

Central Concepts & Concerns for Freethinkers

- Freethinking** (a practice of unrestricted reasoning with truth as the primary authority)
- Authority** (an author, origin and power-source of knowledge)
- Faith** (believing, trusting, having beliefs—something to have, something to live)
- Belief** (a personal conviction or acceptance that something is real or true—a sincere opinion)
- Credulity** (a tendency to be too quick to accept or believe that something is real or true)
- Dogma** (principles set down by an authority as indisputably true)
- God/gods** (divine being or beings—often anthropomorphic—creator, creative power—ultimate Authority)
- Scriptures** (ancient, authoritative “divinely-inspired” writings)
- IN-fidel** (OUT of faith—outside the fold; a dismissal or even death sentence in some cultures)
- Heretic** (one who chooses a new path or belief from viable alternatives; heresy: break from orthodoxy)
- Apostate** (apostasy: to “stand off” or withdraw, or fall away from “the true faith”)
- Humanist** (one who practices a positive life-stance centered on human reason and responsibility)
- A-Theist** (no gods, goddesses or goblins—a negative way to self-identify)
- A-gnostic** (I don’t know. . .and neither do you—open to further knowledge and evidence)
- Skeptic** (Gr: skeptesthai: to look, consider; a person inclined to question or doubt accepted opinions)
- Sacred** (set apart as holy, pure, untouchable. . .not “worldly”)
- Superstition** (to “stand over”—magical thinking based on hearsay, folk tales, myths, fear, ignorance)
- Super-natural** (another reality above, beyond, behind, beneath the natural cosmos)
- Secular** (the present world is all we have; the natural, observable universe is all there is)
- Science** (seeking knowledge of the natural world by observation, analyzing evidence, testing theories)
- Philosophy** (the rational search for wisdom—practical knowledge discovered through reason)