

The Existence of God

Intro

The Bible says that God is as Spirit (John 4:24). Therefore, we can't sense Him with our five senses. Some people argue against the existence of God because they can't see Him. They say they believe in science and the scientific method. But the scientific method is only helpful for what is repeatable and measurable. The scientific method does not work for historical, non-physical realities like the assassination of President Lincoln or the beginning of the Universe which are not repeatable. It does not work for non-physical realities like love or peace that are not measurable, yet we know they exist.

We know God exists because of the abundance of evidence.

Arguments for the existence of God:

I. Possibility that God could exist.

- A. An atheist says that there is no God.
- B. This person is called a fool by the Bible because they are not being intellectually honest (Ps. 14 :1).
- C. They have to admit that there could be a God they may just not know Him.
- D. Now he is no longer an atheist but an agnostic.

II. The Law of Cause and Effect

- A. The law states that there must be a sufficient cause to account for the effect.
- B. The cause is always greater than the effect.
- C. Since there is something (the universe) there must have been a something or someone (God) that caused it.
- D. Some would argue that the cause was the Big Bang and this started evolution.
- E. But if anything now exists, something must be eternal or else something not eternal must have emerged from nothing. The idea of something coming from nothing is not logical.
- F. So what are the possibilities?
 1. the universe is eternal.
 - a. the 2nd law of thermodynamics says that the quality of energy in the universe is constantly declining, like a giant clock winding down with no one to wind it up.
 - b. Hydrogen is not being produced in any measurable amount but is being converted to helium by nuclear fusion by the core of the stars. An infinitely old earth would mean that almost no hydrogen would be left, but most of the universe is hydrogen.
 - c. This doesn't seem to add up with the evidence.
 2. the universe was created by an eternal being
 - a. some ask, "Where did God come from?"
 - b. We could ask, "Where did the matter for the universe come from?"
 - c. God has always been. He is the uncaused, cause.
 3. Which seems more logical to believe, matter came from nothing, matter has always been, or that God is eternal and HE created the world?
 4. Either way you must respond in faith to the evidence (Heb. 11:6)

III. Purpose and Design Argument

- A. the complex nature of the universe implies that there must have been a designer behind its structure.

B. The universe has order, symmetry, and design, therefore, it must have had a designer.

C. if you found a watch in the woods and you had never seen one before, you would conclude that someone made it. Why?

Because it has design and many parts that work together for one purpose. It's design would suggest a watch maker.

D. Naturalism assumes that the universe came to be over millions of years through random chance. They say given enough time anything can happen.

E. Consider one strand of DNA. It contains 200 molecules that have to be in an exact order. The big bang suggests that the primal soup got struck by lightning and caused this to happen and the right environment needed already existed.

How probable is that? We are only talking about one strand of DNA.

F. The question is which is more rational to believe, creation through random chance through millions of years or an intelligent designer who created the world?

G. The Bible says that creation (general revelation) points to there being a God. (Gen. 1:1, Rom. 1:19-20, Ps. 19:1-6)

IV. Morality and Conscience (Romans 1:18-19, 2:14-15)

A. If there is no God, then there is no basis for morality.

B. If there is no God, then how can you call anything good or bad? Whose morality do you choose?

C. But all of us have an intrinsic sense that some things are right and some things are wrong. Otherwise, you couldn't argue what Hitler did was wrong or that rape is wrong.

D. Besides everyone on a personal level well cry injustice if they feel like they have been mistreated.

E. But one you concede that morality exists, you have to ponder where this objective standard comes from. The argument goes like this:

1. if objective moral values exist, then God exists.
2. Objective moral values exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

F. Another way to argue moral values

1. if you assume evil, then you must assume good.
2. to define good and evil, you acknowledge a moral law
3. there can be no moral law without a law giver.
4. therefore, there must be a God.

V. Yearning for eternity and purpose (Eccl. 3:11)

A. Since the earliest of times, humankind has been incurably religious.

B. There is a drive in the human psyche that compels us to seek a higher power, a source for our existence, and some explanation for who we are and why we are here.

C. if I told you to meet me tomorrow at 4:00pm at Espresso Bay downtown, what would come to your mind?

You want to know why? You want to know the purpose? Where does that come from? We were designed for a purpose by a purposeful God. If we are just products of random chance then the idea of purpose doesn't even make sense.

D. Ask someone, "What will ultimately really satisfy you?" Then ask them, "What's next?"

E. We all have a desire to find fulfillment and be satisfied but we never seem to be able to fulfill it? Why?

1. CS Lewis argues that for every other innate desire we have there is a real object that satisfies that desire.

a. thirsty- water

b. hungry- food

c. tired- sleep

2. But within us there is a desire which nothing in time, on earth, no creature can satisfy.

3. Therefore, there must exist something outside of time, earth, and creature which can satisfy.

4. He argues that is God.

5. We were created by God for a relationship with God and only that will truly satisfy the longing of our soul. (Ps. 16:11, John 4:13)

VI. Study of man

A. Since man has intellect, emotion, reason, and is a personal being, then the cause would have to be a personal being.

B. the law of cause and effect says the effect cannot be greater than the cause.

C. the impersonal is not able to think, feel, reason, it is inferior to the personal. Evolution teaches that the impersonal (gases, amino acids, chemicals) produced the personal (a greater affect)

D. Since we are personal beings, it would suggest a cause that is greater- a personal God.

Conclusion

Is it more plausible to believe in God as an explanation to your life experiences and the indirect evidences that you see or to not believe in God?

Certainly believing in God requires faith but hopefully you see that it is not irrational and belief in life without God requires faith- possibly even more faith.

If you are going to be honest with yourself you have to admit that no matter what you believe you need to ask yourself "What evidence do I have that my beliefs are right and others are wrong?" it would lack intellectual integrity to hold someone else's beliefs to a higher standard than you hold your own beliefs.

We started out by saying that God is a spirit and unless He reveals Himself to us we would never really know Him.

God revealed himself to us in two special revelations:

1. The Word of God John 5:39

2. Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh John 1:18

Small groups

1. Which argument for the existence of God was most meaningful to you? Least meaningful to you? Why?

2. What questions do you have about the existence of God? What have you done to get answers?

3. Have you ever gotten into a conversation with a friend about the existence of God? How did it go? What attitude do you think God would want you to have during the conversation?

4. Who are you praying for that does not know God? How are you investing into them?