

WHAT I BELIEVE. This is a corollary of the essays in this book - a summary of my life stance, if you will. I believe there is no God, yet myriad ways to subscribe to a god-like energy; one as valid as any other (conditions apply*). I believe the Truth is that all of the human race is one; hence we must treat all humans as equal and with kindness. I believe there is a spiritual dimension, but the concept of spirituality must not divide humanity - as religions do. I believe in a law that underlies and defines creation, and that this law allows for a universal consciousness. I believe in meditation I connect with my true self, my spirit, which relates to the universal consciousness like a drop to the ocean. I believe nothing is more vital than to live an ethical life, and that includes trying to fix what is wrong in the world. I believe war is wrong and humans must abolish it, if there is to be a future for humankind in millennia to come. I believe we must always strive for the truth, but we have to be prepared to adjust our understanding of it at any time. I believe in humanism - a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. I believe in tolerance, justice, freedom, pacifism, equality, love; while I loathe authoritarianism, indoctrination, control, manipulation. I believe in keeping an open mind, allowing perceptions (and beliefs) to be changed, and to be uncertain about certainties. I believe all beliefs are constructs of the mind - no belief has a holy, divine, non-secular provenance. Such beliefs are delusional.

'What I believe' were essays written by E. M. Forster and Bertrand Russell, advocating secular humanism.

Several other authors have written works with the same title, alluding to either or both of these essays.

Forster said, "I don't believe in creeds, but there are so many, one has to formulate one's own in self-defence."

**the conditions are:
every belief must be tolerant and non-violent*

see also BELIEF

I believe that there is no God; yet, I believe in keeping an open mind ... so, does that mean that I am an agnostic? No, I am an atheist. I believe the chance that there is no God is more than 99.99 %, which - in mathematical and purely scientific terms - can be rounded up to 100%; based on the fact that there is no proof for the existence of God.

Leo Tolstoy also published - in 1885 - a book with that name, where he distanced himself from organized religion, instead advocated adherence to the words in the Sermon on the Mount, attributed to Jesus Christ; another book written in his post-novelist, philosophical, religious late life was The Kingdom of God is within You.

also go to the appendix, with blog 938 Leo Tolstoy and 945 The Sermon On The Mount