

Proofs for the Existence of God

The Workshop

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Welcome & Introduction

The place to begin

A very real possibility

How important is that God does exist?

Introductory Definitions

- A discussion in which disagreement is expressed; a debate
 - A quarrel; a dispute
 - A course of reasoning aimed at demonstrating truth
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- A systematic survey; coverage
 - An individual and personal perception, judgment, or interpretation
 - An opinion
 - A way of showing or seeing something
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- A point of view or attitude on a certain question
 - Your personal conviction developed through prayer research and discovery

Opening Truth

The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

How Do We Know What We Know?

Three basic systems of belief

1. _____

The mind is the criteria apart from any other factor. Whatever I can logically accept, whatever I can rationalize in my mind, that is truth. If I cannot process it in my mind then it is not true. For a lot of people, this is why they do not believe in God. They do not have the capacity to figure out God in their mind, so, they do not believe He exists.

2. _____

If I have experienced it, then it is true. Here, the five senses are the primary factors. What you see, smell, taste, touch, and hear is the criteria for truth. That information is then sent into your mind and it then becomes reality for you. I know that you are here because I can see you, I can hear you. For many people, they will not believe in God because they have not seen God, or touched God.

3. _____

When you we begin to try to comprehend God, we must exercise faith. Faith is the system of belief we must exercise to know what we cannot fully comprehend in our mind or believe what we have not seen, heard, tasted, touched or smelled. Faith is a gift of God. Faith is what we must exercise to have fellowship with God.

The Five Proofs for the Existence of God

The _____ View

a.k.a

_____ **and** _____

The Argument

1. Every _____ must have a _____
2. The effect is _____ upon the cause for existence
3. The universe (and nature) could not _____ itself
4. The _____ is here
5. The universe is filled with _____
6. Non life _____ produce life
7. We are _____
8. The _____ cause must have been _____
9. The first cause must be _____ and possess _____ life
10. _____ is eternal _____

Two Exclusive Positions

1. Existence (life) came from nothing; it just appeared out of nothing
(or)
2. Existence (life as we know it) had a beginning

- If existence (life) had a beginning, then the cosmological view (cause and effect) tells us that when we trace cause and effect back far enough, as far as our mind will allow us to go, there had to be someone or something that did not have a beginning; that it has always been here. That is the only way cause and effect works.
- That which had no beginning is eternal. The definition of eternal is having no beginning and no end.
- This eternally existent One is living since non-life cannot produce life.
- This living eternally existent One is God.

Biblical Support:

Gen 1:1; Psa 19:1-6; Rom 1:18-32; Heb 3:4; 11:3

Four Possible Commitments

1. From nothing comes nothing []
2. From nothing came something. (It was uncaused) []
3. From something came something (It was self-caused) []
4. From Someone came something []

God Is the _____

The _____ View

a.k.a

The _____ View or The _____ View

Teleological comes from the Greek word *teleios* meaning result or end; to set out for a particular goal; to design something. This argument in brief is, when God or when a person designs something, the creator had a plan in mind. Creation points to an ultimate designer.

The Argument:

1. Every _____ had a _____.

Since a watch with all of its intricate gears and parts cannot appear out of thin air, it had to have a designer. Since a dictionary cannot just randomly come together by an explosion in a print shop, it had to have a designer. Since the sixty-six books of the Bible could not have been written and assembled magically, it had to have a Designer.

2. The universe has _____.

We see this by observing the simple and the complex items in our universe. There is uniformity and design. From the microscopic to the telescopic, things had a design.

3. The universe had a _____.

4. The ultimate designer creator is _____.

Biblical support

Psalm 19:2; Romans 1:19-21; Acts 14:11-17

The _____ View

a.k.a

The _____ View

Anthropological comes from the Greek word *anthropos* meaning man, mankind, human beings.

The Argument

1. We are _____, _____, _____, _____ human beings.
2. We have a knowledge of _____ and _____.
3. There must be a _____ of right and wrong; a moral law giver; an author of intelligence.
4. Our Creator is that intellectually superior _____ Being and He is God.

Summary: Living, breathing, moral, intelligent mankind requires a living and more intelligent Creator.

Biblical support:

Psalm 94:1-11; Acts 17:24-31; Romans 2:14-16

The Opposing View

That a material, lifeless (inanimate), unconscious force produced mankind having a soul, conscience, religious instincts and a complex physical structure with a brain, heart, lungs, skeletal system, etc.

The _____ View

a.k.a

The _____ Idea

The word ontological comes from the Greek word *ontos*; meaning to be.

The Argument

1. We are _____ beings.
2. We have an _____ of a most perfect Being who does exist.
3. The idea of a perfect Being who does not exist would be contradictory, would violate our _____, and would be _____ than perfect.
4. This _____ Being who does exist is _____.

Summary: It is inconceivable that we could conceive of or have an idea about a Perfect Being who does not exist.

Biblical support: Psalm 65:4-6; Matthew 5:48

The _____ View

The Argument

1. In all cultures and in various ways, mankind reveals that he believes in the existence of a supreme Being to whom they/we are accountable.
2. This universal belief does not come from reason, tradition, or Scripture.
3. This universal belief comes from within man.
4. This universal belief must have been placed within man.
5. Our Creator placed that universal belief within man and He is God.

Biblical support: Psalm 14:1; 53:1; Romans 1:18-19a

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