

Does God Exist?

The Moral Argument

Video #1: Reasonable Faith Moral Argument video

Step 1: If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.

1. **Moral values** = what something is worth (good or bad), e.g. “it is good to get a college degree.”
2. **Moral duty** = what you are obligated to do (right or wrong), e.g. “you are not obligated to get a college degree.”
3. This premise does not say that without **belief** in God, valued/duties do not exist.
4. It IS possible to believe in this premise AND be an atheist! What would follow?



Step #2: Objective moral values (including evil) and duties do exist.*

1. Morality is either based on **God, nature, or human beings**
 - a. **Nature** – if a moral fact is merely the same as a natural fact then how do we get OUGHT from IS? (i.e. Naturalistic fallacy)
 - b. **Human beings** – if we invent morality, what makes it meaningful? Where does ultimate accountability come in?
 - i. *Moral relativism* – there are good reasons to think moral values are not relative. Some principles are clearly wrong (see step #2), relativism is unlivable, it doesn't follow from disagreement alone, it makes reformers immoral, it undermines law, all arguments for relativism fail, and we can discover moral values.
 - c. **God** – if God is the source of morality then there is an objective foundation for values, duties, and accountability
OBJECTION: Is something good because God wills or does God will it because it is good? (i.e. Euthyphro objection)
ANSWER: Goodness flows from God's nature, duty flows from his commands
 - d. **Conclusion** – the real question is between God and *moral nihilism* (i.e. morality is an illusion), but there are no good reasons to think moral values are NOT meaningful.
To defend this you must prove every moral theory wrong, you can never use the word “should”/“ought”, can't explain why we think and act in terms of moral ideas, all life choices become meaningless, if all of life is meaningless then it is self-refuting since that statement is meaningful.

Also, without God, there is no ultimate moral accountability.

What about relativism? Everyone knows that some things are objectively morally wrong (i.e. **moral objectivism**) are some things are objectively morally good. Example: it is morally wrong to “torture innocent human beings for the fun of it.” If so, objective moral values exist. (see handout)

**** This argument shows reveals how the problem of evil actually turns out to be an argument for God's existence, since without God, objective good AND objective evil have no real meaning.**

Therefore, God exists.