

4 Classic Arguments For the Existence of God

1. The Cosmological Argument

The first argument for the existence of God has to do with the cause of everything that is. This argument seeks to prove God exists by the fact that the universe exists, and at some point it had to come from somewhere. Even one who believes in a Big Bang has to answer where it came from, how it was caused, etc. And even then, what caused the cause, and so on. The universe had to come into existence. We know, however, that nothing comes into existence from nothing or on the basis or cause of nothing. Something had to happen to cause it. Christians believe this is God (as recorded in Genesis 1 & 2). This argument states that since everything in our universe is contingent on something else for its survival, nothing within the universe made it come about. Therefore, some force or being from outside the universe must have brought it into existence. This argument thus demonstrates the existence of a transcendent creator God who has neither a beginning or end.

2. The Teleological Argument

The second argument discussed is the teleological argument, and it suggests the order, organization, symmetry, and congruence of the universe reflects its intelligent design. The world is intricate in its ordered detail. A purely naturalistic explanation for this chalks it up to some sort of spontaneous event which spurred many subsequent movements in development to progress things to the way they are today. According to this point of view, there is ultimately no explanation for this “spontaneous” event, and the fact that

everything has turned out as orderly as it is, is very fortunate. Christians, on the other hand, reason that there is an intelligent creator God who is mindful of and involved in his creation and has deliberately made things the way they are. Philosopher William Paley said, “There simply cannot be a design without a designer, contrivance without a contriver.” The fact of the matter is, it likely takes more faith to believe our universe came from a spontaneous collision of gasses than it does to reason that there must be an intelligent designer God.

3. The Moral Argument

The Moral Argument looks across cultures and people groups all over the world, sees that they all have a sense of morality, and begs the question, how can this be possible without the involvement of a holy God? People everywhere are able to distinguish honesty over dishonesty, right over wrong, justice over injustice, love over hate. In order to have laws (or morality), there must be a law-maker. This “moral code” written into humanity supercedes human law and authority. Therefore, it had to be given by an authority source that transcends all human authority. Who has given all of humanity this sense of oughtness? Christians reason that it is God who has done so.

4. The Argument of Personal Experience

Finally, and less conclusive in itself, is the evidence that billions credible, honest people with integrity have said they experience the presence of God in their lives. Christian experience must be considered when attempting to find a reason for the existence of God.

No one argues that there have been delusional people who claim to have had a special experience with God, but there are also numerous intelligent people of sound mind all throughout history who deeply believe they have felt the love and presence of God.

One can even read in news stories today of Muslims who feel moved by God to investigate the Christian religion or believe in Jesus as savior, even though they have never spoken with a Christian evangelist or laid eyes on a Bible. God moves in their hearts. Christian experience, although subjective and personal, must not be discredited as lunacy. Rather, there are countless reasonable people who, in fact, claim authentic faith in the existence of God.

group discussion

1. Which most closely describes where you are in your belief in the existence of God?
 - The God of the Bible is a complete myth, and those who believe in him are weak-minded, abject idiots.
 - I can see why people believe in the God of the Bible, but I don't want to go there.
 - There must be some sort of higher being out there, but what/who it is, I'm not certain.
 - I believe in the existence of a god other than the God of the Bible, and I would describe he/she/it as _____.
 - I want to believe in the God of the Bible, but don't know how and/or there are barriers keeping me from believing.
 - I believe the God of the Bible exists, but I refuse to believe that Jesus is that God.
 - I'm finally ready to profess faith in the God of the Bible and trust Jesus as my Savior. What do I need to do?
 - I believe the God of the Bible exists, and Jesus is my Savior.

2. What is your response to the 4 arguments posed on Sunday for the existence of God (group leaders, if need be, please review the 4 arguments)?
 - Were there any realizations you had when hearing any of them?

 - Did any of them seem particularly compelling or less than so? Why?

 - Other thoughts?

3. How much of Christian beliefs do you think are the result of faith and how much do you think is the result of reason?
 - scriptures to consider:

4. Throughout the course of this series, each week have 1 or 2 people in your group take about 5 minutes and share the story of their faith journey.

