

## Introduction

Witch Hunt Production

“I’d rather be black than gay because when you’re black you don’t have to tell your mother.”

That’s a quote from Charles Pierce, commenting on the stigma that comes with homosexuality in our culture.

You are listening to Religion Roundtable

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## 11 My Comments/News

Why I named the show Religion Roundtable?

There is an urgent need to understand homosexuality and the lives of homosexuals.

Religion is the go-to source for discrimination against homosexuals, homophobia, poor treatment of gays, physical/emotional abuse, and of course murder.

We also need to understand the religious/political pressure to which homosexuals are subjected: the repeated theocratic attempt to constitutionally ban gay marriage, which is to use a wedge divisive issue to garner support from people who would otherwise not support the party’s entire agenda and performance.

The issue boils down to this: Is homosexuality about “natural” vs. “unnatural” as religionists are told to believe, or perhaps about divinely sanctioned or “ungodly,” or is it actually about “familiar” vs. “unfamiliar?”

People who personally know homosexuals are more likely to afford homosexuals equal social rights. They are more likely to overcome their religious prejudices.

So is homophobia just another example of irrationally fearing the unknown?

Before we get into it, let's begin with this question: Is being a homosexual something people just are, or is homosexuality a behavior people choose? This will tell us if it is natural or not.

Have to make the distinction between homosexual orientation from birth and homosexual behavior:

Homosexual behavior is fairly common in adolescence.

But the prevalence of homosexual orientation in adults is estimated between 7 % and 11%.

At the same time, it is chosen by adults under certain circumstances, like when access to the opposite sex is prevented (private religious schools, military service, prisons, etc.).

Maybe because it is clearly chosen sometimes, some religionists erroneously think it is always chosen.

But think about it: If it is a chosen behavior, and we are actually all born heterosexual, why would any heterosexual choose it when it means a life of abuse, discrimination, and suffering, and maybe being murdered? In fact, how can a heterosexual choose it? If a man is born to be attracted to women, it would be impossible to just up and decide to sexually be with men. Imagine, heterosexual listeners, just deciding to be homosexual, then ask yourselves if you really believe that homosexuals, born as heterosexual as you are, just decide to be gay.

Then ask yourself how you can ask someone who is born homosexual to be heterosexual without being a hypocrite.

And here we're talking about physical attraction, but what about emotional attraction, as in conjugal relationships? Can you just choose that too?

The "choice" theory has as its evidence people supposedly "converted" from a homosexual lifestyle to a heterosexual one, usually by counseling, often by religious conversion and suppression. But its success rate is not very impressive. And, it heavily relies on a narrow religious identity and imposed feelings of guilt.

Urban legends:

Poor parenting explanation: Many studies that gays did not bond closely to their fathers, and lesbians did not bond well with their mothers. But other studies show no such parenting problem. Also, the studies are more revealing that bonding issues are a result, not a cause, of homosexuality.

Some conservative Christians believe that people become homosexual because it is taught to them as children. So religious conservatives oppose education classes that discuss sexual orientation, and campaign against gays' and lesbians' right to adopt children.

But the evidence doesn't support this belief: Most all children raised by gay parents grow up heterosexual. The sexual orientations of one's parents appear to have little or no influence over the orientation of their children.

Also, gays and lesbians aren't any less common in societies which condemn homosexuals; they're not any more common in accepting societies.

Some people believe that an individual makes a conscious choice to become gay or lesbian at puberty. But when child psychologists can accurately identify which pre-school children will grow up to be homosexual, this belief doesn't add up either. At age twelve, 25.9% of the children were "unsure" of their sexual orientation. This figure declined to 5% by age 17, with an average "unsure" for all age groups of 10.7%.

Some equate homosexuality to a moral failure like being a thief. But homosexuality exists in animal species that lack moral systems.

Some fundamentalist Christians and Muslims believe that homosexuals are possessed by demons. All I can suggest to those who believe that is please join us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 1 Minute Raise Questions

Is homosexuality is naturally occurring, why create gods that detest it? Why can't we define our god according to what is natural to human beings, instead of imposing unnatural and unhealthy expectations on ourselves?

### 12 Minutes Guest/Skit/Callers/E-mails

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Fun Fact: There are words in Greek for same-sex sexual activities, but they do not appear in the original text of the New Testament. The word "homosexual" did not appear in any translation of the Christian Bible until 1946.

But, Christians believe that the Bible condemns homosexuals to hell, which just goes to prove that most Christians don't bother reading the Bible, and certainly not in Greek.

The Bible is just a book. It is literature from the Dark Ages, not the word of a perfect God. And if you irrationally believe it is the word of a perfect being, then you should want to know what that perfect being had in mind when he inspired the Bible.

For example: The Bible does not mention original sin. That doctrine is also based on a poor translation of Paul. But even if you think that we are all sinners, isn't it contradictory for a Christian to think that being

gay is particularly worse than any other sin? Tolerance towards sinners, no matter what the sin, was Jesus's cornerstone teaching.

Leviticus 20:13 (NIV)

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

First off, these commandments apply only to ancient Israelites, it applies only to men, not women, and it is not even talking about gays loving each other. It is just saying no anal sex.

Second, rules about anal sex in Leviticus can't be separated from the commandment to "be fruitful and multiply." Anal sex and masturbation were taboo because it wasted semen, but nothing here about lesbianism or any other aspect of a gay relationship, including loving each other.

Any Judeo-Christian Muslim homophobes out there that masturbate? Any that have sex and pull out before orgasm? Any that use contraception? Anyone out there PARTY TO MALE EJACULATION without wanting a baby or there being the possibility of having a baby? If so, you've broken this commandment. Still want to throw stones and live in a glass house?

And in case you haven't noticed: The "be fruitful and multiply" commandment has been fulfilled many times over, so wasting seed at this point is probably not high on this Yahweh character's list of concerns.

Genesis 2:24: "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh." Fundamentalists say from this that God wants men and women married.

Any single monotheists out there that hate homosexuals but don't plan on marrying? And what about celibate priests? How can you break this commandment and then hypocritically proclaim from a pulpit that homosexuality is bad because it goes against this commandment?

By the way, I am purposely ignoring the obvious point that this is just words on paper written by men.

Leviticus 11:12 says that eating shellfish is an abomination. Red Lobster anyone?

Leviticus 11:7 & 8 says that touching the skin of a dead pig would make you unclean. Football, anyone? Sounds like there's gonna be plenty of football in hell.

Leviticus 18:19 says we can't touch women during their period. Now I know plenty of Christians are breaking that command from their literary god.

Leviticus 19:19 says we can't wear clothing woven of two different kinds of material. Uh huh. Too bad god didn't say anything about polyester.

Leviticus 19:27 forbids cutting hair. Why are barbers still in business in this Christian nation? We're doomed!

Leviticus 25:44 says we can own male and female slaves, but they have to be from neighboring nations. I don't know about you, but I'm going to get me some Canadian slaves.

So why the hypocrisy? Why are the commandments dealing with anal sex among Israelites more important than these other ones?

Isn't it more likely that some God had nothing to do with any of these commands, but rather the tribal people of that time and place just codified their cultural biases by calling them the will of their god?

All they are saying is: If you men want to get your rocks off, have sex with a woman. We need babies. We got to have our sons on the front lines defending our property. It's the same old story. Hitler asked Germans to make more babies too, and for that same reason.

Irony is, my family and some extended relatives are the only original Hebrews I know. So this applies to us when we are in Israel IF the population of the earth drops to a few million again.

These primitive people did not have a concept of homosexuality as it exists today.

This was patriarchy: men ruled and women were property.

Most meaningful relationships for men were with other men.

Engaging in sex with women was not about love and affection. It was about babies. Any Christian couples in love out there want to go back to those days? I don't think so.

In a 1992 study, 55.5% of gay men and 71.2% of lesbians were in steady relationships. No steady gay relationships back then. Not part of the Hebrew cultural context.

Yet homosexuals have no rights today when a partner becomes incapacitated because of accident or illness. Why are we stuck in the Dark Ages?

This disempowerment of gays could not happen without organized religion.

Monotheistic religions especially have contributed to the most suppressive and violence producing attitudes towards sexual issues, especially homosexuality.

But those religions were wrong about slavery, they were wrong to call women the property of men, they were wrong about the earth being flat and the center of the solar system, they were wrong about asking for a life of celibacy from priests who then abuse young boys as a sexual outlet, and they are also wrong on homosexuality.

So what's evil, homosexuality, or brainwashing people with beliefs that cause violence, hatred, bigotry, and a life of guilt and suppression?

Here's the irony: young boys will engage in homosexual behavior when their heterosexual sexual outlets are closed off by religious beliefs and sequestering. So, religions that abhor homosexuality

should therefore allow their youths to naturally express their sexual desire with the opposite sex. But do they? No.

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Science: Most homosexuality is inborn, or acquired early in life, possibly by infection, or by biochemical imbalances in the womb, perhaps helped along by some genetic predisposition.

Even the Roman Catholic Church, while condemning homosexual acts as sinful, concedes that the predilection to such acts may be inborn, in which case homosexuals "are called to chastity." (Article 2359 of the current Catechism.) We've heard how good that works.

So if religions truly admit that people are born homosexual, then they should encourage gay marriage instead of suppressing homosexuality with dogma and forcing homosexuals to get married, have children, and pass on the gay gene.

One experiment showed that male homosexuals have a different brain structure than heterosexuals.

The presence of certain hormone imbalances during critical periods of gestation can have the effect of hyper-masculinizing the brain of a male infant perhaps leading to a homosexual orientation.

A group of researchers at the University of Texas found structural differences in the inner ears between lesbians and heterosexual women. The structure of the inner ear forms before birth and is affected during pregnancy by androgens.

If AIDS is God's punishment of gays, despite the fact that they didn't choose to be that way (something people didn't know in the Dark Ages) then why didn't God create the disease thousands of years ago? Why are women who have sex with men supposedly getting the disease? Shouldn't a heterosexual be exempt from getting the

disease from using a dirty needle? Are homosexual animals also receiving God's wrath?

Paul was against lust and sensuality in anyone, including heterosexuals. He didn't know of homosexuality other than as hedonism. He couldn't imagine what we have today. Heck, he didn't even believe the world was going to last a generation. I don't think he was too concerned with being fruitful and multiplying.

To say that homosexuality is bad means for Paul that you can say heterosexuals can be bad for the same reasons.

Paul was not referring to lasting homosexual relationships. He was thinking of hedonism, which heterosexuals can be guilty of as well.

How many Christian husbands keep their wives virgins?

Paul didn't condemn homosexuality the way we understand it, but attacked Greek temple worship and the orgies involved.

And no matter what he wrote, it is just one man's opinion, uninformed by modern science and research.

Romans 1:26-27 speaks only of heterosexual people who act 'contrary to their nature.' Paul criticized heterosexuals who were engaged in sexual activity which was unnatural for them, meaning homosexuality.

Paul does not condemn homosexual behavior in homosexuals.

The lines don't offer any guidance to homosexual or bisexual people.

In other words, churches that try to convert a homosexual from birth to heterosexuality are going against Paul's wishes.

Here's what Paul was familiar with: Casual homosexual activities outside of a committed, monogamous heterosexual relationship, homosexual molestation between a man and a child, or group homosexual practices such as in a religious setting. This was a common practice among Pagans at the time.

So Paul may well have not been thinking of gays and lesbians in committed relationships when he wrote this passage. He never referred to such couples in his writings, and probably never encountered any during his lifetime. He might simply have been condemning homosexual orgies in Pagan sexual rituals.

At the end of Verse 27 it says "due penalty of their error." Their basic error was to engage in idolatry. From the idolatry flowed sexual orgies, sexual behavior against their nature, greed, murder. Paul is saying that idolatry leads to moral decay. Unnatural homosexual was merely one symptom of Pagan idolatry.

Passage refers to bisexuals and bisexual behavior: In Greek and Roman society of the time, bisexuality was regarded as quite natural; people in some walks of society were expected to engage in bisexual relations. Since most of them were heterosexual, bisexual activity would be against their personal nature. This behavior would be condemned because it is against their nature. One source states

Paul believed that the only natural, normal sexual activity was between one man and one woman for the purpose of procreation. Thus "unnatural" sex would include:

Anyone engaging in sex for pure enjoyment, married couples who engaged in intercourse even though one partner was sterile, and married couples who had sex even though the woman was not in the fertile part of her cycle, or was past childbearing years.

The Pope, speaking to a conference on marriage and the family, reaffirmed the Church's position that marriage had to be a union between a man and a woman and open to procreation.

``Only the rock of total and irrevocable love between a man and a woman is capable of being the foundation of building a society that becomes a home for all mankind," he said.

He told the group that marriage was between a man and a woman ``who are open to the transmission of life and thus cooperate with God in the generation of new human beings."

Why the mystification of sex?

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Let's talk about the treatment of gays.

COUNTRY	MAX. PENALTY
Mauritania	Death
Nigeria	14
Sudan	Death
Tanzania	Life
Uganda	Life
Afghanistan	15
India	Life
Iran	Death
Malaysia	20
Myanmar	Life
Pakistan	Life
Saudi Arabia	Death
Singapore	Life
UAE	Death
Yemen	Death
Barbados	Life
Trinidad	25

"Within the typical secondary school curriculum, homosexuals do not exist. They are 'nonpersons' in the finest Stalinist sense. They have fought no battles, held no offices, explored nowhere, written no literature, built nothing, invented nothing and solved no equations.

The lesson to the heterosexual student is abundantly clear: homosexuals do nothing of consequence. To the homosexual student, the message has even greater power: no one who has ever felt as you do has done anything worth mentioning."

Alexander the Great

\*Macedonian Ruler, 300 B.C.

Socrates

\*Greek Philosopher, 400 B.C.

Sappho

\*Greek Woman Poet, 600 B.C.

Hadrian

\*Roman Emperor, 1st-2nd c.

Richard the Lionhearted

\*English King, 12th c.

Saladin

\*Sultan of Egypt and Syria

Desiderius Erasmus

\*Dutch Monk, Philosopher

Francis Bacon

\*English statesman, author

Frederick the Great

\*King of Prussia

Lord Byron

\*English poet, 18th c.

Walt Whitman

\*U.S. poet, author, 19th c.

Oscar Wilde

\*Irish author, 19th c.

Marcel Proust

\*French author, 20th c.

Colette

\*French author, 20th c.

Gertrude Stein

\*U.S. poet, author, 20th c.

Alice B. Toklas

\*U.S. author, 20th c.

Federico Garcia Lorca

\*Spanish author, 20th c.

Cole Porter

\*U.S. composer, 20th c.  
Virginia Woolf  
\*English author, 20th c.  
Leonard Bernstein  
\*U.S. composer, 20th c.  
Pope Julius III  
\*1550-1555  
T.E. Lawrence  
\*English soldier, author, 20th c.  
Jean Cocteau  
\*French writer, director, 20th c.  
Charles Laughton  
\*English actor, 20th c.  
Marguerite Yourcenar  
\*Belgian author, 20th c.  
Tennessee Williams  
\*U.S. Playwright, 20th c.  
James Baldwin  
\*U.S. author, 20th c.  
Andy Warhol  
\*U.S. artist, 20th c.  
Michelangelo  
\*Italian artist, 15th c.  
Leonardo Da Vinci  
\*Ital. Artist, scientist, 15th c.  
Christopher Marlowe  
\*Eng. Playwright, 16th c.  
Herman Melville  
\*U.S. author, 19th c.  
Horatio Alger, Jr.  
\*U.S. author, 19th c.  
Tchaikovsky  
\*Russian composer, 19th c.  
Willa Cather  
\*U.S. author, 19th c.  
Amy Lowell  
\*U.S. author, 19th & 20th c.  
E.M. Forster  
\*English author, 20th c.  
John M. Keynes

\*English economist, 20th c.  
Ludwig Wittgenstein  
\*Australian mathematician, 20th c.  
Bessie Smith  
\*U.S. singer, 20th c.  
Noel Coward  
\*English playwright, 20th c.  
Christopher Isherwood  
\*English author, 20th c.  
Pier Paolo Pasolini  
\*Italian film director, 20th c.  
Yukio Mishima  
\*Japanese author, 20th c.  
Eleanor Roosevelt  
\*U.S. stateswoman, 20th c.  
Julius Caesar  
\*Roman Emperor, 100-44 B.C.  
Augustus Caesar  
\*Roman Emperor  
Harvey Milk  
\*U.S. politician, 20th c.  
Bayard Rustin  
\*U.S. Civil Rights activist, 20th c.  
James I  
\*English King, 16th-17th c.  
Queen Anne  
\*English Queen, 18th c.  
Marie Antoinette  
\*French Empress, 18th c.  
Melissa Etheridge  
\*U.S. Rock Star, 20th c.  
Pope Benedict IX  
\*1032-1044  
May Sarton  
\*U.S. author, (1912 - 1995)  
Edna Ferber  
\*U.S. author, 20th c.  
Elton John  
\*English Rock Star, 20th c.  
Margaret Fuller

\*U.S. writer, educator, 20th c.  
Montezuma II  
\*Aztec ruler, 16th c.  
Peter the Great  
\*Russian Czar, 17th-18th c.  
Langston Hughes  
\*U.S. author, 20th c.  
Pope John XII  
\*955-964  
Madame de Stael  
\*French writer, 17th-18th c.  
Martina Navratilova  
\*U.S. tennis star, 20th c.  
Greg Louganis  
\*U.S. Olympic swimmer, 20th c.  
Billie Jean King  
\*U.S. tennis star, 20th c.  
Roberta Achtenburg  
\*U.S. politician, 20th c.  
Barney Frank  
\*U.S. Congressman, 20th c.  
Gerry Studds  
\*U.S. Congressman, 20th c.  
Hans Christian Andersen  
\*Danish author, 19th c.  
Tom Dooley  
\*U.S. M.D. missionary, 20th c.  
J. Edgar Hoover  
\*U.S. director of the FBI., 20th c.  
Frida Kahlo  
\*Mexican artist, 20th c.  
Suleiman the Magnificent  
\*Ottoman ruler, 15th c.  
Rock Hudson  
\*U.S. actor, 20th c.  
Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz  
\*Mexican author, 16th c.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson  
\*U.S. author, 19th c.  
Candace Gingrich

\*Gay Rights activist, 20th c.  
Margarethe Cammermeyer  
\*U.S. Army Colonel, 20th c.  
Zoe Dunning  
\*U.S. Military Reservist, 20th c.  
Tom Waddel  
\*U.S. M.D., Olympic star, 20th c.  
Kate Millet  
\*U.S. author, 20th c.  
Janis Joplin  
\*U.S. singer, 20th c.  
Rudolf Nuryev  
\*Russian dancer, 20th c.  
Waslaw Nijinsky  
\*Russian dancer, 20th c.  
Ernst Röhm  
\*German Nazi leader, 20th c.  
Dag Hammarskjöld  
\*Swedish UN Secretary, 20th c.  
Aristotle  
\*Greek philosopher, 384-322 B.C.  
Paula Gunn Allen  
\*Native American author, 20th c.  
Angela Davis  
\*U.S. political activist, 20th c.  
June Jordan  
\*U.S. author, activist, 20th c.  
Rainer Maria Rilke  
\*German poet, 20th c.  
James Dean  
\*U.S. actor, 20th c.  
Montgomery Clift  
\*U.S. actor, 20th c.  
Baron VonSteuben  
\*German General, Valley Forge  
Edward II  
\*English King, 14th c.

Reverend Fred Waldron Phelps Sr.

Famous for picketing the funeral of gay murder victim Matthew Shepherd with signs like "God Hates Fags."

Extremely homophobic Westboro Baptist Church has picketed the gay community at hundreds of events nationwide. Many of its fliers emphasize the race or religion of these individuals.

They believe that "God's hatred is one of His holy attributes."

Phelps has plans to erect a monument in the dead guys dishonour.

New York Post Exposes High Rate Of Teacher/Student Molestations: Homosexuals Molest Children At A Far Higher Rate Than Heterosexuals

But I could not find many social scientists backing this up, though the Traditional Values Coalition touts it as proof.

Even if it is accurate, since when are individuals treated according to an artificial group designation?

Why are gays who don't rape children guilty of the crime while heterosexuals who don't rape children are innocent?

This TVC site also grossly underestimates the number of homosexuals in society.

The National Institute of Health (a US Federal Government agency) reported that as many as 30% of youth suicides are by gays and lesbians. That is, homosexual young people commit suicide at a rate as high as six times the normal value.

These young people who commit suicide may have been taught by their families, religious institutions, schools etc to hate or reject homosexuality.

Is their blood not on the hands of religionists who preach and believe this rubbish regarding homosexuals?

In five major U.S. cities, reports of anti-gay and anti-lesbian incidents increased by 172% between 1988 and 1992: from 697 to 1,898 were reported. And we all know that not all incidents are reported.

The most common perpetrators of anti-lesbian and anti-gay violence--responsible for 50% of all reported incidents--are youths ages 21 or under; 94% of the perpetrators are male. Sounds to me like closet homosexuals who hate themselves are hurting other homosexuals instead of themselves.

Why are we hating ourselves?

89% of all incidents reported to the New York City Anti-Violence Project in 1992 resulted in no arrest.

Parents of homosexual or bisexual children may be disappointed because they have other expectations of their child or they are embarrassed by the child's behavior. This can lead to discrimination, depressed feelings, fights, aggression, breaking friendships, etc.

Again, why do human beings hate themselves?

97% of students in public high schools report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from their peers.

53% of students report hearing homophobic comments made by school staff.

80% of prospective teachers report negative attitudes toward gay and lesbian people.

Two-thirds of guidance counselors harbor negative feelings toward gay and lesbian people.

11.5% of gay and lesbian youth report being physically attacked by family members.

42% of homeless youth self-identify as gay/lesbian.

45% of gay males and 20% of lesbians report having experienced verbal harassment and/or physical violence as a result of their sexual orientation during high school.

42% of adolescent lesbians and 34% of adolescent gay males who have suffered physical attack also attempt suicide.

30% of gay and bisexual adolescent males attempt suicide at least once.

83% of adolescent lesbians use alcohol, 56% use other drugs, and 11% use crack and/or cocaine

68% of adolescent gay males use alcohol, 44% use other drugs.

Why are we teaching our children to hate themselves?

In 1942, the American Psychiatric Association declared that Homosexuality is a disease. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of diseases. The next year, 37% of its membership wanted to reclassify homosexuality as a disease. This discussion was influenced by Freud's work, which had not yet been debunked.

There is no need for a homosexual to seek psychiatric or psychological help unless there are other emotional symptoms associated with it (for instance, anxiety or depression, etc.), since homosexuality in itself is not a psychiatric disturbance.

More irony: the reasons gays might need psychiatric help is due to the public's treatment of gays. Being repeatedly told you are mentally diseased can create depression and emotional instability. It's another example of how disease can be politically useful.

45% of gay males and 20% of lesbians experience physical or verbal assault in high school; 28% of these young people feel forced to drop out of school due to harassment based on sexual orientation.

80% of lesbian and gay youths who took part in a 1987 study reported severe isolation.

In 1989, suicide was the leading cause of death among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youths; 53% of transsexual youths surveyed in 1981 had attempted suicide.

An estimated 6 million to 14 million children have a lesbian or gay parent. But courts in 11 states have ruled that gay men and lesbians, on the basis of their sexual orientation, are unfit to receive custody of their children.

A review of 9 studies of aspects of personal development--such as self-concept, moral judgment, and intelligence--revealed no significant difference between children of lesbians and gay men and children of heterosexuals.

The words "heterosexuality", "homosexuality" and "bisexuality" define nothing but preferences for sexual relations.

In free nations, people are free to do what they want as long as no one else is injured in any way. This ideal limits the power of the state from creating laws that are in fact aimed at consolidating power and stripping it from citizens. So even if homosexuality were a choice, homosexuals must be free to practice their lifestyle until such point as an individual homosexual harms someone else. If they are not free to make that choice, we move in the direction of a tyranny.

### **Closing**

Thanks to Robert Odom for coming on the show

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Events on the horizon: From July 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, I'll be leading a retreat at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY on Seeking God Without Religion. For more information, you can call (800) 944-1001, or write to [registration@eomega.org](mailto:registration@eomega.org). Visit [www.eomega.org](http://www.eomega.org).