

3. Is There A God

I. Can anyone know there is a God?

II. Pascal's Wager

- Either God exists or He doesn't exist. What would be wiser—to believe He does exist or to believe He doesn't exist? Let's say we put a wager on the idea that God exists. If we win this wager, and He does exist, we win everything; if we lose, and God doesn't exist, we lose nothing. Since this is the case, we should wager that God does exist.

III. Evidence for the existence of God

A. The Cosmological Argument

- ✓ The universe could not have come from nothing.
- ✓ The universe could not have always existed as it is.
 - Laws of Thermodynamics
 1. States that matter/energy can neither be created nor destroyed.
 2. States that the usable energy in the universe is being converted slowly into unusable energy.
- ✓ The Universe could not have come from impersonal matter/energy.
 - “Beginning with the impersonal, everything, including man, must be explained in terms of the impersonal plus time plus chance. Do not let anyone divert your mind at this point. There are no other factors in the formula, because there are no other factors that exist... . No one has ever demonstrated how time plus chance, beginning with an impersonal, can produce the needed complexity of the universe, let alone the personality of man” (Francis Schaeffer).
 - Therefore, the universe must have been created by a personal, eternal Being.

B. The Teleological Argument

✓ All the intricate design in the universe argues for a purposeful first cause.

➤ For Example,

- The Eye
- The Cell
- DNA

C. The Anthropic Principle

✓ The earth has just the right conditions for human life.

➤ For Example,

- Distance from the sun
- Gravity and electromagnetism

“Gravity is roughly 10^{39} times weaker than electromagnetism. If gravity had been 10^{33} times weaker than electromagnetism, stars would be a billion times less massive and would burn a million times faster.”

- Protons and neutrons

“If the difference in mass between a proton and a neutron were not exactly as it is—roughly twice the mass of an electron— then all neutrons would have become protons or vice versa.”

- The nature of water

Unlike most molecules, water is lighter in its solid form. That is why ice floats.

D. The Moral Argument

✓ The fact that we all have a sense of right and wrong argues that there is a Supreme lawgiver from which that morality comes.

IV. Responding to the #1 objection to the existence of God:

“If there is a good and omnipotent God, then why is there evil and suffering in the world? The existence of evil must prove there is not a good, omnipotent God.”

✓ Answers:

- The problem of evil implies that there is a God.
- There is evil in the world because the first humans God made abused their freedom and chose to disobey God. Suffering is the consequence of moral evil.
- God made free creatures because He wanted them to love Him.
- The great amount of suffering in the world shows how serious sin is.

Application

This week, show someone (preferably an atheist) the circle illustration, Pascal’s Wager, and at least 3 arguments for the existence of God.