

Chapter 17: The Age of Enlightenment-  
Eighteenth Century Thought  
Section 3: The Enlightenment and Religion

By Dallin F. Hardy



## ■ Philosophe's Critique on the Christian Church

- Teaching that humans were sinful
- Encouraging more concern with the afterlife than with life on earth
- Doctrinal disputes and intolerance
- Inciting wars





- Voltaire on Religion
  - “Crush the Infamous Thing”
    - Referring to Churches



- Paris Academy
  - Fraternity





- Deism

- God

- Divine watchmaker
    - No intervention with
      - Mankind



- Deists' Creed

- Belief in God
- Life after death





- “The Spacious Firmament on high,  
With all the blue Ethereal Sky,  
And spangled Heav'ns, a Shining Frame,  
Their great Original proclaim:  
Th' unwearied Sun, from day to day,  
Does his Creator's Pow'r display,  
And publishes to every Land  
The Work of an Almighty Hand.”

- Joseph Addison



# Toleration

- Religious Toleration
  - Promoted by
    - Philosophes
  - Led to a
    - Virtuous life





# Radical Enlightenment Criticism of Christianity

- David Hume
  - Scottish philosopher
  - Criticized
    - Religion
    - Miracles



- Atheist Philosophes

- Baron d'Holbach
- Julien Offray de La Mettrie

