

Contents

Introduction	1
1. Divine Imagery: “Perfect Teeth. Nice Smell. A Class Act All the Way.”	15
2. Personal Prayer: “Dear God, Give the Bald Guy a Break!”	32
3. The Evangelical Next Door: “If Everyone Were like Ned Flanders, There’d Be No Need for Heaven.”	46
4. The Church and the Preacher: “We Don’t Have a Prayer!”	70
5. Heaven, Hell, and the Devil: “I’d Sell My Soul for a Donut!”	93
6. Moral Dilemmas: “Dad, We May Have Saved Your Soul.”	105
7. The Bible: “I Think It May Be Somewhere towards the Back.”	119
8. Catholics: “That’s Catholic, Marge . . . Voodoo.”	129
9. The Jews: “Mel Brooks Is <i>Jewish</i> ? . . . Are <i>We</i> Jewish?”	146
10. Buddhism: Lisa Changes Teams, Sort Of.	171
11. Miscellaneous; “Hindu! There Are 700 Million of Us!”	181
12. Gay Marriage: Out of the Closet, Left at the Altar.	192
13. The Creators: “Humor Is in Indirect Proportion to One’s True Belief.”	199
14. Conclusion: Cloaking the Sacred with the Profane?	216
Afterword: <i>Futurama</i> , <i>King of the Hill</i> , <i>Family Guy</i> , <i>American Dad</i> , and, Yes, <i>South Park</i>	227

viii *Contents*

Notes	298
Bibliography	302
Acknowledgments	304
Index	309