



*This Religion column is a regular feature written for the Gallup Independent by Gallup area residents, representing different faith communities, who share their ideas about bringing a spiritual perspective into our daily lives and community issues. For information about contributing a guest column, contact Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola at The Independent: (505) 863-6811 ext. 218 or lizreligion01@yahoo.com.*

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### **A Contemporary Creed—For Those Who Think They Don't Have One**

Creed—what an old word! Sounds authoritarian, dogmatic, narrow! Who needs that kind of thinking? We moderns (or post-moderns) are open-minded—we don't get hung up on quaint notions of "truth." We don't believe in much of anything!

Such is the often assumed and unspoken position of much of our contemporary world. They really believe that only religious folks believe anything. Their own creed is so shrouded that they do not even recognize that they have one.

All of this prompted a fellow by the name of Steve Turner to write a poem in the late 70's entitled "Creed." It's nasty, cynical, filled with irony. It will make some readers mad. But poets have a way of sticking the needle in us. Read carefully—read it twice!

*We believe in Marxfreudanddarwin  
We believe everything is OK  
as long as you don't hurt anyone,  
to the best of your definition of hurt,  
and to the best of your knowledge.*

*We believe in sex before, during, and after marriage.  
We believe in the therapy of sin.  
We believe that adultery is fun.  
We believe that sodomy is OK.  
We believe that taboos are taboo.*

*We believe that everything is getting better  
despite evidence to the contrary.  
The evidence must be investigated  
And you can prove anything with evidence.*

*We believe there's something in  
horoscopes, UFO's and bent spoons;  
Jesus was a good man  
just like Buddha, Mohammed, and ourselves.  
He was a good moral teacher  
although we think His good morals were bad.*



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*We believe that all religions are basically the same--  
at least the one that we read was.*

*They all believe in love and goodness.*

*They only differ on matters of  
creation, sin, heaven, hell, God, and salvation.*

*We believe that after death comes the Nothing  
Because when you ask the dead what happens they say nothing.  
If death is not the end, if the dead have lied,  
then it's compulsory heaven for all  
excepting perhaps Hitler, Stalin, and Genghis Khan.*

*We believe in Masters and Johnson.*

*What's selected is average.*

*What's average is normal.*

*What's normal is good.*

*We believe in total disarmament.*

*We believe there are direct links between warfare and bloodshed.*

*Americans should beat their guns into tractors  
and the Russians would be sure to follow.*

*We believe that man is essentially good.*

*It's only his behavior that lets him down.*

*This is the fault of society.*

*Society is the fault of conditions.*

*Conditions are the fault of society.*

*We believe that each man must find the truth that is right for him.*

*Reality will adapt accordingly.*

*The universe will readjust.*

*History will alter.*

*We believe that there is no absolute truth  
excepting the truth that there is no absolute truth.*

*We believe in the rejection of creeds,  
and the flowering of individual thought.*

*This column will appear two days after Thanksgiving, and as the Christmas season opens. Thanksgiving and Christmas have their roots obviously in the Christian tradition, which*



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is creedal and confessional and makes claims about truth, goodness, and gratitude. One wonders what percent of Americans have a creed anymore that allows them give thanks to God. If you do not give thanks to God, who do you thank?

And the Christmas music at the mall has begun claiming “joy to the world, the Lord is come.” What for a proclamation is that? Beware of that Christmas music—it makes some bold declarations. Many Christians gave their lives for those claims, while others assembled a statement of belief called the Apostles **Creed**. It starts: “I believe in God the Father, almighty, maker of heaven and earth.....

You may want to look the rest of it up if you do not know it, and compare it to the other creeds the world is offering these days. ‘Tis the season!

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