



RICHARD DAWKINS

THE SELFISH GENE &
THE GOD DELUSION

It was the Christian faith that moved John Locke to develop our understanding of religious toleration. It was the Christian faith that compelled William Wilberforce, who my hon. Friend has just mentioned, to fight the slave trade, set up homes for the elderly and establish the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It was the Christian faith that moved Lord Shaftesbury to campaign for better working conditions and provisions for the mentally ill. It was Christianity that inspired Hannah More to set up free schools for the poor. Again, it was Christianity that prompted Josiah Wedgwood to revolutionise working conditions in his factories. It was the Christian faith that led Elizabeth Fry to campaign for prison reform.

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Ending religion is a bad idea, says Richard Dawkins



Richard Dawkins said that being watched appeared to stop people from acting dishonestly
CHRIS KEANE/REUTERS

An honesty box experiment appears to have made the country's foremost atheist question his views.

Richard Dawkins said he feared that if religion were abolished it would "give people a licence to do really bad things". He said that security camera surveillance of customers in shops did appear to deter shoplifting, adding that people might feel free to do wrong without a "divine spy camera in the sky reading their every thought".

"People may feel free to do bad things because they feel God is no longer watching them," he told *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Cheltenham Literature Festival. He recalled an experiment by one of his former pupils, Melissa Bateson at the University of Newcastle, who introduced a coffee honesty