

Does God Exist?

Introduction

- ❖ It is the most important question we humans are ever asked to answer.
- ❖ Every Christian must be ready to discuss the question of God's existence

Can We Prove God's Existence?

- ❖ The simple answer to this question is **yes!**
- ❖ Not through Empirical Methods.
- ❖ But through:
 - ❑ Logical principles.
 - ❑ Relational Verification

Limits of Science

- † The scientific method is one of many vehicles to discover reality.
- † The aim of science is to study **matter** and **energy**.
- † God is neither matter nor energy.
- † Therefore the scientific method cannot be applied to disprove His existence.
 - † Consider LOVE, PEACE, COMPASION
 - † Consider HISTORY

Different Instruments for Each Science

❖ Example:

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| ❖ | Medicine | Stethoscope |
| ❖ | Astronomy | Telescope |
| ❖ | Biology | Microscope |
| ❖ | Chemistry | Test Tubes |

- ❖ You discover reality about God through His Word (Bible), His Body (Church), Prayer
- ❖ We simply use *spiritual* tools to discover *spiritual* truths
- ❖ Faith in God is not against reason, it is *beyond* reason.
- ❖ If we could understand God logically, He wouldn't be God

Arguments for the Existence of God

1. The Argument from Causation of Existence

- “From nothing, nothing comes”
- Everything in this Universe has a cause that is caused by another cause.
- Ultimately there must have been and uncaused first cause who began the chain of existence for all things.
- This First Cause is “God”.

The Argument from Necessity

- There are 2 types of objects in the universe:
 - contingent beings
 - necessary beings.
- A contingent being is an object that cannot exist without a necessary being causing its existence
- In other words, if something exists, there must exist what it takes for it to exist.
- What it takes for the universe to exist cannot exist within it.
- And we said that from nothing, nothing comes. So the universe could not have begun.
- So there must exist something which *has* to exist, which *cannot not exist*. This sort of being is called *Necessary or Self-Existent*
- Either this necessity belongs to the thing in itself or it is derived from another. If derived from another there must ultimately exist a being whose necessity is not derived, an absolutely necessary being. This absolutely necessary being is God.

- ❑ There are 4 possible explanations for the existence of the universe.
 - ❑ 1. An illusion 2. Self-created 3. Eternal 4. Created
- ❑ An Illusion: We don't have to worry about such people. If they are right, even they don't exist! And they shouldn't worry about us, because we don't exist!
- ❑ Self Created: This is referred to as "spontaneous generation"
But for something to create itself, it must first be!
In other words, in order for something to create itself, it must exist prior to itself. This is, of course, logically impossible.
- ❑ Eternal: Science proved that the Universe is not eternal.
For example it would violate the 2nd law of Thermodynamics.
- ❑ Created: Having established the other 3 options to be unreasonable, we arrive at the final option: the universe is created.

The Argument from Desire

- Every natural desire in us corresponds to a real object that can satisfy that desire.
- But there exists in us a desire which nothing on earth or creature can satisfy.
- Therefore there must exist something more than earth and creatures, which can satisfy this desire.
- This something is "God" and "life with God forever."
- C.S. Lewis said: "Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for these desires exists. A baby feels hunger; well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim; well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire; well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." (*Mere Christianity*, chap. 10")

The Argument From Intelligent Design

- The countless laws of physics requires the existence of a Creator of those laws.
- An intricately crafted universe points to an intelligent Designer.
- When one sees a beautiful painting, his thoughts immediately go to the artist who worked on it.
- Atheists believe that the scientific laws governing the universe are only the result of a time and chance.
- The probability of such a random occurrence actually happening is so infinitely small as to defy all reason.

A Planet Perfect for Life

- The amount of Oxygen in the atmosphere.
- The Size of planet earth
- The Speed of planet earth
- Distance to the Sun

The Argument From Conscience (Moral Values)

- Our sense of moral responsibility cannot be explained except by the existence of a Superior Lawgiver.
- CS Lewis said “When I was an atheist my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.
- If there is no God, who holds us accountable for these things? What can you appeal to to say they are wrong?
- This sense of obligation is only logical if there is a fundamental morality (God) that transcends human existence and which has the power and right to demand moral obedience.

The Argument from the Origin of the Idea of God

- We have ideas of many things. These ideas must arise either from ourselves or from things outside us.
- One of the ideas we have is the idea of God, an infinite, all-perfect being.
- This idea could not have been caused by ourselves, because we know ourselves to be limited and imperfect, and no effect can be greater than its cause.
- Therefore, the idea must have been caused by something outside us. Someone that is infinite, all-perfect, all knowing
- But only God himself has those qualities. Therefore God must be the cause of the idea we have of him.
- Therefore God exists.

Blaise Pascal's Wager

- Blaise Pascal (1623- 62) argued the existence of God in terms of a wager.
- He based his wager on the fact that a normal, rational person when given 2 possible choices will choose the one with the best chance of obtaining a reward.
- For instance, if someone says that your house is on fire, it could be or it could not. The cost of finding out if it is, such as looking to see if it is, is small compared to the potential loss of not bothering to look and finding it burnt down. It would be utter foolishness for you not to take that look to see if your house is on fire.
- The Wager cannot—or should not—coerce belief. But it can be an incentive for us to search for God, to study and restudy the arguments that seek to show that there is Something—or Someone—who is the ultimate explanation of the universe and of my life.

Conclusion

- ❑ In many cases the arguments are not be the real issue. The issue is that Atheists have decided beforehand that they want to be *autonomous, independent, masters of their own destiny*
- ❑ Blaise Pascal : “God has given us evidence sufficiently clear to convince those with an open heart and mind. Yet evidence sufficiently vague so as not to compel those whose hearts and minds are closed.”

References

(Suggested Readings)

- *Aquinas, Saint Thomas. Summa Theologica.*
- *Craig, William Lane. The Existence of God*
- *Kelly, Anthony. The Trinity of Love: A Theology of the Christian God.*
- *McGrath, Alister E. Understanding the Trinity.*
- *Meynell, Hugo The Intelligible Universe: A Cosmological Argument.*
- *A Quest for God, Paul Johnson*
- *The Mind of God, Paul Davies*
- *God and the Astronomers, Robert Jastrow*
- *Whatever Happened to Truth, Anthony Coniaris*
- *A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawkins*
- *Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis*
- *The Quotable Einstein, Albert Einstein*
- *The Columbia History of the World, John Garraty*
- *Can you Prove that God Exists, Gannon Murphy*
- *Darwin's Black Box, Mike Behe*