

# Guests and grace at meals a mixed blessing

DEAR ABBY: You were wrong, wrong, wrong to tell an atheist to say “amen” at the end of grace at dinner. Atheists do not believe that a god or gods of any kind exist. “Amen,” according to my dictionary, is used to express solemn ratification. Atheists do not ratify religion. Being coerced to appear to do so in the name of etiquette can leave an atheist feeling used and dishon-



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

I, like many atheists, consider religion to be superstition, which, for the most part, is harmful to people. At its worst, religion prompts people to blow up buildings with innocent people — even children — in them. Examples include the “Christian” Identity gangsters who blew up the Federal Building in Oklahoma and the Muslims who flew airplanes into

the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. — HAPPY HEATHEN IN TEXAS  
DEAR H.H.: We live in a country that guarantees religious freedom — and that includes freedom FROM religion, if people wish. I disagree with you that religion is harmful, however.  
Religion doesn’t prompt people to perpetrate the evils you described; FANATICISM does, when believers are inflamed by leaders with a political agenda.  
DEAR ABBY: Of course atheists should respect others’ beliefs — and their rituals. But believers should also respect atheists’ right to reject those beliefs and their rituals. Re-

spect goes both ways. Mutual respect is shown when atheists act as silent observers while believers go about their business, and believers resist shaming atheists for refusing to mimic them. — NORMAN IN UPPER MONTCLAIR, N.J.  
DEAR NORMAN: Shaming others who refuse to mimic them? That’s not proselytizing — that’s bullying.  
DEAR ABBY: You must not have consulted your religious experts when you advised the atheist to bow his head and say “amen” after his dinner companions finish saying grace. You advised the person to be a hypocrite. — KIMBERLY IN KEARNEY, MO.

DEAR KIMBERLY: If my mail is any indication, it can also mean “I’m glad it’s over.” I am Jewish, and I was describing what I do when grace is invoked.  
By the way, did you know that Jewish people do not say grace before a meal?  
We say a blessing thanking God for bread. A full grace is not said until after the meal, to be sure we have had a meal to eat, and know exactly what we are thanking God for.  
DEAR ABBY: What advice have you when the situation is reversed? Several times we have invited guests to our home for dinner, and when it became apparent that we do not observe this ritual, they have said some

variation of “Shall we offer thanks?” It’s usually a rhetorical question.  
We are torn between wanting to be gracious hosts and being offended that people of faith are attempting to bully us with their religion.  
One couple not only wanted to say grace in our home, they demanded that everyone stand while they intoned a prayer of thanks to whom-ever it is they worship.  
Is there a tactful way to let guests know the hosts do not appreciate the imposition of their religion? — NON-BELIEVERS IN ILLINOIS  
DEAR NON-BELIEVERS: Certainly. Just say to your guest, “Thank you for offering, but that won’t be necessary.”

TUESDAY EVENING						E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone		JULY 5, 2005				
E	S	6 pm		6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
6	47	A&E		Cold Case Files [E]	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Kniefel's Wild Ride "Kniefel Inc." [E]	Crossing Jordan "Out of Sight" [E]	Cold Case Files [E]			
4	6	ABC		My Wife and Kids	George Lopez [E]	According to Jim [E]	Rodney "We Day"	Empire (N) [E] (Part 2 of 5)	News [E]	(3:55) Nightline [E]	(6:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) [E]	
6	54	ANPL		The Beauty of Snakes		The Most Extreme Deadly snakes.		Animal Cops Detroit "Feline Frenzy" [E]	The Beauty of Snakes		The Most Extreme Deadly snakes.	
3	67	BRAVO		Blow Out [E]		Blow Out (N) [E]		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "James J" [E]	Blow Out [E]		The West Wing "Com-mencement" [E]	
7	11	CBS		ET Event: Celebrity Weddings Unveiled		Fire Me... Please (N) [E]		48 Hours Mystery "The Ghosts of El Segundo"	News [E]	(3:55) Late Show With David Letterman [E]	Late Late Show	
5	42	DISC		The Real Miami Cops		Monster Garage Datsun 210 Honey Bee. [E]		American Chopper "NY Jets Bike" [E]	Swift Water Rescue [E]		Coast Guard: Dangerous Rescues	
3	56	DISN		Kim Possible [E]	Braceface [E]	Lizzie McGuire [E]	Sister, Sister [E]	That's So Raven [E]	That's So Raven [E]	"Stuck in the Suburbs" (2004, Comedy-Drama) Danielle Panabaker, Brenda Song. NR [E]		
9	66	EITV		Jennifer Aniston		20 Hippest Hotspots		Hollywood	The Soup	Howard S. [E]	Howard S. [E]	Saturday Night Live [E]
2	28	ESPN		2003 Poker		2003 Poker		World-Poker		SportsCenter (Live) [E]	Baseball	Outside
3	29	ESPN2		WNBA Basketball: Mercury at Silver Stars				Boxing: Ian Gardner vs. Mohammed Said		Streetball		Live Stews
2	58	FAM		★★★ "Look Who's Talking Too" (1990) [E]				Who's? Who's?		The 700 Club [E]		Videos Videos
5	-	FMC		★★★ "Kid Blue" (1973) Dennis Hopper.				★★★ "The Great White Hope" (1970)		★★★ "Black Widow"		
3	45	FOOD		Emeril Live Pairing wine and food.		Roker on the Road		Recipe for Success	\$40-a-Day	\$40-a-Day	Iron Chef "Yam"	Emeril Live "Petite Poultry"
3	7	FOX		Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy [E]		House "Cursed" [E]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [E]	Blind Date (N) [E]	Blind Date [E]	Maury Paternity tests. (N)	
0	41	FX		(5:00) ★★★ "Die Hard" [E]		(1988, Suspense) Bruce Willis.		★★★ "Tears of the Sun" (2003, Action)		Bruce Willis. Premiere.		
0	27	FXSP		Rockies [E] Pregame		MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Colorado Rockies. (Live)				Rocky Mt. Best-Sports		
-	60	HALL		Walker, Texas Ranger		★★★ "The Unforgiven" (1960, Western) Audrey Hepburn.				M*A*S*H M*A*S*H		
-	-	HBO		(5:00) ★★★ "The Company" (2003) [E]		★★★ "Matchstick Men" (2003, Comedy-Drama) Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell. [E] PG-13 [E]		★★★ "Troy" (2004, Action) Brad Pitt. Achilles leads Greek forces in the Trojan War. [E] R [E]		M*A*S*H M*A*S*H		
2	44	HGTV		Designed [E] Get Color		Decorating [E] Mission		Designers' Designers'	Design [E]	House [E]	Designed [E]	Get Color
8	48	HIST		Mountain Roads (N) [E]		Paving America (N) [E]		Modern Marvels "Mack-inac Bridge" [E]	Breaking Vegas "Professor Blackjack" [E]		Mountain Roads [E]	
5	38	IND		Friends [E]	Friends [E]	Sex and the City [E]	Sex and the City [E]	The Real Gilligan's Island	The Real Gilligan's Island		★★★ "Air America" (1990) Mel Gibson. [E]	
8	63	LIFE		"A Face to Kill For"		★★★ "To Love, Honor and Betray" (1999) [E]		Golden [E]	Golden [E]	The Nanny The Nanny		
4	74	MTV		Punk'd [E]	Punk'd [E]	Punk'd [E]	Punk'd [E]	Direct Effect [E]	TRL (iTV) [E]	Real World Real World		
9	9	NBC		News [E]	Ent. Tonight [E]	Average Joe: The Joes Strike Back (N) [E]		I Want to Be a Hilton (N) [E]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Outcry"		News [E]	Tonight Show
8	8	NBC		Average Joe: The Joes Strike Back (N) [E]		I Want to Be a Hilton (N) [E]		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Outcry"	News [E]	(3:55) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N) [E]	Late Night	
4	55	NICK		SpongeBob [E] School		Full House [E] Fatherhood		Fresh Pr. [E] Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr. [E]	Fresh Pr. [E]	Fresh Pr. [E]	Fresh Pr.
2	2	PBS		The New Heroes "Power of Enterprise"		The New Heroes "The Power of Knowledge"		Aging Out [E]	BBC World News		That's My Boy [E]	Charlie Rose (N) [E]
8	71	SCIFI		(5:00) ★★★ "The Abyss" (1989, Science Fiction)		(1989, Science Fiction) Ed Harris. [E]		Ed Harris. [E]	"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" (1997) [E]			
1	72	SPK		Maximum Exposure [E]		Wildest Police Videos [E]		CSI: Crime Scn [E]	CSI: Crime Scn [E]		★★★ "Dr. No" (1963)	
9	43	TLC		While You Were Out [E]		Clean Sweep [E]		In a Fix [E]	Overhaulin' Customizing a 1963 Ford Falcon.		Overhaulin' [E]	
8	40	TNT		Law & Order [E] (DVS)		Law & Order [E] (DVS)		Law & Order "Hitman"	The Closer [E]		Charmed [E]	
1	49	TRAV		Las Vegas: Engineering		Made [E] Made		Destination: Phoenix (N) [E]	Las Vegas: Engineering		Made [E] Made	
1	59	TVLND		Munsters [E] Munsters		Griffith [E] Leave		Sanford [E] All-Family	3's Co. [E] 3's Co.		Cheers [E] Cheers [E]	
0	79	UNIV		Apuesta por un Amor [E]		La Madrastra [E]		Casos de la Vida Real [E]	Impacto [E] Noticiero		La Hora Derbez [E]	
0	37	USA		Law & Order: SVU [E]		★★★ "Beverly Hills Cop II" (1987) (DVS)		Law & Order: SVU [E]	Law & Order: SVU [E]		The Dead Zone [E]	
2	3	WB		Friends [E] Everybody-Raymond [E]		Gilmore Girls "Norman Mailer, I'm Pregnant!" [E]		One Tree Hill "Spirit in the Night" [E]	News [E]		Friends [E] Will & Grace [E]	
9	39	WGN		★★★ "Letters From a Killer" (1998, Drama)		WGN News at Nine [E]		WGN News at Nine [E]	Becker [E] Becker [E]		Home Delivery [E]	

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E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
36	47	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Cleavage Mankind's fascination with breasts. [E]			Crossing Jordan "Intruded" [E]		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
4	6	ABC	Supernanny "Ririe Family" [N]	Dancing With the Stars (Season Finale) [E]		Lost "House of the Rising Sun" [N]		News [E]	(3:55) Nightline [E]	(6:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) [N]	
26	54	ANPL	Buggin' With Ruud "Entertaining Bugs" (N)	Corwin's Quest The salt-water crocodile. (N)		Animal Cops Detroit "Cold as Ice" [E]		Buggin' With Ruud "Entertaining Bugs"		Corwin's Quest The salt-water crocodile.	
63	67	BRAVO	Bobby Brown	Bobby Brown	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "James J"		Sports Kids Moms & Dads (N) [E]		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "James J"		The West Wing "Twenty-Five" [E]
7	11	CBS	The Cut (N) [N]	The King of Yes, Dear Queens [N]		CSI: NY "American Dreamers" [N]		News [N]	(3:55) Late Show With David Letterman [E]	Late Late Show	
55	42	DISC	Real Miami Cops Police prepare for a vice sting.	Monster Garage "Monster Nation 1" [E]		American Chopper "Dixie Chopper 1" [E]		One Step Beyond (N)	One Step Beyond (N)	MythBusters "Brown Note" [E]	
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible [E]	Braceface [E]	Lizzie McGuire [E]	Sister, Sister [E]	That's So Raven [E]	That's So Raven [E]	★★★ "Air Bud" (1997) Michael Jeter. A lonely boy discovers a dog with a nose for basketball.		
49	66	EITV	Amber Frey: THS	Mary Kay Letourneau		Palms Hollywood		Howard S. [E]	Palms [E]	Jennifer Aniston	
22	28	ESPN	(5:00) MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Baseball Tonight [E]		SportsCenter (Live) [E]		Baseball [E]		Outside [E]	
23	29	ESPN2	ESPN's Bowling Night	ESPN's Bowling Night		MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) [E]		Videos [E]		Videos [E]	
32	58	FAM	★★ "The Beverly Hillbillies" (1993) Jim Varney.	★★★ "End of the Game" (1976) Jon Voight.		★★★ "King of the Khyber Rifles" (1953)		★★★★ "Collateral" (2004) Tom Cruise. A contract killer uses a cabdriver for his jobs. [N] R' [E]			
35	-	FMC	★★★ "End of the Game" (1976) Jon Voight.	★★★ "King of the Khyber Rifles" (1953)		★★★★ "Collateral" (2004) Tom Cruise. A contract killer uses a cabdriver for his jobs. [N] R' [E]		★★★★ "Collateral" (2004) Tom Cruise. A contract killer uses a cabdriver for his jobs. [N] R' [E]			
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live Recipes using champagne. (N)	BBQ With Bobby Flay		BBQ With Bobby Flay		Good Eats [E]		Good Eats [E]	
13	7	FOX	The Inside "The Loneliest Number" (N) [E]	The Inside "Thief of Hearts" (N) [E]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [E]		Blind Date (N) [N]		Blind Date [N]	
40	41	FX	"Tears of the Sun"	King of Hill [E]		King of Hill [E]		Cops [E]		Cops [E]	
30	27	FXSP	Rockies [E]	Pregame [E]		MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Colorado Rockies. (Live)		Rocky Mt. [E]		Best-Sports [E]	
-	60	HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger	★ ★ ★ "The Last Cowboy" (2003) Jennie Garth. [E]		★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]		★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]		★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]	
5	-	HBO	(5:00) ★ ★ ★ "Mr. Holland's Opus" (1995) Richard Dreyfuss. PG [E]	★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]		★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]		★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]		★ ★ ★ "Surviving Christmas" (2004) Ben Affleck. [N] PG-13 [E]	
62	44	HGTV	Kitchen [E]	Want That [E]		Weekend Landscap [E]		Curb [E]		What Get [E]	
58	48	HIST	Route 66 (N) [E]	Automaniac "Hot Rods" (N) [E]		Modern Marvels "The Autobahn" [E]		Modern Marvels "The four-wheel drive vehicle."		Route 66 [E]	
25	38	IND	Everybody-Raymond [E]	Everybody-Raymond [E]		Seinfeld [E]		Seinfeld [E]		Sex and the City [N]	
18	63	LIFE	"Desolation Sound" [E]	"Abandoned and Deceived" (1995) Lori Loughlin.		Golden [E]		Golden [E]		The Nanny [E]	
54	74	MTV	Real World [E]	Real World [E]		70s House [E]		My Block [E]		Direct Effect [E]	
3	9	NBC	News [N]	Ent. Tonight [E]		Law & Order "The Sixth Man" [E]		Law & Order "Locomotion" [E]		Dateline NBC "Tom Brokaw Reports" (N) [E]	
8	8	NBC	Law & Order "The Sixth Man" [E]	Law & Order "Locomotion" [E]		Dateline NBC "Tom Brokaw Reports" (N) [E]		Dateline NBC "Tom Brokaw Reports" (N) [E]		News [E]	
34	55	NICK	SpongeBob Unfabulous [E]	Full House [E]		Full House [E]		Roseanne [E]		Roseanne [E]	
2	2	PBS	Roadshow FYI [E]	Cooking Under Fire [E]		American Masters "Satchmo" [E]		Sun River Homestead [E]		BBC World News [E]	
38	71	SCIFI	Battlestar Galactica [E]	Battlestar Galactica [E]		Battlestar Galactica [E]		Battlestar Galactica [E]		Battlestar Galactica [E]	
61	72	SPK	Maximum Exposure [E]	Wildest Police Videos [E]		CSI: Crime Scn [E]		CSI: Crime Scn [E]		"Silence-Lambs" [E]	
39	43	TLC	While You Were Out Garden makeover. [E]	Clean Sweep Junk overflows. [E]		In a Fix "Nature Within" Cheap fixtures give way. [E]		While You Were Out Home office. (N) [E]		Sideshow [E]	
28	40	TNT	Law & Order "Passion" [E]	★★★ "The Score" (2001, Suspense) Robert De Niro. [E]		★★★ "The Score" (2001) [E]		★★★ "The Score" (2001) [E]		★★★ "The Score" (2001) [E]	
51	49	TRAV	Player's-Vegas [E]	World Poker Tour [E]		World Poker Tour [E]		Player's-Vegas [E]		World Poker Tour [E]	
21	59	TVLND	Griffith [E]	Griffith [E]		Griffith [E]		Top 10 [E]		3's Co. [E]	
60	79	UNIV	Aquesta por un Amor [E]	La Madrastra [E]		Don Francisco Presenta [E]		Impacto [E]		Noticiero [E]	
20	37	USA	Law & Order: SVU [E]	Law & Order: SVU [E]		Law & Order: SVU [E]		Law & Order: SVU [E]		The 4400 [E]	
12	3	WB	Friends [E]	Everybody-Raymond [E]		Beauty and the Geek (Season Finale) (N) [E]		Smallville "Krypto" [N]		News [E]	
90	39	WGN	★★★ "In the Shadows" (2001) James Caan [E]	WGN News at Nine [E]		WGN News at Nine [E]		Becker [E]		Becker [E]	