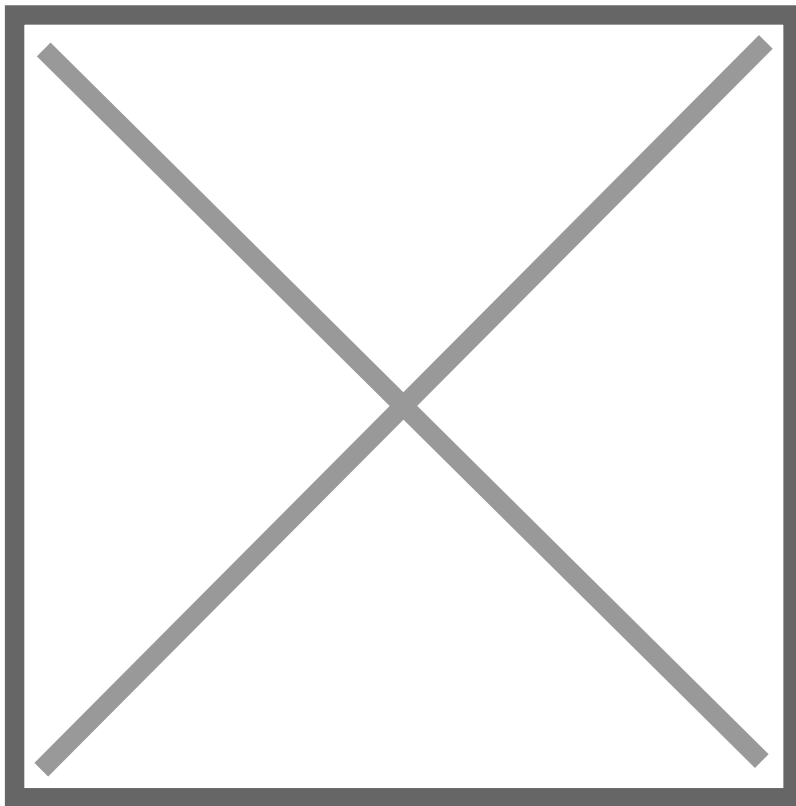


What fundamentalists worship

By [James F. McGrath](#)

December 18, 2012

Quite a number of people are [discussing t-shirts like this one](#) (or [the wider use of the sentiment expressed on it](#)) in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy:



I am glad that fundamentalists are finally being a bit more honest about what they mean by “God.”

They clearly do not mean an omnipresent being who cannot be excluded from any place. It’s quite a different notion from that encountered on more than one occasion in the Psalms, for instance. The ancient Israelite author never said “Where shall I go to flee from your presence? I know – a public school!” And in the Book of Jonah, the main character’s attempt to flee from the one who he himself says “made the sea and the dry land” *on a boat* is depicted as a fool’s errand. And could you imagine

any ancient Israelite or Christian author taking seriously the notion that God could be kept out of somewhere?

But even though creating laws that exclude a real and omnipresent God from public school would be utterly futile, there are in fact no such laws in the United States.

What *is* excluded is the use of state power and influence to promote religion in general or some sectarian religious dogma in particular.

And so I think that, when fundamentalists say that their God is excluded from public schools, they are speaking the truth. *The God they worship is not the true God, the one that is omnipresent and ultimate, but political power and coercive imposition of their views on others.*

That is what fundamentalists worship and serve. That is what they lament seeing expelled from public schools. And that is what they opportunistically use tragedies like the recent one to promote.

Those who know or seek the true God will not bow before such idols, and will call those who do so out, and seek to expose them for what they are, namely worshippers of false gods.

Originally posted at [Exploring Our Matrix](#)