

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

1. Opening questions.

- a. How can some people be certain God does exist while others are just as certain he doesn't?
- b. Why has the percentage of people who believe in an all-knowing, all-powerful God dropped significantly in the past 25 years?
- c. After years of propaganda, why aren't there more convinced atheists?

2. The most basic and fundamental assertion of the Christian faith is that God exists.

- a. **Ge 1:1** 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- b. “[W]e [Christians] take this question of truth and personality so seriously that if God were not there, we would be among the first to have the courage to step out of the queue.”¹
- c. We can't get to the gospel until we first establish that God exists.

3. We really only have three choices with regard to God's existence.

- a. Theism:
 - (1) Deism: God exists, but he is disinterested and uninvolved in the universe.
 - (2) Strict monotheism: [].
 - (3) Trinitarian monotheism: [].
- b. Pantheism:
- c. Atheism:
- d. Agnosticism:
 - (1) Absolute agnosticism: Whether God exists or not, he cannot be known.
 - (2) Empirical agnosticism: There is not enough information whether God exists.

4. Forget the question, “Does God exist?” and ask the question “Do you want God to exist?”

5. Our belief in God's existence is based on reliable evidence, not blind faith.

- a. Faith, reason, experience, tradition, and intuition all agree that God exists.
- b. “What can be asserted without proof can be dismissed without proof.”²
 - (1) We don't assert God's existence without proof.

6. Scripture everywhere assumes God's existence.

7. People who deny God's existence are wicked and foolish.

- a. **Ps 10:4** 4 In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek [God]. All his thoughts are, There is no God.
- b. People deny God's existence so they can do what they want with impunity. They don't want to be held accountable. It's like a criminal defendant in court who refuses to

¹ F. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*, in *The Complete Works*, 1:96.

² Christopher Hitchens.

believe in the judge sitting on the bench, even though the judge is right before his eyes.

(1) **Ps 14:1** 1 The fool says in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt. They do abominable deeds. There is none who does good.

- c. Nietzsche.
- d. Dawkins.
- e. See *Atheism*.
- f. Science has gone from “find the right answer” to “find the right natural answer.” But there is no philosophical reason for this. Just because you can’t use the tools of science to study God doesn’t mean God is not a valid cause? Why restrict the possible explanations? Where’s the objectivity? How about accepting the best explanation.

8. Beware of being a philosophical theist but a practical atheists. That’s really deism.

- a. Christians who focus on earning more money and acquiring more possessions are practical materialists. Their lives would be not much different if they did not believe in God at all.³

9. It is completely acceptable to prove God’s existence based on circumstantial evidence.

- a. “Circumstantial cases are built on the strength of multiple lines of evidence and the fact that all the individual pieces point to the same conclusion.”⁴
- b. “The circumstantial evidence in our universe is consistent with God’s existence and involvement as the uncaused first cause, the fine-tuner, the designer, and the moral lawgiver required to account for all the evidence we observe.”⁵
- c. “God’s existence is the only reasonable inference in light of the evidence.... [W]e can get there without a single piece of direct...evidence.”⁶

10. Creation testifies to God’s existence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

11. Every believer should be familiar with the classical arguments for God’s existence.

- a. The Cosmological Argument: Causal Evidence.⁷
 - (1) Anything that begins to exist has a cause.
 - (2) The universe began to exist.
 - (3) Therefore, the universe must have a cause.
 - (4) This cause must be eternal and uncaused.
 - (5) God is the most reasonable explanation for such an uncaused first cause.

³ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 268.

⁴ J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity*, 209.

⁵ J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*, 1st ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013), 67.

⁶ J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*, 1st ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013), 68.

⁷ J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*, 1st ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013), 63.

- b. The Teleological Argument: “Design Evidence.”⁸
- (1) Structures and systems that: (1) cannot be explained by some natural law requiring their appearance; (2) exist in spite of the high improbability they could result from chance; and (3) conform to an independently existing and recognizable pattern are most reasonably explained as coming from the design efforts of an intelligent agent.
 - (2) Biological systems possess characteristics these characteristics (*e.g.*, information contained in the DNA code).
 - (3) Biological systems are, therefore, most reasonably explained as coming from the design efforts of an intelligent agent.
 - (4) God is the most reasonable explanation for such an incredibly wise, all-powerful, intelligent agent.
 - (5) “The beauty of a snowflake, the majestic power of a thunderstorm, the skill of a honeybee, the refreshing taste of cold water, the incredible abilities of the human hand—all these and thousands of other aspects of creation simply could not have come into existence apart from the activity of an all-powerful and all-wise Creator.”⁹
 - (6) “Intelligence is the *only known cause* of complex functionally integrated information-processing systems.”¹⁰
 - (7) Every leaf on every tree, every blade of grass, every star in the sky, and every other part of creation all cry out continuously, “God made me! God made me!”
 - (8) “The odds against the universe existing are so heart-stoppingly astronomical that the notion that it all ‘just happened’ defies common sense. It would be like tossing a coin and having it come up heads 10 quintillion times in a row.”¹¹
 - (9) “The more we get to know about our universe, the more the hypothesis that there is a Creator...gains in credibility as the best explanation of why we are here.”
- c. Specific evidence for design in the universe is:
- (1) Kinesin.
 - (2) DNA. It would take 100 books of 1000 pages each to write out the DNA language of our human bodies.
- d. The Anthropic Principle: “Fine-Tuning Evidence.”¹²
- (1) The physical constraints and laws of the universe appear to be uniquely and specifically related to one another (fine-tuned), making life possible on earth.
 - (2) The fine-tuned relationships of these laws and constants appear to be designed (as their existence by natural unguided means seems improbable and unlikely).

⁸ J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*, 1st ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013), 65.

⁹ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 142-43.

¹⁰ Stephen C. Meyer, *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (New York: HarperOne, 2009), 346. See also William A Dembski, *The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance through Small Probabilities* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1998).

¹¹ Eric Metaxas.

¹² J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*, 1st ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013), 64.

- (3) A design requires an intelligent designer. An incredibly vast and complex design requires an incredibly intelligent and powerful designer.
- (4) God is the most reasonable explanation for such a vast, universal designer (and fine-tuner).
- (5) Anthony Flew (d. 2010) moved from atheism to theism because of the anthropic principle. He was an English philosopher who for much of his career Flew was a strong advocate of atheism. In 2003 he was one of the signatories of the Humanist Manifesto III. However, the following year he changed his position and stated he now believed in the existence of an Intelligent Creator of the universe, shocking fellow atheists. Flew openly made an allegiance to Deism and dismissed any conversion to Christianity, Islam, or any other religion. He stated that in keeping his lifelong commitment to go where the evidence leads, he now believed in the existence of a God. His 2007 book, *There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*, outlined his reasons for changing his position.
 - (a) "I have been persuaded that it is simply out of the question that the first living matter evolved out of dead matter and then developed into an extraordinary complicated creature. ...DNA has shown, by that almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce life, that intelligence must have been involved."¹³
- e. The Moral Argument: Moral Evidence.¹⁴
 - (1) There is an objective, transcendent moral law.
 - (2) Every moral law has a lawgiver.
 - (3) Therefore, there is an objective, transcendent moral lawgiver.
 - (4) God is the most reasonable explanation for such a transcendent moral lawgiver.
 - (5) "It is man himself, created in the image of God, who most abundantly bears witness to the existence of God. When we meet another human being, we should immediately realize such an incredibly intricate, skillful, communicative living creature could only have been created by an infinite, all-wise Creator."
 - (6) "Every day, all day, is a voice inside each of us saying, 'God made me. God made me.'"
- f. The Ontological Argument.
 - a. God is the being "greater than which nothing can be imagined."
 - b. The characteristic of existence must belong to such a being because it is greater to exist than not to exist.
 - c. God does in fact exist as the being greater than which nothing can be imagined.
- g. The Transcendental Argument.
- h. The Argument from Religious or Aesthetic Experience.

12. Assuming a big bang beginning of the universe, the cause of the universe must be:¹⁵

- a. Spaceless, because there was no space before the big bang.

¹³ Former atheist Anthony Flew.

¹⁴ J. Warner Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*, 1st ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013), 66.

¹⁵ Rodney Lake, *Thinking Matters* New Zealand.

- b. Timeless, because there was no time before the big bang.
- c. Immaterial, because there was no material before the big bang.
- d. Supernatural, because it must transcend the natural world.
- e. Immensely powerful, because the universe is immensely large.
- f. Uncaused, because at least one cause must be uncaused to avoid infinite regression.
- g. Eternal, because there must be an unmoved mover or prime mover. Something must be eternal.
- h. Intelligent, because the laws and constants of the universe are fine-tuned to allow for life.
- i. Purposeful, because....
- j. Mind, because free will agency is required to initiate the first event. We need agent causation, not just event causation.

13. Atheism leads to destruction.

- a. “Against all that one might expect, man functions better if he acts as though God is there. God is dead, but act as if He were alive.”¹⁶
- b. “Man can only function as man if he acts on the assumption that a lie is true.”¹⁷
- c. Social statistics in the West prove people’s belief or disbelief in God’s existence actually impacts their behavior. This is in an of itself a proof for the existence of God.

14. Man’s disbelief in God’s existence doesn’t impact God in the least.

- a. We can’t wish God away.
- b. Even if every human being in the world agreed God did not exist, he would still exist.

15. God’s existence is either a liberating or frightening reality.

¹⁶ Julian Huxley.

¹⁷ F. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*, in *The Complete Works*, 1:93.

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Notes