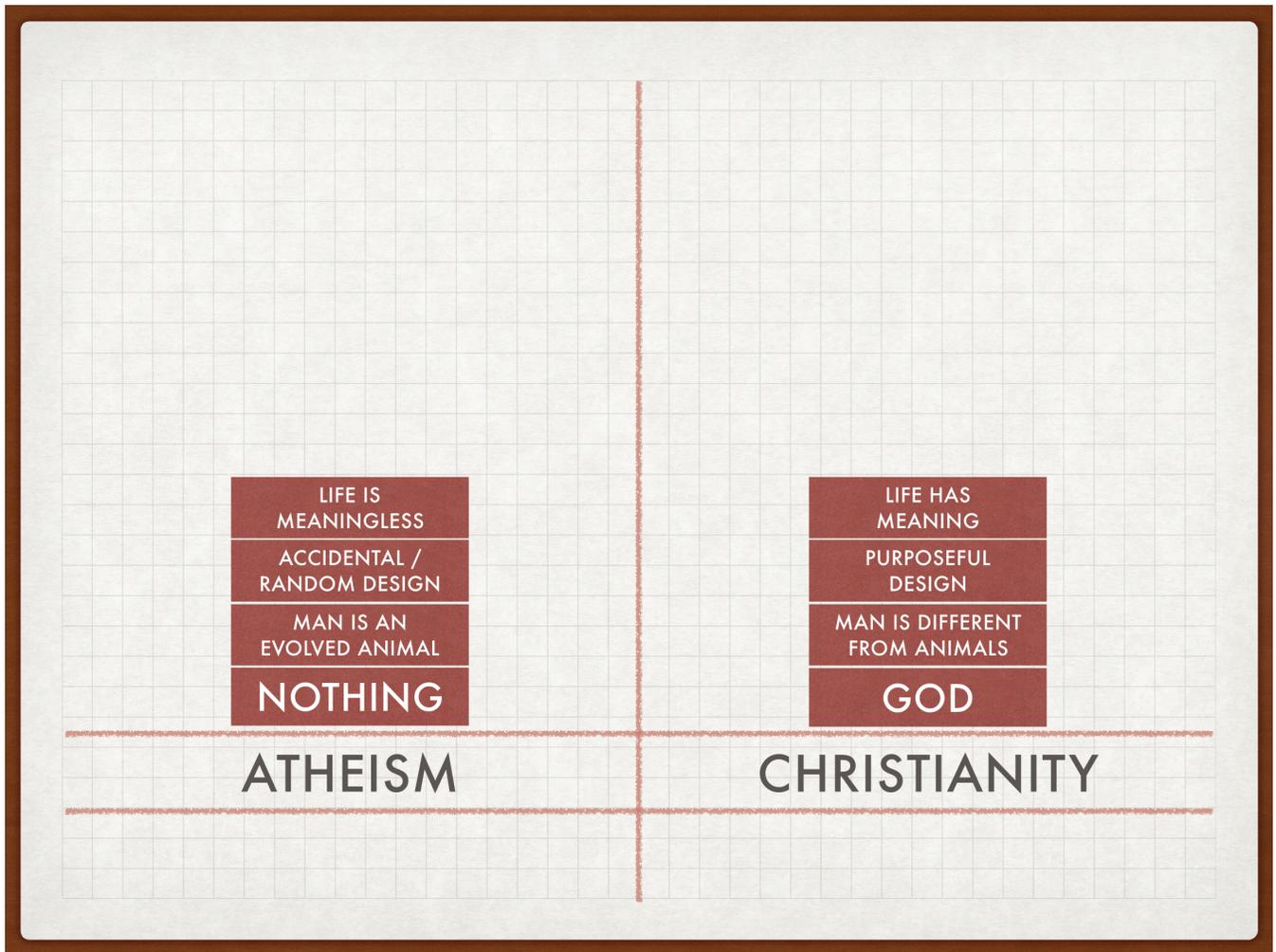
In regards to human beings, in the Atheistic worldview, we are nothing more than evolved animals. As most of us were taught in school, our ancestors are monkeys. Everything we as human beings do now that completely sets us apart from animals is due to some amazing genetic giant leap forward in intelligence that enabled us to begin figuring things out on our own while somehow leaving our monkey ancestors still in the past.



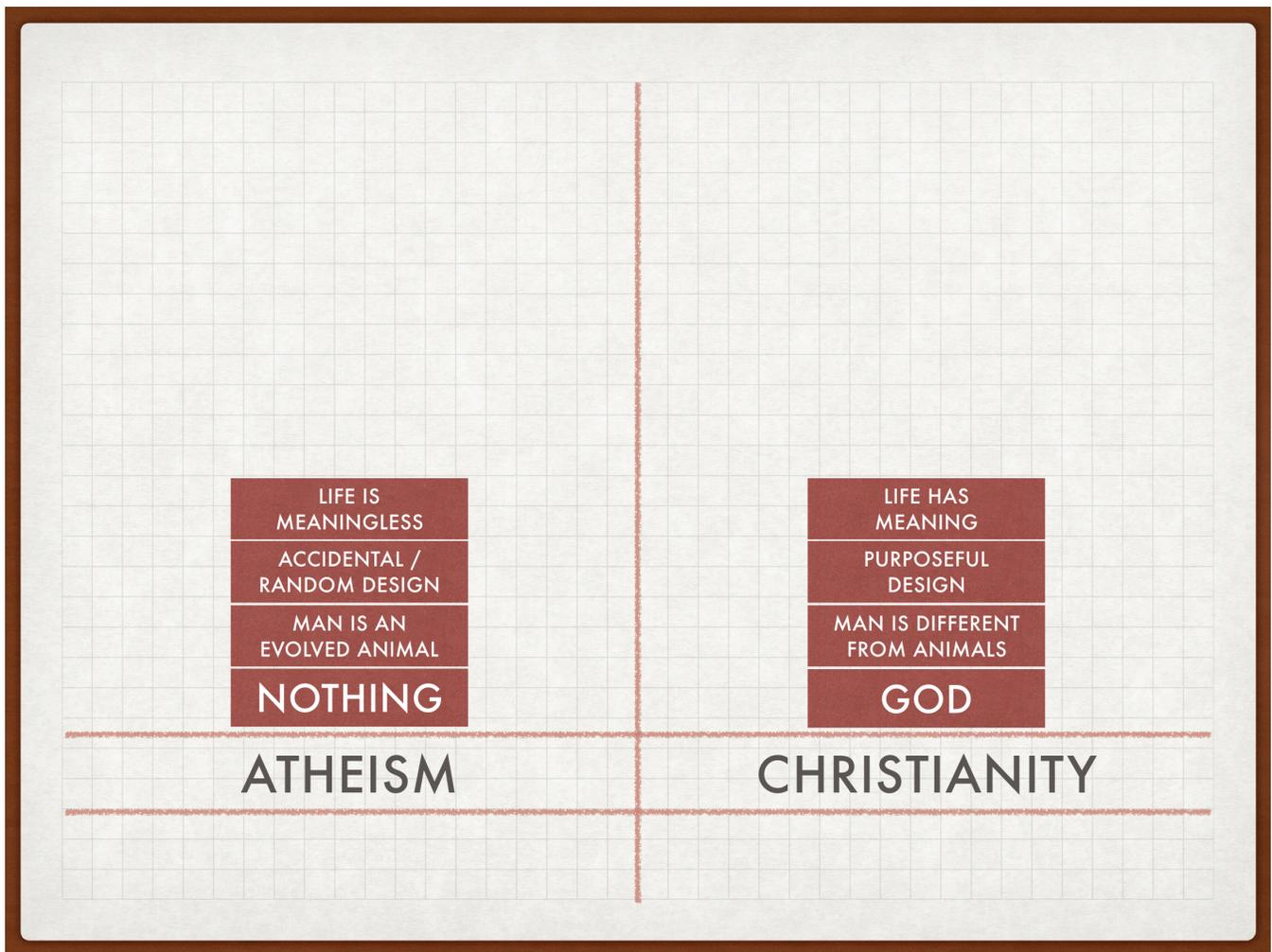
In the Christian worldview, we are different from animals because God created us to be different. Monkeys are nowhere in our family tree. In the Bible God says, “Let us create mankind in our image”. (Gen. 1:26-27) When God says “in our image” He means with the ability to reason, to understand right from wrong, with imagination and the potential for deep, meaningful and spiritual relationships with our Creator and with each other. Animals are an important part of God’s creation, but people are the true apple of His eye. We are His special creation.



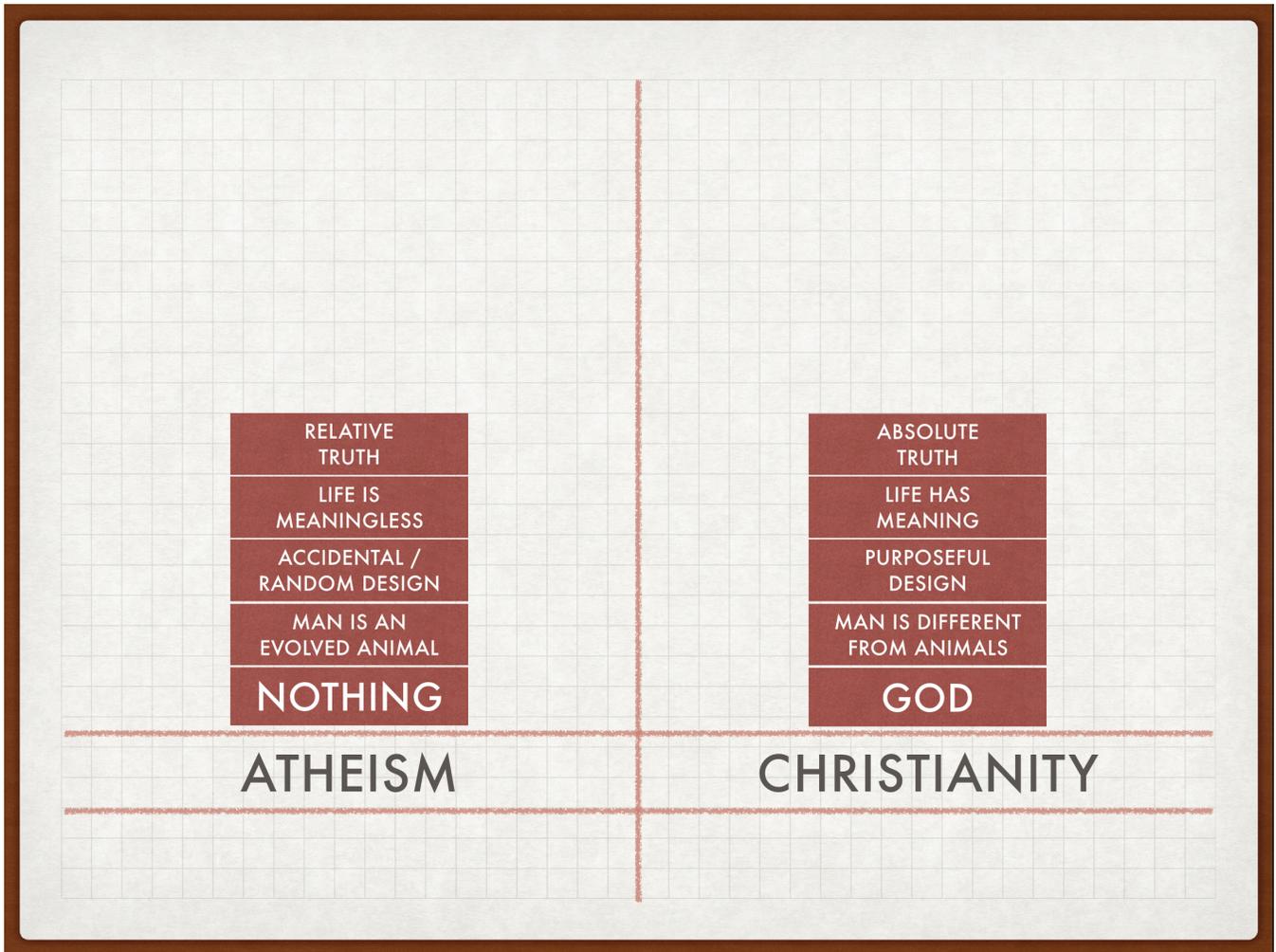
In Christianity, the universe and everything created makes sense because God makes sense of it all. Everything we see around us and within us has design so it's safe to conclude that it also has purpose. The purpose is not random or arbitrary and not some cosmic force of Mother Nature, rather it's intentional and intelligent because the design and purpose come from God. He is the Designer and everything He has made has come from His blueprint.



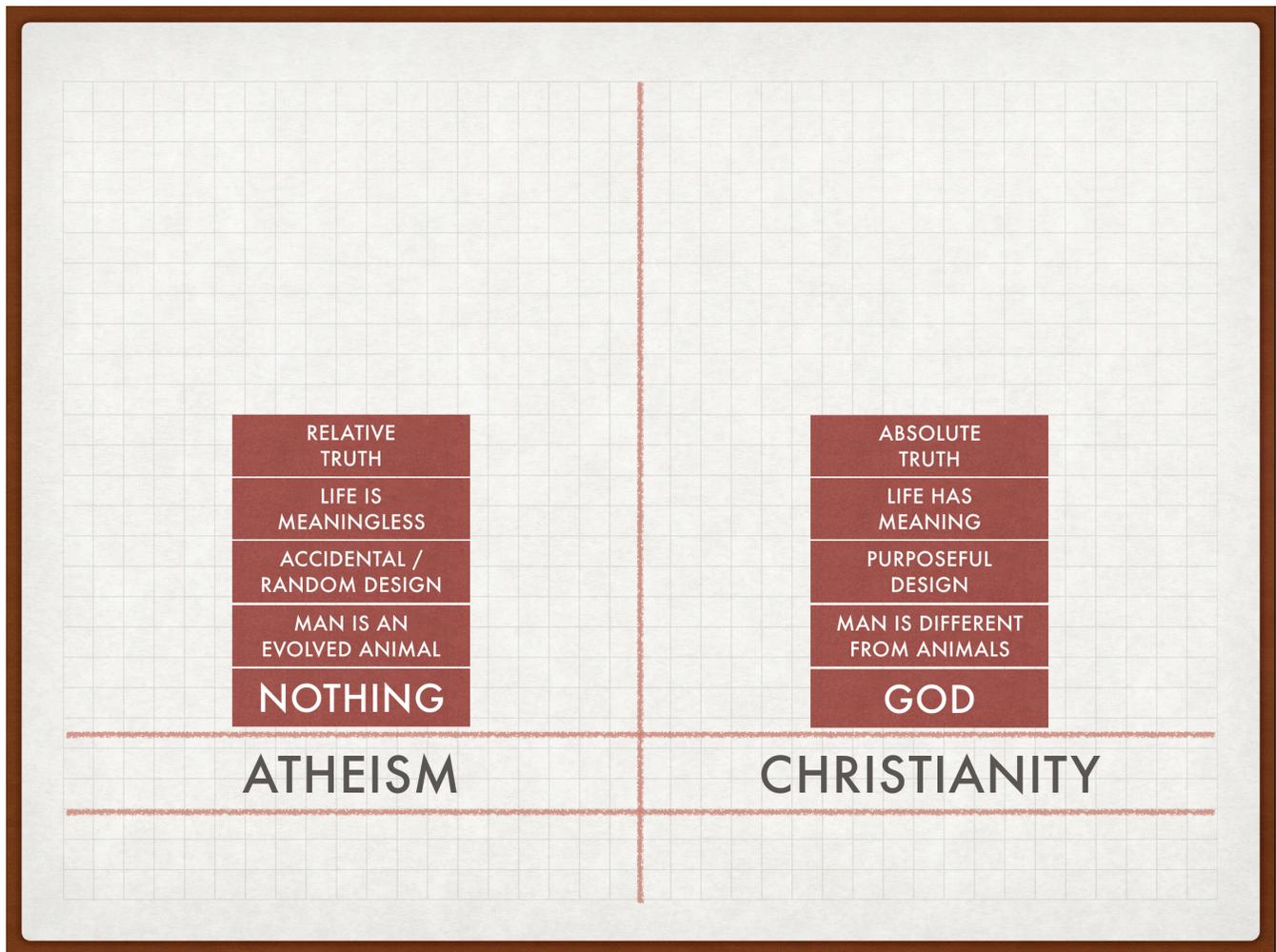
Atheism proposes that there is no creator, designer or higher authority behind our existence therefore the only meaning we can affix to our existence is self-imposed meaning. There is no absolute meaning beyond what each person chooses to determine for him or herself. In fact, there can be no absolute meaning if there is no absolute authority. Since our existence is accidental, life is truly and completely meaningless. An atheist can claim their life is meaningful and they can believe that, but it's wishful thinking because true and absolute meaning can only exist if there is a Reason behind and for your existence.



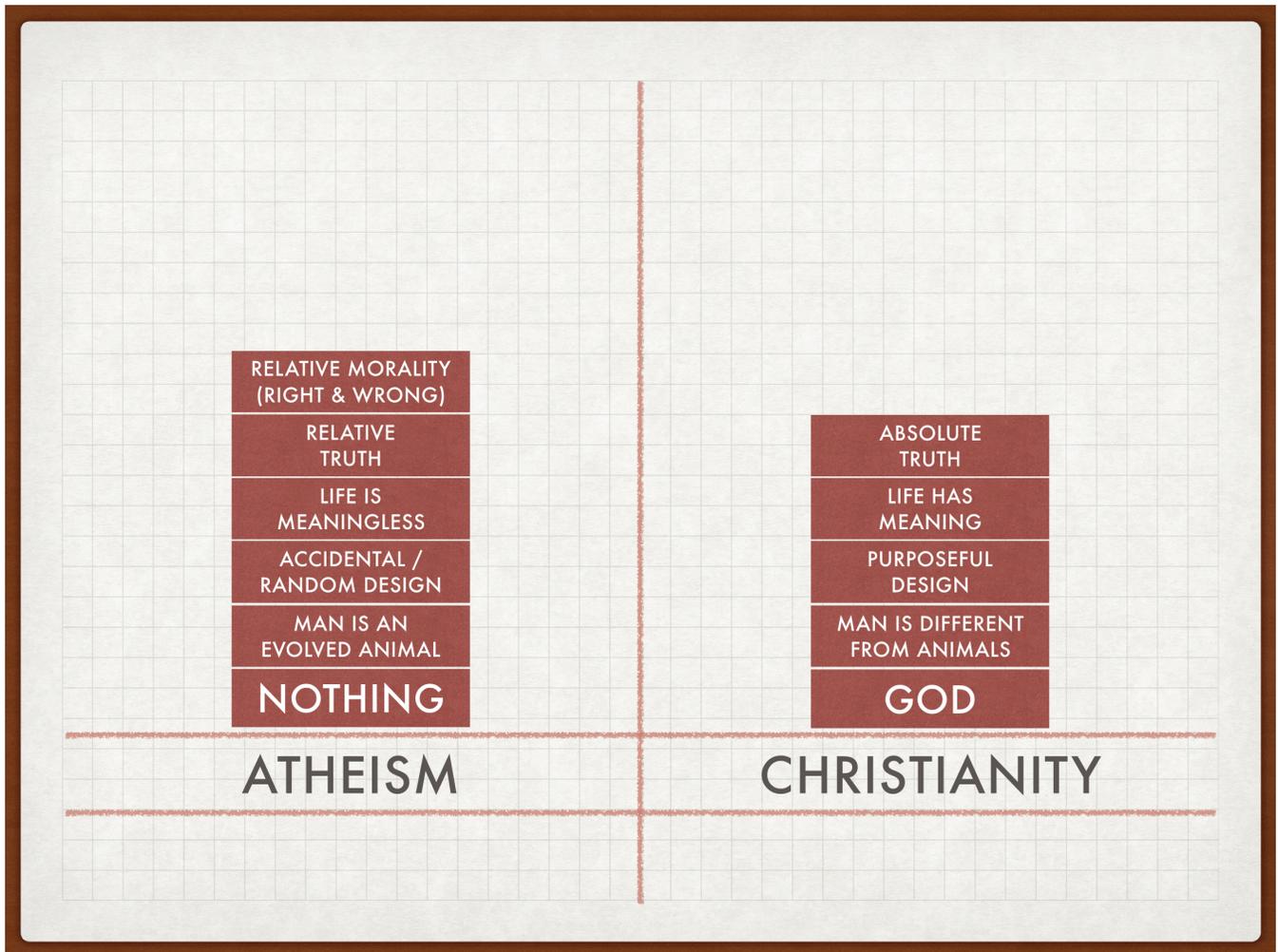
Christianity clearly says your life has meaning. There IS a reason you exist and it's because God created you. He made you because He wanted to make YOU. You are uniquely you. There is not another you in all of existence and God fashioned and designed your uniqueness. You are special to Him and because of that your life does have MEANING. There is absolute meaning to your life because you were made by God to fulfill a unique purpose in life, a purpose that God designed specifically for you.



Similarly, but with even greater ramifications, only in Christianity does there exist absolute TRUTH. For absolute truth to exist, there has to be a fixed and unchangeable standard against which all thoughts, ideas, theories, philosophies, feelings, intentions, motives and actions are measured. Absolute truth does not waiver or change and is not influenced by current trends or popular opinion. God is the perfect and unchangeable standard we are measured against. Absolute truth is so important for our human existence. As we will see in a moment, without absolute truth, it does not take much effort for the entire human race to sink into chaos.



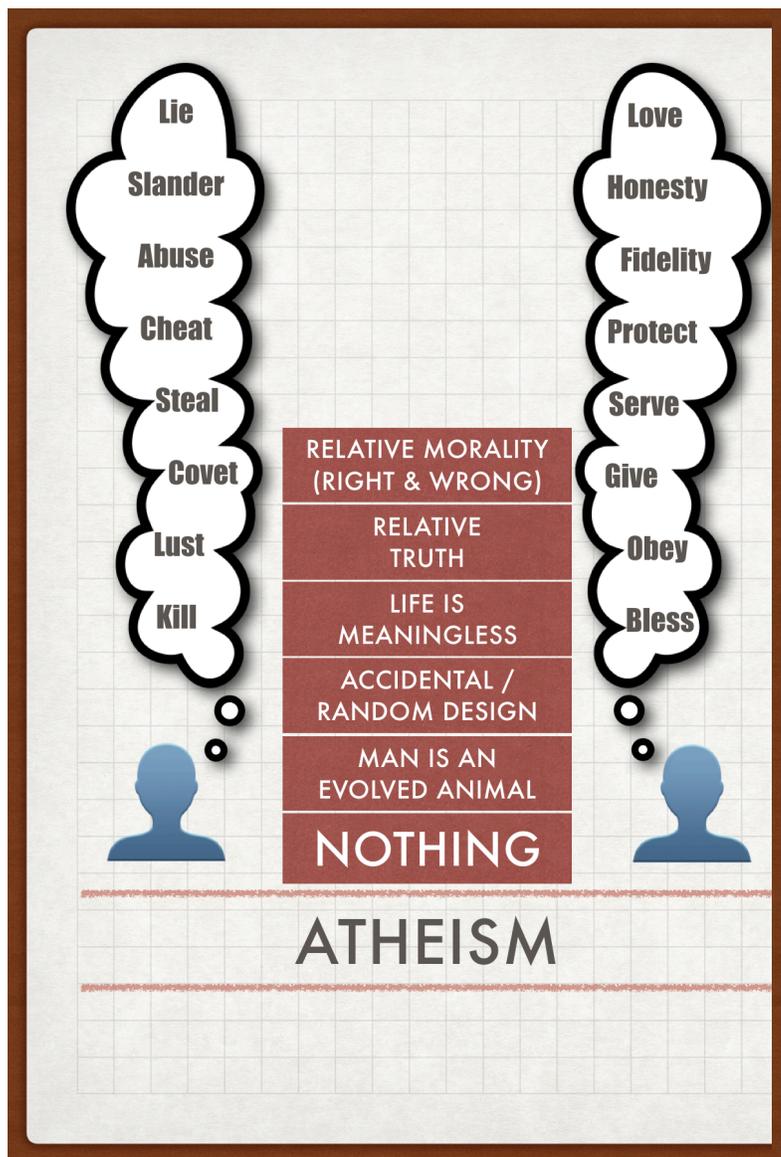
Atheists tend to ignore the true ramifications of what it means to live in a world without absolute truth. In reality, all of us, no matter our beliefs, live in a world of absolute standards. Time is an absolute standard. Mathematics is absolute. Absolute measurements are necessary in architecture, science, computer programming and manufacturing. Standardized tests are used to measure and gauge understanding and collect data. We hold companies accountable to maintain high industry standards that protect us as consumers. In the real worlds of business, science, medicine and education, standards are not optional, but crucial for growth, success and advancement. We can't live without absolutes, but in the world that atheism proposes, we can't live with them either.



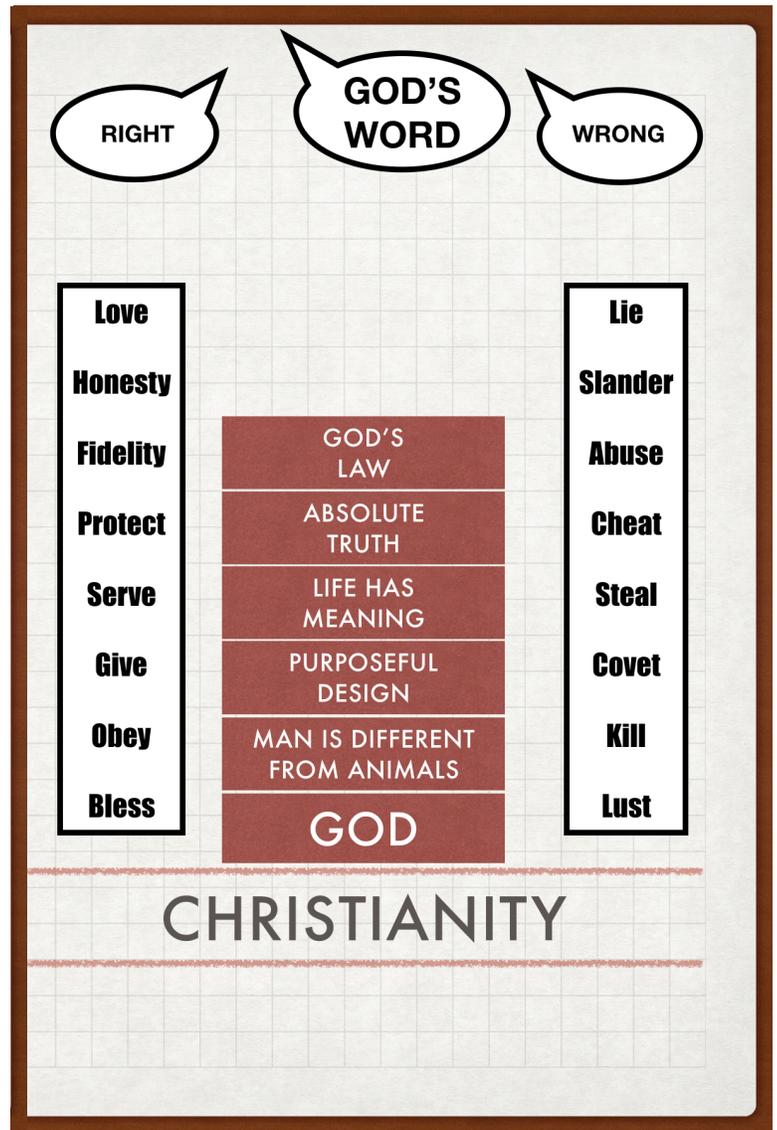
In addition, if there is no absolute truth, there can be no absolute Right or Wrong. As a result, Atheism **MUST** adhere to **relativism** which is the belief that each person, people group or culture defines for themselves or group what is true and false, right and wrong. In this worldview, each person is only accountable to him or herself. Concepts like decency, morality and kindness are not just optional, but actually undefinable and implausible in the big picture of meaningless existence. Relativism removes any responsibility to do the “right” thing because there is no absolute “right” or “wrong” thing. Let’s take a look at how this might play out:

One atheist might decide they want to love others, be honest, be faithful, protect others, serve others, be generous, obedient and try to live a life that is a blessing to those around them. But another atheist might very well decide that for him or her, there is no problem with lying, slandering, abusing, cheating, stealing, coveting, lusting and even killing. For this person, if these things are necessary for satisfaction in life then

they are okay because living for oneself is the ultimate ambition. Charles Darwin called it “survival of the fittest”. This is how we end up with a person like Hitler leading an entire country in atrocious acts against others. For Hitler, there was no problem with torturing and killing millions of Jews because he was living for himself and his own race. The ends justified the means and the FACT of the matter is, if there is no God then no person really and truly has the authority to tell another person what to believe and what they can and can't do.



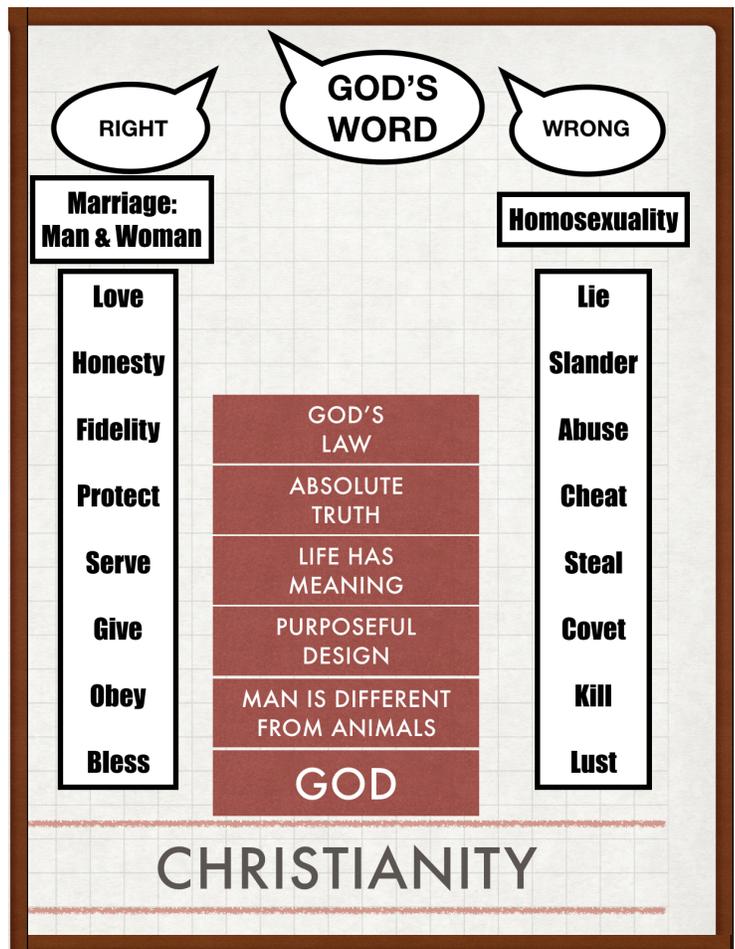
For the Christian, there is no issue about what is right or wrong because we look to God's word, God's law, for our Absolute truth. We don't get to decide for ourselves what's right and wrong. God decides this for us and communicates it down to us. Christians believe that if God designed and set all this up then He knows what's best so His laws are actually not harsh and strangling, but freeing and life giving.



Let's take another look at how this plays out: Christians look to God's word to know right from wrong. God says it's WRONG to lie, slander, abuse, cheat, steal, covet, lust and kill. No matter what you think about it. No matter how you feel about it. It's wrong and always will be wrong.

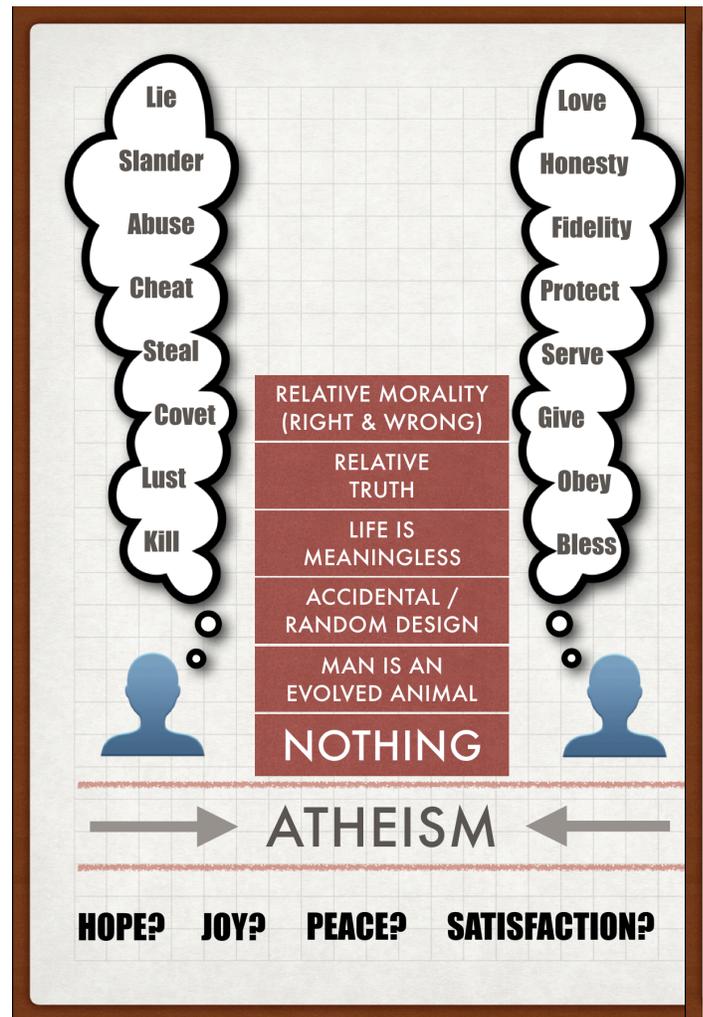
Likewise: God says it's RIGHT to love, be honest, be faithful, protect others, serve others, be generous, obedient and live a life that blesses others. These things are right know matter what you believe or think or feel and they will always be right.

A contemporary example of God's word directly opposing changing societal norms and practices is the institution of marriage. According to God's word, marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman. It's that's simple. A man and woman leave their families to become united together and begin a new family. (Gen. 2:18-24) This family unit is the bedrock of civilization and society and exists for the benefit and protection of mankind. In contrast, God's word describes homosexuality

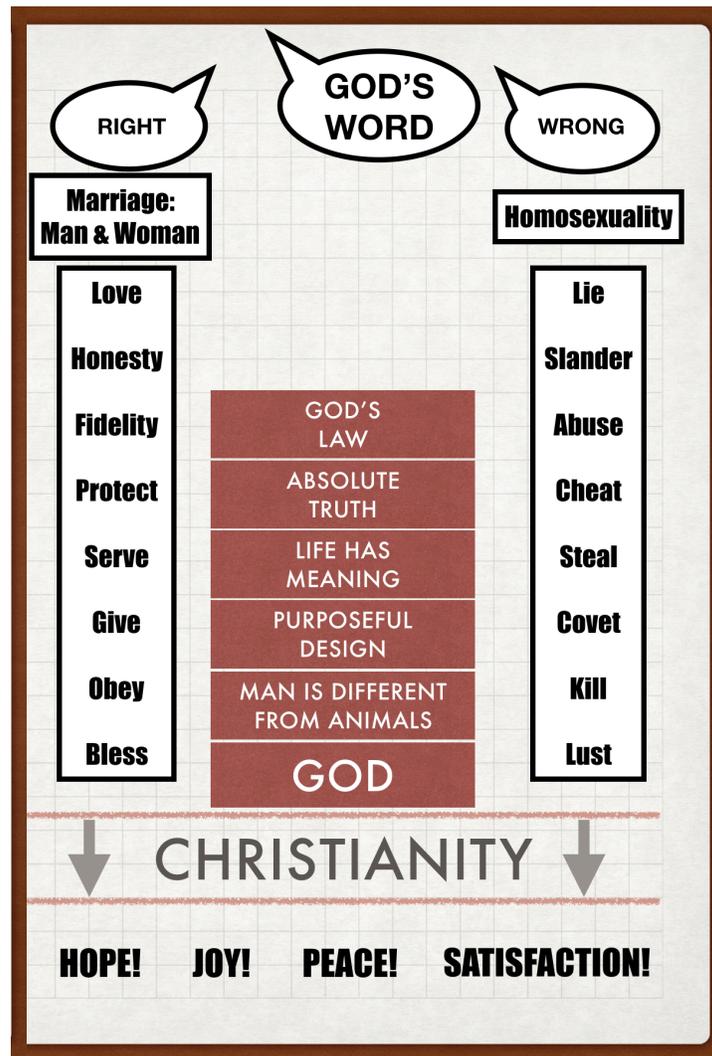


as wrong, sinful, and harmful to those who practice it and to society at large. (Lev. 18:22) Before the start of the 21st century you would have been hard pressed to find any country on earth that would allow, let alone promote, homosexual marriage, but times and practices have changed. Today, gay marriage is not only legal, but also celebrated in many countries around the globe. God's word has not changed on this subject, but people simply choose to ignore and spurn it. On the horizon are sure to be changes in acceptance and openness of other sexual practices such as polygamy, incest, pedophilia, and bestiality, all of which are described as sinful in God's word. As more and more people view God's word as obsolete instead of absolute, more and more will be ruled by their desires and as we've seen before and will continue to see again and again, mankind's proclivity to sin and self-destruction knows no bounds.

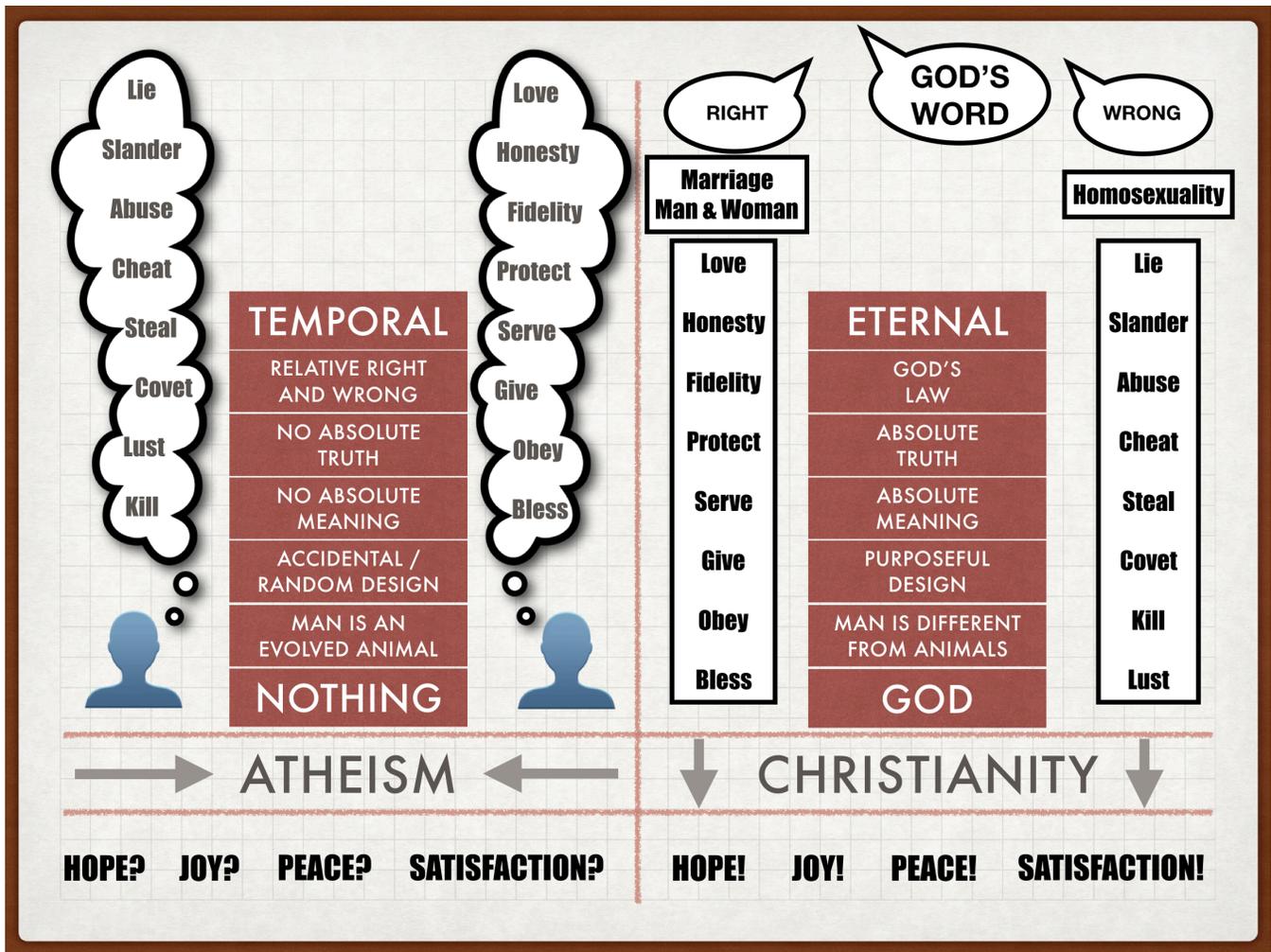
Let's move on now to other differences between Atheism and Christianity. One thing we all search and strive for in life is satisfaction. So how does the Christian and Atheist approach this pursuit? How do Christians and Atheists discover and maintain satisfaction in life and is there a difference? Well, we know that for the atheist, if there's any hope, joy, peace and satisfaction to be found, it is going to have to come from within or from other people. With no higher authority or creator to provide it for you, **you're on your own.**



This might not be a problem when things are going good, but life is unpredictable and pain unavoidable. So how does the atheist cope when difficult, confusing and even unbearable situations arise? The atheist looks to him or herself or to those around them for help. These are the ONLY sources that exist for the atheist. But aren't we all so full of doubt and despair at times and aren't those around us - even our family and friends - often fickle and unreliable? This is why hope, joy, peace and satisfaction can be so elusive. If your only source of relief is yourself or others, it's no wonder so many struggle with mental disorders and depression and look to medications for help. Many a successful, wealthy and by-all-appearances, "happy" person has chosen suicide because life just couldn't satisfy them enough to overcome the pain and struggles within.



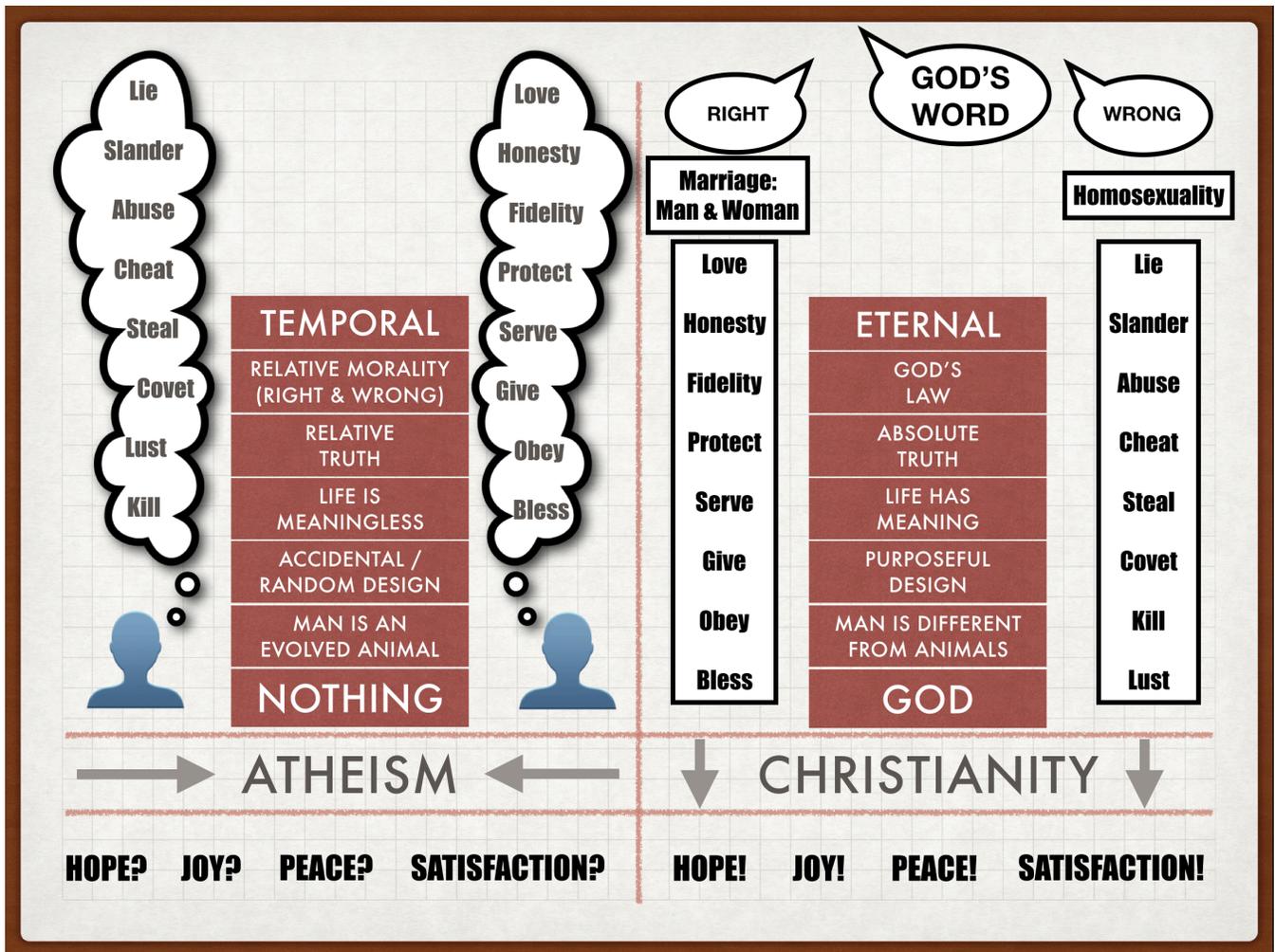
For the Christian, we don't have to look to ourselves or others for the HOPE, JOY, PEACE and SATISFACTION we long for. God pours this down into our hearts through His Spirit that dwells within us. It comes down from Him and His supply is unlimited and He is completely dependable and reliable. Of course we forget at times to "keep our eyes fixed on Jesus" and instead look to ourselves and others for satisfaction, but it usually doesn't take long for us to be reminded that these sources are sporadic at best and utterly disappointing at worst, while God's love and provision never fails. And this brings us to our next comparison:



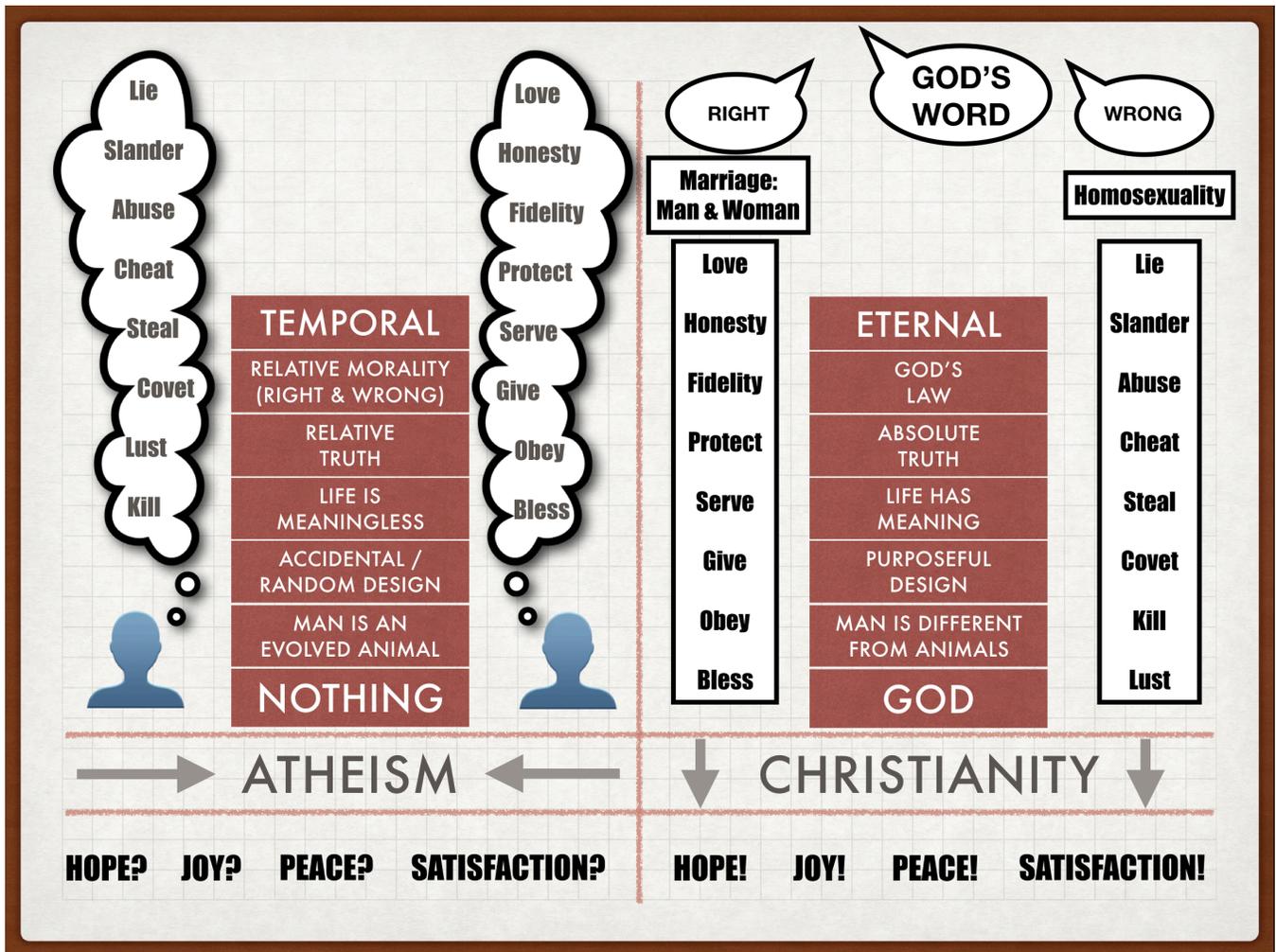
For this comparison, we go to God's word:

1 John 2:17 (NIV) The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

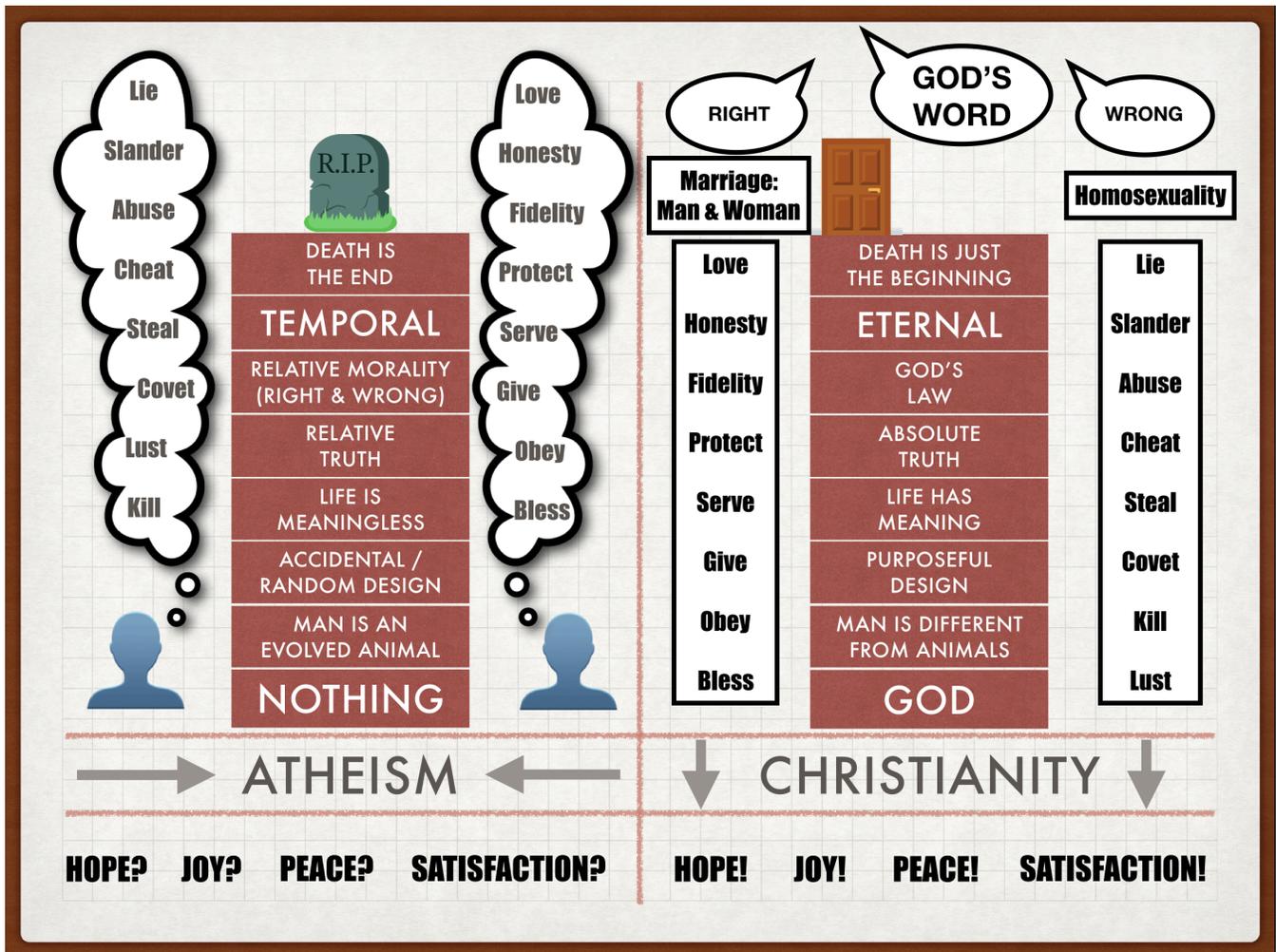
John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



In Christianity, we are characters in an eternal adventure and love story with our Creator. The human body, the Bible says, is just a shell that returns to dust upon death, but a man's spirit goes on to live forever. For the Christian, this short life on earth is just a very brief prelude to the real show, the main event which is eternity with God.

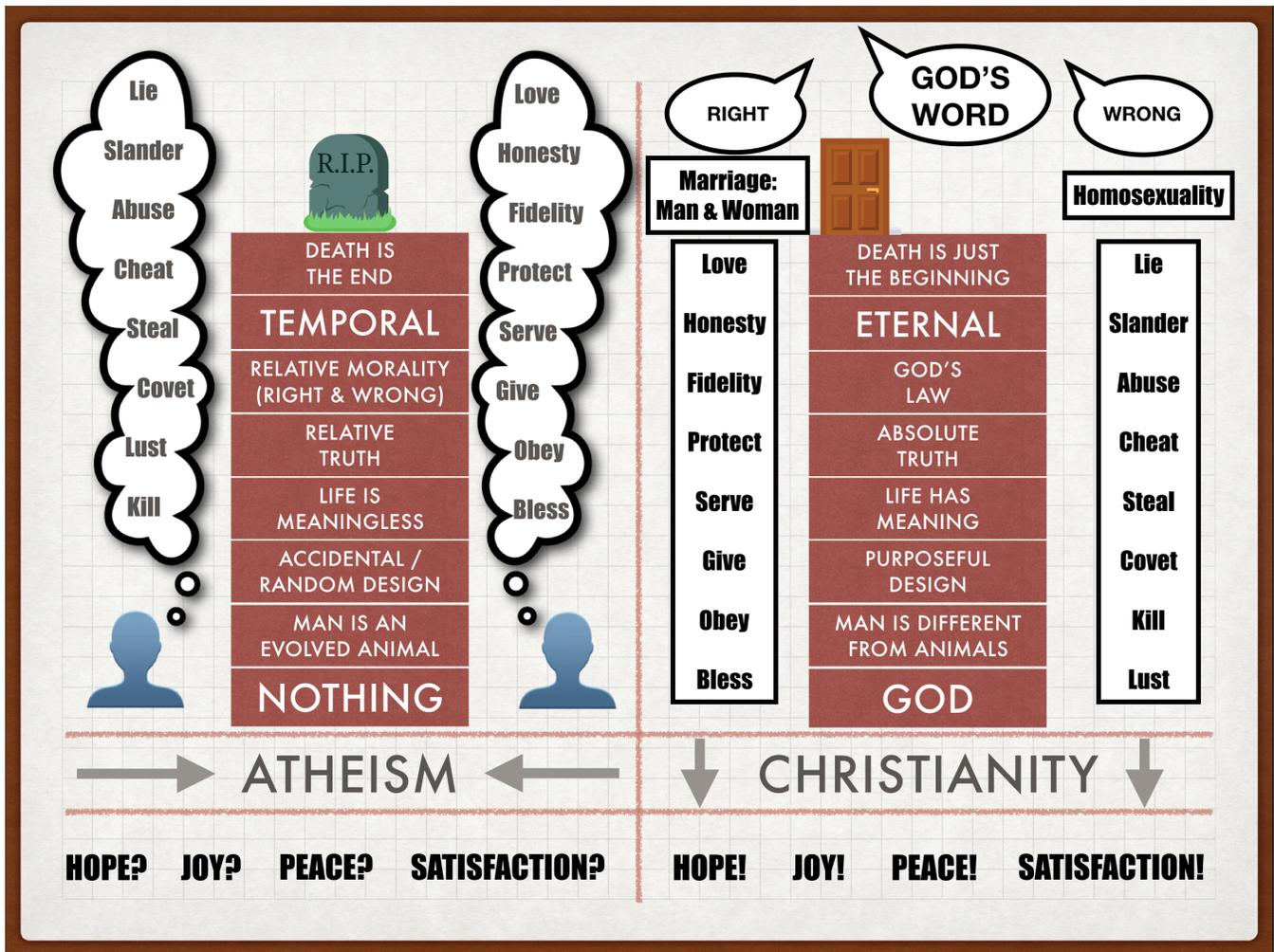


The atheist can only live for the moment because he or she only believes in the moment. There is no living for eternity because the atheist does not believe in life after death. We are only physical, there is no spirit or soul that lives on after death.



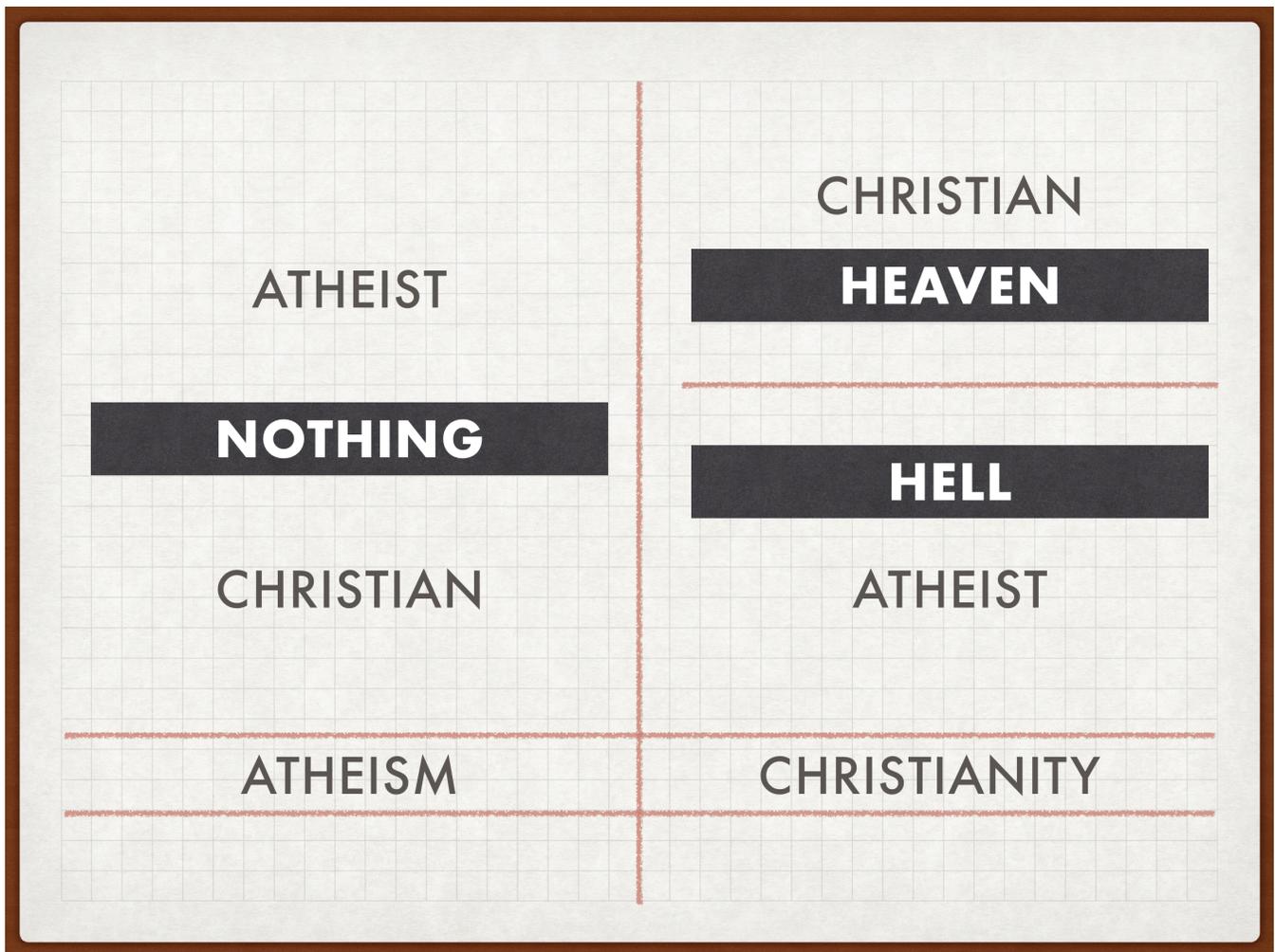
For the atheist, death is truly and completely the end.

**For the Christian,
death is just a doorway to heaven.
Death is just the beginning!**

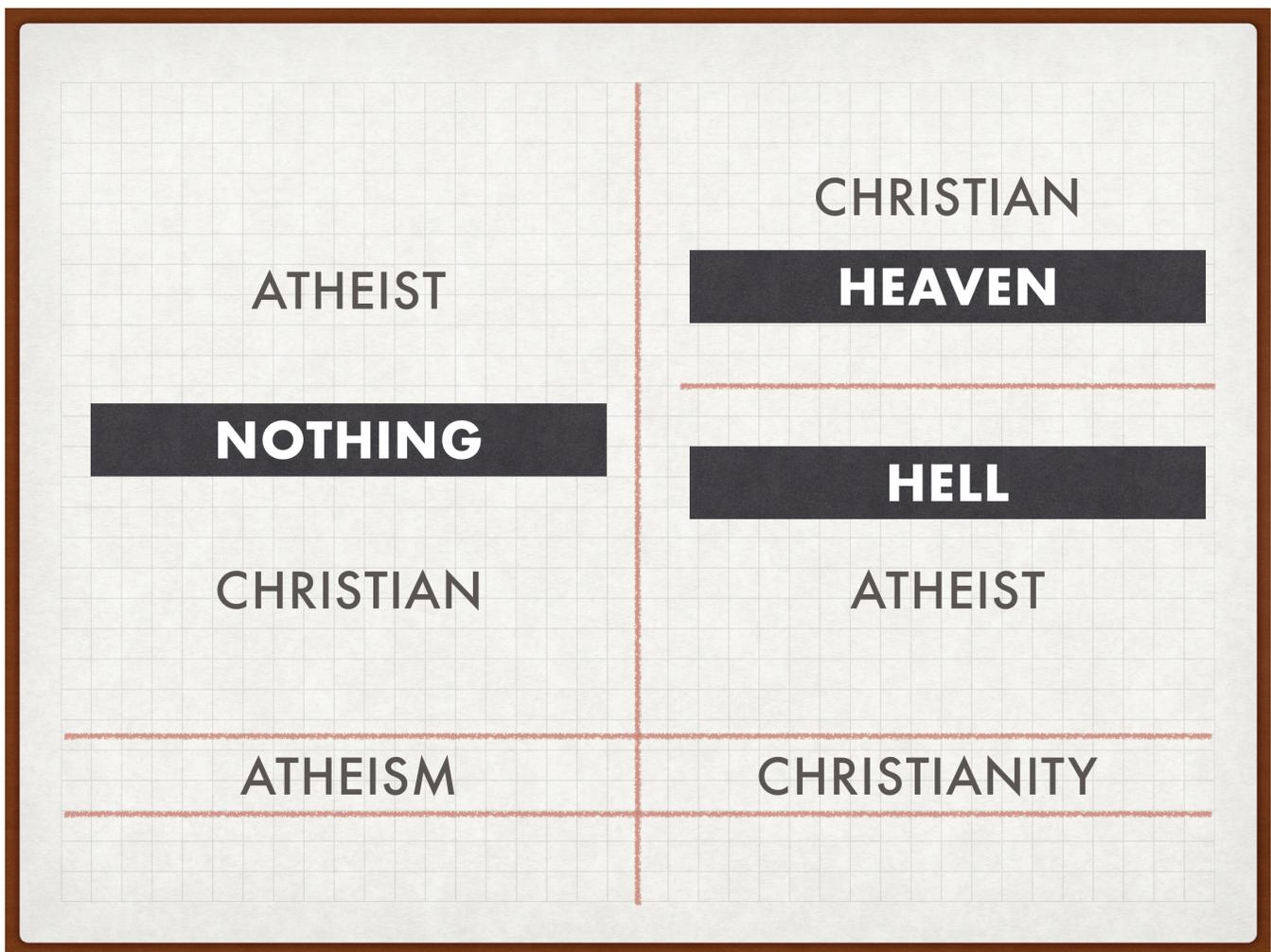


After laying out these basic differences between Atheism and Christianity, we can clearly see that the foundational tenets that support these two belief systems and the implications involved, could not be more opposing. **However, the greatest contrast begins when life on earth ends.**

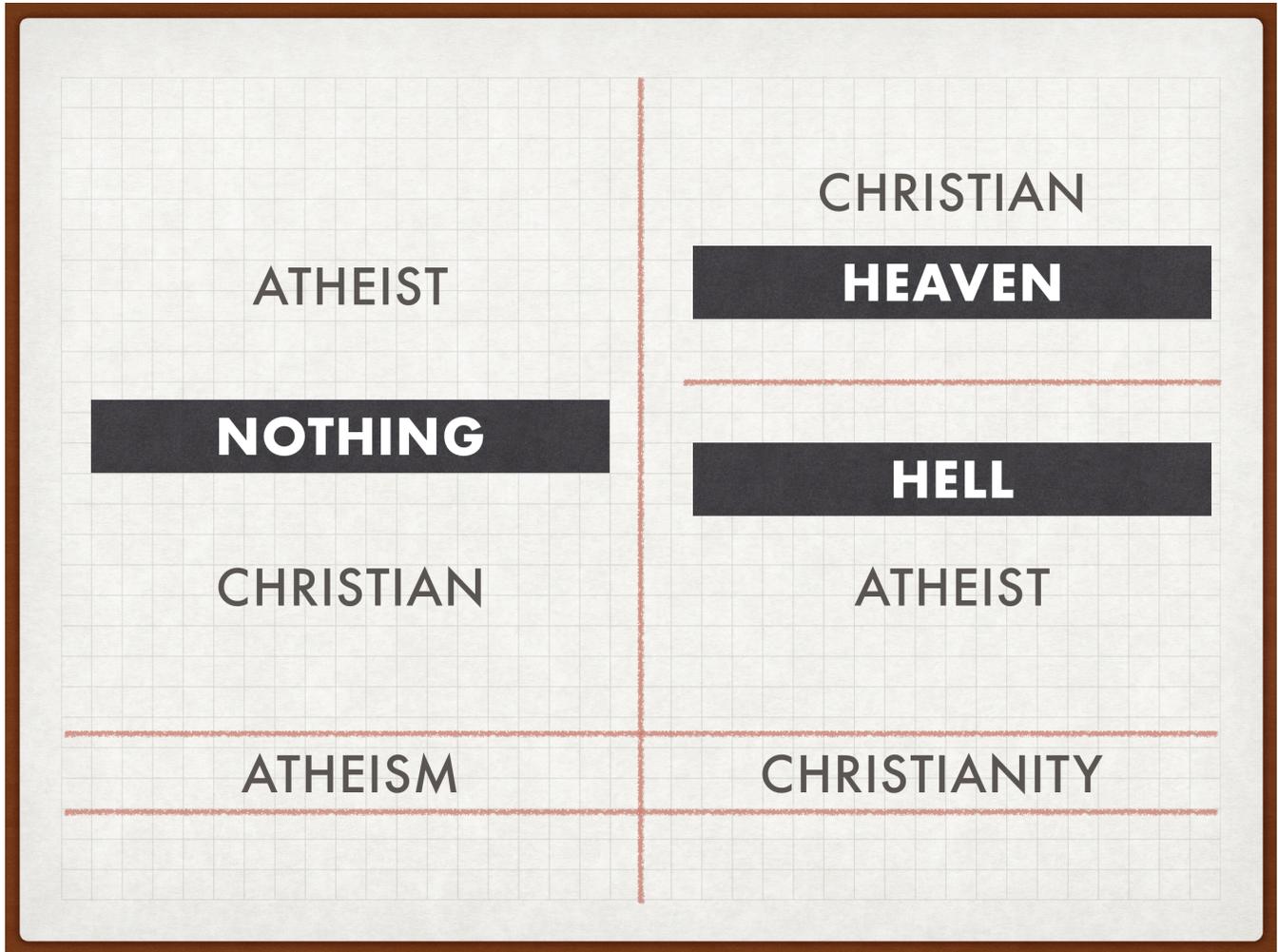
So to conclude this brief comparative analysis, let's look at what happens to the Atheist and the Christian when they die...



IF Atheism is TRUE then there is NO DIFFERENCE at all in the ultimate destination of the Christian or Atheist. BOTH simply cease to exist. They are completely and fully no more. They both get NOTHING and become NOTHING.



IF however, Christianity is TRUE then the ramifications of what you chose to believe on earth are really beyond one person's wildest dreams and one person's worst nightmares. If the God of the Bible exists, He has stipulated that those who confess their sins and believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ will be forgiven of their sins, made clean in God's sight and upon physical death, judged as guiltless and welcomed into **heaven** - a place with no more pain, suffering, tears or death - for eternity. Those who choose NOT to confess and believe in Jesus will die in their sins and be judged guilty and receive eternal damnation or separation from God in a place the Bible calls **hell** which is described as an eternal lake of fire.



The obvious question we come to at the end of this booklet is this: **Which one is true?**

And if you don't know or you aren't sure, then **on which of these belief systems would you rather base your life and place your bet on the chance that eternity is real?**

WHAT DO YOU THINK? - We have all sinned and deserve God's judgment. God, the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment for those who believe in Him. Jesus, the Son of God, loves us so much that He lived a sinless life and then died for our sins, taking the punishment we deserve. He was buried and then three days later rose from the dead. If you truly believe and trust in Jesus, you will be forgiven of all your sins, saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven.

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” Psalm 14:1

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

“Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.” Galatians 6:7-8

“Jesus said, ‘Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.’”

John 5:24

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