

Does God Exist? How Can We Know?

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WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

The word *apologia* in Greek means “defense.” In the ancient world, people like Socrates defended their beliefs and actions using apologies. Peter tells Christians to be ready to give a defense or reason (*apologia*) for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15).

Christian apologetics is the formal defense of the Christian faith against doctrinal error, misrepresentation and various objections. More positively, it is the science and art of Christian persuasion. It attempts to show that the gospel message is true in what it affirms.

TONIGHT’S TOPIC

We will examine a few of the “signposts” that point us to the Creator. I will give you several reasons for belief in God that I have found to be personally compelling.

DEFINITIONS

1. Atheism—Unbelief in the existence of God
2. Agnosticism—Uncertainty about the existence of God
3. Pantheism—Belief that God is everything
4. Polytheism—Belief in more than one god
5. Monotheism—Belief in one & only one God (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)

FIVE OBJECTIONS TO THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPT OF GOD

1. Religion is a Crutch for the Weak.
2. Science Makes God Unnecessary.
3. There Can’t Be Just One Way to God.
4. Many Christians Have Done Horrible Things.
5. A Loving God Would Not Allow Evil or Send People to Hell.

FIVE RESPONSES TO THE OBJECTIONS ABOVE

1. The real issue is not whether religion can be a crutch, but whether Christianity is true.
2. Many scientific conclusions point to a Creator.
3. Contradictory religious claims cannot all be true.
4. Bad behavior is evidence of human sinfulness.
5. Evil and Hell are the consequences of human choices.

THE BIBLE AND GOD’S EXISTENCE

1. God’s Existence Assumed without Proof (Genesis 1:1)
2. Foolish to Deny God’s Existence (Psalm 14:1; 53:1)
3. Inner Sense of God’s Reality (Romans 1:18)
4. God’s Existence Revealed by Nature (Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-2)

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TRADITIONAL ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

1. Causation (Cosmological Argument). Everything in the universe has a cause; therefore, the universe itself must have a cause.
2. Order (Teleological Argument). The harmony, order, complexity, and precision of the universe suggest a rational designer.
3. Being (Ontological Argument). Our ability to imagine God implies that he exists.
4. Morality (Moral Argument). There must be some source to our innate sense of right and wrong. God placed his mark on us.

SEVEN ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

1. The Existence of the Universe
2. The Beginning of the Universe
3. The Argument from Design
4. The Argument from Life's Origin
5. The Argument from Morality
6. The Argument from the Bible
7. The Argument from the Historicity of Jesus Christ

THREE FACTS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

1. The empty tomb;
2. Jesus post-resurrection appearances; and
3. The spread of the Christian faith.

We can confidently conclude that Jesus Christ did indeed rise from the dead and was who he claimed to be. And since these things are true, then the God that Jesus reveals is the true God.