

Existence of God

REVIEW: Theism is the only affirmable and undeniable worldview; Within Theism, only Christianity is systematically consistent. It is internally consistent, historically provable, and morally viable.

*Existential Causality (infinite cannot be created nor cannot not exist + something finite exists (i.e you and me))

- **Theism** states that a perfect, infinite, uncaused, unchanging, all-knowing, all-powerful, necessary, purely actual, non-temporal-spatial, simple, one, all-good, and infinitely complete being exists.
- This being has caused everything else to exist which is temporal, finite, and contingent beings (things).
- This 'being' can be appropriately called 'divine' or GOD and is best described by the God of the Bible.
- Thus, God has revealed Himself through General revelation (Creation/order/Word; Romans 1) and through Specific revelation (Bible, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit, Miracles, other witnesses...)

Christian Theism, then affirms:

- There is one God who is called Lord God.
- God is worthy of all worship (the sum of all desire, the Ultimate which requires all commitment, and has ultimate intrinsic value).
- God is the source of all existence and maintains all existence at His pleasure.

****Some proofs and claims to God's existence:**

1.)Cosmological Argument for Existence of God (Creation argument)

- A. The Universe Had a beginning (nothing cannot make something)
- B. Anything that has a beginning is contingent, finite, and was caused by something else.
- C. Therefore, the Universe had a cause and that cause had to be uncaused, which is necessary and is properly called God.

Same argument from point of view of Finiteness:

- A. Finite, changing things exist (i.e me, world, universe)
- B. Every finite, changing thing must be caused by some infinite and unchanging thing.
- C. There cannot be an infinite regress of these causes [i.e long chain links holding a chandelier; or caboose and cars pulled by an engine = must be a final cause]
- D. Therefore, there must be a first uncaused cause of every finite, changing thing that exists.

2.) Teleological Argument (Argument from Design) i.e Watchmaker

- A. All designs (world, bodies, cells, universe) imply a designer (nothing produces something; matter cannot produce mind; nothing goes from disorder to order =Entropy).
- B. The universe (Bodies etc..) contain great design and order
- C. Therefore, there must be a great Designer
- D. This great Designer is called God.

3.) Axiological Argument (Argument from Morality)

- A. All mankind is conscious of an objective moral law (every civilization has established some type of hierarchy and/or moral code by which to live, exist, and create meaning for that life).
- B. Moral laws imply a moral lawgiver (finite beings only reflect what is the essence of its infinite maker since finite beings have no bearing on their own creation or existence).
- C. Therefore, there must be an infinite and supreme moral Lawgiver = God.

4.) Ontological Argument (Argument from being)

- A. Whatever perfection can be attributed to the most perfect Being possible (Conceivable) must be attributed to it: (This most perfect being or thought of perfection has to be 'it' or it would not be the most perfect being/thought)
- B. Necessary existence is a perfection which can be attributed to the most perfect Being: (We cannot think outside of logically possible reality. We have to think of rational truths which can be found in **actual reality**, thus for one to think of a most perfect 'God'/being it has to be 1. the most perfect being and 2. it must exist in reality for you to have thought it up).
- C. This most perfect thought of a being must exist to be conceivable
- D. This most perfect being would have to be 'God' and must exist in reality. He is necessary and real and is God.

Can We Really Know If There IS a God?

Food for thought: The burden of "proof" is as much on an Atheist to prove there is NO God as much as it is on the Theist to demonstrate there is a God. Irrefutable "Proof" = untenable (on both sides). Therefore, what are rational arguments/evidences within the known (empirical) universe that God exists?

The Theist argues that IF God does NOT exist, then what? What are Alternatives?

Humans are unique within the universe in that *we alone* are rational beings: We *question*; We *feel*; We *reason*! Thus, every philosophy, every worldview exists to answer SATISFYINGLY the following five questions:

- 1) Who Am I? 2) Where did I come from? 3) Why am I here? 4) How should I live? 5) Is there Life after death?

How do you answer these five questions? From where do you derive your "information?" Science/Faith/Experience

THE THEIST REASONS THAT IF THERE IS NO GOD, THEN:

- There is no objective right or wrong; = *moral relativity* (what determines "good" or "bad?")
- LIFE, as we experience it, would have NO ultimate meaning or value = (No immortality)
- LIFE as we know it, would have NO ultimate purpose except to survive longer (survival of fittest)
- Everything in the universe, our lives, dreams & experiences are governed by chance (accidentalism)
- Mankind has nothing to truly hope for or aspire to *except* avoiding premature death or ruling everything

IF there is NO GOD, (NO Intelligent Designer, Creator, Personal, all-powerful Deity), THEN what is life about?

Are there Rational, Evidentiary arguments (CLUES) which demonstrate the highest probability that there must be a God?

Arguments from Science:

1. The inept limitations of science to answer the basic questions of life and matter:
 - A. The Incredible Complexity of the Universe (*Chance? Accident? Intelligent design?*)
 - B. The Intricacy, Sophistication, Design of Organic Life & The Human Body (*evolution?*)
 - C. The Evidence of design in Nature (unexpected Order/Natural Laws in the Universe)
 - D. The Existence of human reason, abstract thought, logic, math, emotion, design
 - E. Science has NOT disproved God.
2. The *Anthropic Cosmology Principle*: Teleological Argument = (life is *intended* to exist)
3. The Problems with Evolutionary Theory to explain the origin of matter and life

Arguments from Experience & Reason:

4. The Predictability of human reaction to pain/loss/injustice – (Moral Objectivity)
5. The Inescapability of human worship – desire to "deify" something in *all* cultures
6. The logical arguments of causation: *Kalam Cosmological Argument* (See back of sheet)

Arguments from Eyewitness Testimony:

7. The Historicity of Jesus of Nazarene & his Claims as being God & being resurrected
8. The Existence of the Jews; the existence of the Church – Claims from the Bible (Archaeology)
9. The History of recorded Miracles which defy natural laws as testified by skeptics/witnesses
10. My Own Existence – my personal experience with a personal God who changed my life!

A Logical Explanation of the Necessary Existence of God

(Kalam Cosmological Argument)

1. Something Undeniably exists. (i.e. you exist)
2. My Non-existence is possible. (i.e. you could never have been born)
3. Whatever exists (at present) was **Caused** to exist by something else.
4. Since everything was caused to exist at some point, there must be one, first, ULTIMATE Cause – that caused something to exist & so on.
5. This first Cause, must be Uncaused, & has to exist in order to cause other things to exist.
6. As the first existing Agent, (acting to cause), this First “Cause” must reflect (replicate/mirror) what it has made (Caused) in other things.
By definition, whatever is Uncaused and causes the existence of other things must be “perfect” because it exists independent of every other thing and is: **Necessary, Non-Contingent, Self-existent, Self-revelatory** and causes (creates) other things which reflect its essence.
7. This Infinitely “perfect” – (Uncaused Cause) being can be called “God!”
8. Thus, . . . this infinitely perfect entity/being called “God” exists!!
9. This “God,” being perfect, uncaused, necessary, self-existent, and self-revelatory is identical to the God of the Bible.
10. Therefore, the God of the Bible Exists

So, the last cause (= the Only uncaused Cause) is necessary, unchanging, and infinite and is ultimately the only all-perfect Being (The GOD of the Bible) worthy of your respect, worship, & reverence (obedience)

For Further Resources, visit:

- 1) <http://www.gotquestions.org/Does-God-exist.html> (Easy)
- 2) <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-c038.html> (harder) and
- 3) <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/does-god-exist-1> (challenging & deep answers)

To Connect with Dr. Matthew Harding – email: matthew@thewellargyle.com