



The Existence of God

Apologetics Lesson 2

6 Arguments for the Existence of God

1. Faith
2. Creation and Design
3. Anthropic Arguments
4. Cosmological Arguments
5. Transcendental Argument
6. Ontological Argument

1. Faith in the Supernatural is plausible

- Exercise of faith in our everyday life
- Exercise faith by using:
 - Reason or Science
 - Intuition
 - Our Experiences
- Agenda-Centric Approach vs Evidence-Centric Approach
 - Agenda-Centric: Assuming God exist or don't before you ask if each evidence support that assumption (non objective)
 - Evidence-Centric: Looking at evidence to ask if they show God's existence without making any assumption

1. Faith in the Supernatural is plausible

- Example: The miracle of someone suddenly cured of cancer
 - An event which natural causes at a time and place cannot produce at that time and place- a naturally impossible event
 - Some can say there was some unknown law of nature that would explain this just that he don't know what it is
 - But you can also say that it's a miracle
 - also think of the story in John 9- the blind man from birth could have say something happened and he is cured but he believed that Jesus is from God and if it was not so he could do nothing
- Faith is essential for both believing in the supernatural and the non-supernatural.
- However it is more plausible to believe in the supernatural

1. Faith in the Supernatural is plausible



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God put enough into the world to make faith in Him a reasonable thing. But He left enough out to make it impossible to live by reason alone.

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2. Creation and Design

- Creation by a intelligent designer is more intellectually plausible than by random chance
- Naturalism- A belief that everything arises from natural properties and causes.
 - Ie. Impersonal force + enough time + chance = creation
 - DNA contains 200 molecules in a precise order – probability of creation through mutation is very low
 - There is no evidence of evolution the past (no incipient or transitional form of fossils found) or present (no observed evolution)
- Creation is more likely
- *“But ask the beast, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:7-10*

3. Anthropic Arguments

■ A. Ethics, Morality and Conscience

Where does morality comes from?

■ God gave us our morality

■ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them (Rom 2 : 14-15)

■ Implies that morality is objective it comes from God

■ Morality from evolution or social constructs

■ Problem with : “Maximizing best interest of society”

■ Implies that Relativistic morality

3. Anthropic Arguments

■ B. Religious experience and yearning for eternity

Why are we constantly search for eternity if there isn't an eternity or why do we look for God if there is no God?

■ Other worldly desire points to a supernatural God (Existential Argument)

- There comes a time when one asks, "Is that all there is?" – Atheist Jean-Paul Sarte
- Solomon conclude that this this world is "meaningless, utterly meaningless, a chasing after the wind"
- Things of this world cannot satisfy our inner desire
- Ecc 3:11 - He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
- John 4, esp v 13: ¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

3. Anthropic Arguments

- *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 dolphin 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, Bk. III, chap 10, "Hope") CS Lewis*



3. Anthropic Arguments

- C. Capacity for good and evil and requirement of Justice
 - The paradoxical natural of man can only be best explained by the biblical world view
 - Man is created in the image of God but have sin and fall
 - Sin then requires a punishment
 - Jesus took that punishment for us hence we can be justified before God
 - Religion that teaches that your good must outweigh your evil does not fulfill the requirement of justice

4. Cosmological Arguments

- Thomas Aquinas, Year 1225
- 4 Argument for Existence of God

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)



4. Cosmological Arguments

- 1. Argument from Motion
 - We live in a world in which things are moving.
 - Movement is caused by movers.
 - Everything that have been set into motion by something else that was moving
 - Something must have started the motion in the first place
 - There cannot be infinite regression of movers
 - God is the unmoved mover (first)



4. Cosmological Arguments

- 2. Argument from Causation
 - Something that is caused is caused by something else
 - There can't be infinite regress of causes
 - God is the uncaused causer

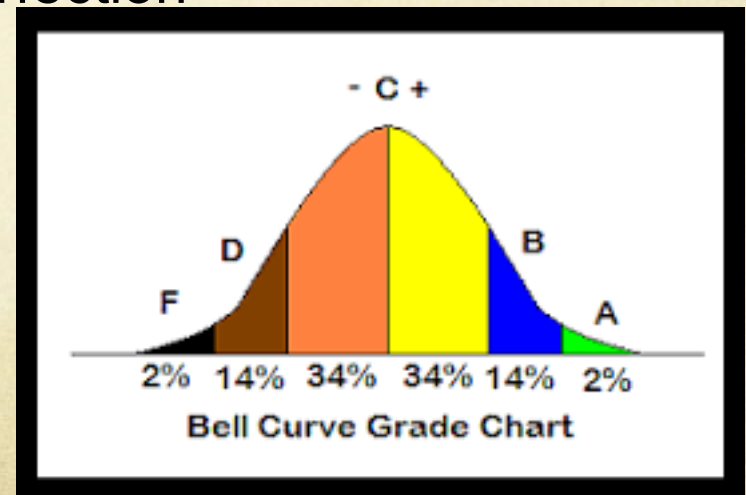


4. Cosmological Arguments

- 3. Argument from Contingency
 - There are contingent things but there can't only be contingent things
 - There can't be infinite regress of contingency
 - There must be at least one necessary thing and that is God.

4. Cosmological Arguments

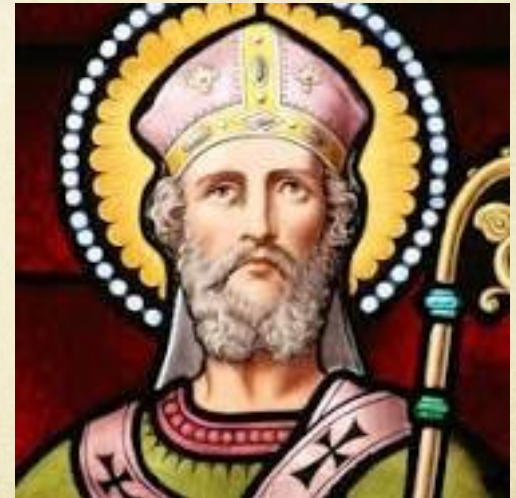
- 4. Argument from Degrees
 - Properties come in degrees, eg Good, bad, hot, cold
 - In order for there to be degrees of perfection, there must be something perfect against which everything else is measured against
 - God is the pinnacle of perfection



5. Ontological Argument

Conceived by 11th Century Anselm of Canterbury

“God is, that which no greater can be conceived.”



*There is none like You, O LORD; You are
great, and great is Your name in might. Jer
10:6*

5. Ontological Argument

Argument as follows:

Thesis: Something can exist only in our mind and be strictly **imaginary** or in our minds but also in **reality**. And now, any good thing would be better in our mind as well as reality.

1. God is that than which nothing greater can be conceived.
2. The greatest thing that could possibly be conceived of possesses the attribute of existence, because if it didn't, there is a thing still greater that could be conceived.
3. Therefore, God exists.

6. Transcendental Argument

- God is the precondition for knowledge, logic, science and conceptual generalization
- Science – without the God of the Bible, I can't explain why there is a uniformity of nature (laws of nature)
 - Gen 8:22 – While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease
 - Christ Himself upholds the universe through the physical laws He ordained (Col 1:16-17, Heb 1:3)

6. Transcendental Argument

- Morals- Without God, I have no basis to assume morality exist
- Logic – Without God, I have no basis to ground abstract principles such as maths or reasoning

Final Words

- Believing in God is reasonable, consistent with reason, and is actually more rational than the alternative of believing in his nonexistence
- Learning these boost our confidence in talking to non-believers but we should always rely on the Holy Spirit when talking to them