

Does God Exist?

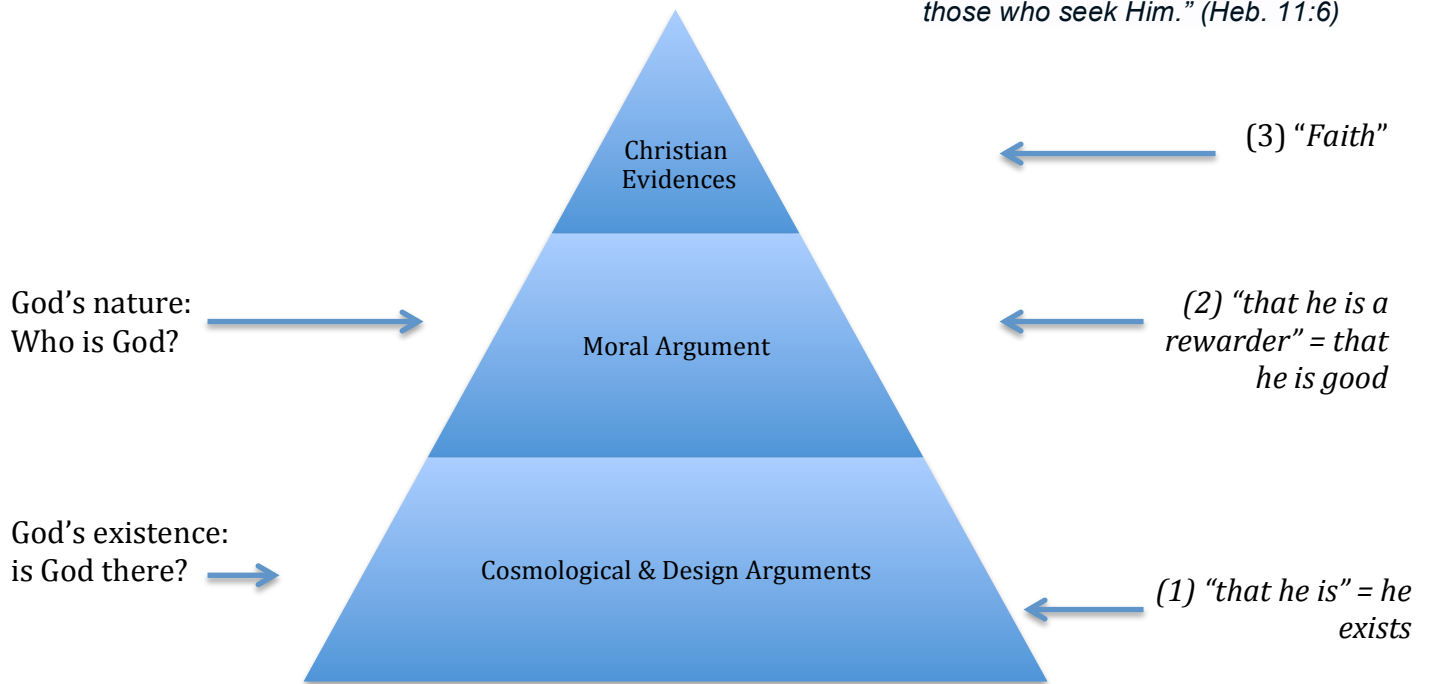
Apologetic Foundations

Video #1: Reasonable Faith Design Video, Video #2: Case for Creator Clip

Building an Apologetic Foundation

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6)



Early Christian Apologetics

1. Most in the Bible presuppose God's existence
2. Jesus (and Paul, Acts 1:3, 17 & 18, Phil 1:7, 2 Cor.10:5, Rom. 1:19-20) appealed to evidence to support his claims: five-fold testimony (John 5:31-47; Deut 17:6; 19:15) (John, his own works, the father, the OT, and Moses), four-fold testimony (John 8) (self, father, Abraham, sinless life), miracles (showing complete authority over creation ,see below) which were powerful enough to bring anger and belief (John 10:25, 32, 38; Mt. 11:4-5; Jn. 2:19 & 12:42,12:37), his greatest miracle: the predicted (Mk. 8:31, Jn. 2:19, Mt. 17:9, 17:22; Mt. 20:18-19; Isa. 53:8-10) resurrection (1 Cor. 15:17).

3. Jesus reasoned and used logic to influence people: non-contradiction (Mt. 7:15; Jn. 8:12, 32, 42-7, 1 Jn. 4:1, 6), identity (Mt. 5:37), excluded middle (Mt 12:30, Lk. 11:23, 1 John 3:10), *a fortiori* arguments (Mt. 12:9-14, Jn 7:21-24; 10:24-41; Mt. 7:11), disjunctive syllogism (Mt. 12:30; Lk. 11:23, Mt. 6:24), hypothetical syllogism (Mt. 6:14, 7:1), categorical syllogism (Lk. 6:6-11, Mt. 4:4), avoiding the horns of a dilemma (Mt. 22:15-22, 22:23-33), *reductio ad absurdum* (Mt. 12:22-28).
4. If his audience were atheists, what would Jesus have said? We know based on (1) the Old Testament which Jesus affirmed, (2) The New Testament, which reflects his mind, and (3) implications from what he did say.
5. Contrary to appearances, Jesus did not advocate blind faith (see video): Mt 12:38 (Jesus had just done miracles & ministered for 2 years, Jesus knows nothing will satisfy their skepticism, God's evidence is for the open-hearted), Luke 16:19-31 (miracles only work for open hearts), Luke 23:8-12 (not an open heart), John 20:24-29 (those "who have not seen" is talking about Thomas!), Rom. 8:16 (simply affirms Holy Spirit's unique role, see context), 1 Cor. 1:20-21 (see Rom. 1:19-20, "foolishness" concerns plan of salvation), 1 Cor. 2:2-5 (merely emph. the Gospel message), 1 Cor. 2:15 (not incapable of understanding w/o Spirit, they simply reject God, lack FULL knowledge), Eph. 2:1 (dead doesn't mean completely ignorance, cf. Rom. 1:20 and Gen. 3:9-10).

The Cosmological Argument

1. 300 passages in the Bible refer to creation
2. Heb. 3:4 shows Jesus affirmed "every house has a maker".
3. In Mt. 19:4-8, Mk. 13:19, Lk. 11:50 Jesus affirms the creation event.
4. Acts 17 shows Paul addressed the epicureans (atheists) and Stoics (pantheist) giving evidence for God's existence: God is the source of all things (Acts 17:25), he must be rational (v. 29) as he resembles his effects since he cannot produce what he does not possess (v. 25).
5. Rom. 1:19-20 teaches that not only is creation evidence of God's existence but the evidence is so strong that we are without excuse

The Design (human, moral, cosmic) Argument

1. In Mt. 6:25-30 Jesus affirmed God's design order of the universe (coloring of lowers, feeding of animals)
2. Ps. 94:9-10 teaches causes must be like their effects: "He who planted the ear, shall he not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?"
3. Ps. 19:1 teaches that the heavens give evidence for God: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork." (see Ps. 8 also)
4. Acts 14:17 teaches God didn't leave us without a witness to his existence and goodness
5. Romans 2 teaches the moral law written on our hearts is evidence for a moral law-giver

Supposed Problems with Christian theism

1. Why monotheism over polytheism?
2. The problem of evil – if God is good why is there evil?
3. Why this world? Free will and God's sovereignty
4. Evil in the Bible
5. The nature of God and the Trinity
6. Origin of and contradictions in the Bible
7. Religious pluralism – why aren't there many ways to God?

Christian Evidences

1. The uniqueness of Christianity / Jesus (Craig Hazen talk)
2. Evidence for the resurrection of Jesus
3. The historical reliability of the Bible

See Norman L. Geisler; Patrick Zukeran. *The Apologetics of Jesus: A Caring Approach to Dealing with Doubters* (Kindle Locations 258-261). Kindle Edition.