

Know God
Part 2: The Existence of God

HOW CAN WE KNOW GOD IS THERE

+ All human beings have an inner sense of God's existence

"All persons everywhere have a deep, inner sense that God exists, that they are His creatures, and He is their creator." -*Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology p. 141*

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ." -*Blaise Pascal*

Human beings have a sense that there is something more than what can be seen. No matter where you go in the world, something or someone is being worshipped. Worship is found in everything from organized religion (ordering ones life around the desires of a deity) to complete secularism (ordering ones life around the desires of oneself.) We have a sense there is something greater than ourselves. The "something" is a "someone."

The Apostle Paul shows in the scripture that even unbelievers have an inner sense of God.

For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. -*Romans 1:21 HCSB emphasis added*

While unbelievers choose to ignore their awareness of God, a believer's awareness is strengthened

A believer's is so strong that it allows us to love Jesus Christ even though we have never seen him.

You love Him, though you have not seen Him. And though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy. -*1 Peter 1:8 HCSB emphasis added*

+ There is evidence in Nature of God's existence

Nature testifies of God's existence:

For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being

understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. -*Romans 1:20 HCSB emphasis added*

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. -*Psalm 19:1-2 HCSB emphasis added*

“For those who have eyes to see and evaluate the evidence correctly, every leaf on every tree, every blade of grass, every star in the sky, and every other part of creation all cry out continuously, ‘God made me! God made me! God made me!’” -*Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology p. 142*

+ **Philosophical Arguments for God’s existence**

1. The Cosmological Argument

The cosmological argument uses the existence of the universe to argue for the existence of God.

Cosmos (from gk. *KOSMOS* meaning order or world/universe.)

The Cosmos is the ordered universe, and it is the opposite of Chaos an unordered universe. Our world exists in the COSMOS not Chaos, earth is not haplessly floating through space, it exists in a solar system, which exists in a galaxy, which exists in the universe.

In the twentieth century, astronomer Edwin Hubble uncovered one of the greatest discoveries of all-time. Hubble discovered what is now known as *red-shift*. Hubble observed in his telescope that the most distant galaxies faded toward the color red on the light spectrum. *Red-shift* revealed the galaxies were getting farther away, and if the galaxies are getting farther away, it means that the universe is expanding. If the universe is expanding, it means it is expanding from something and that something is a *beginning*.

Hubble’s discovery sent shockwaves through the entire scientific world. Science had long taught that the universe was static or not expanding. A static universe needs no beginning and thus needs no explanation for its existence. Hubble’s discovery destroyed all of the prior theories of a static universe, and it even caused Albert Einstein’s to abandon his theory of a static universe called the *Cosmological Constant*.

Since the universe is expanding, that means we can follow its expansion back to a beginning where in a single moment the universe burst in existence. The beginning is called the *singularity*. I personally believe the *singularity* is one of the greatest arguments for the existence of God.

We know from science that nothing material exists apart from the universe. Therefore, before the *singularity*, there was nothing. The universe came from *ex nihilo* (Latin: out of nothing.)

Before the *Singularity* there was nothing. No Matter, Time, Space, or Energy. Therefore, the cause must be Matterless, Timeless, Spaceless, and Unimaginably Powerful.

“Such an origin *ex nihilo* seems to many cry out for a transcendent cause.” –*William Lane Craig, Philosophical Foundations of a Christian Worldview p. 465*

Matter’s cause would have to be immaterial:

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. -*John 4:24 HCSB emphasis added*

Time’s cause would have to be eternal:

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. -*1 Timothy 1:17 HCSB emphasis added*

Space’s cause would have to be spaceless:

The only One who has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light; no one has seen or can see Him, to Him be honor and eternal might. Amen. -*1 Timothy 6:16 HCSB emphasis added*

Energy’s cause must be unimaginable powerful:

Look, I am Yahweh, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for Me? -*Jeremiah 32:27 HCSB emphasis added*

2. The Teleological Argument

“The teleological argument is really a subcategory of the cosmological argument. It focuses on evidence of harmony,

order, and design in the universe, and argues that its design gives evidence of an intelligent purpose.” –*Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology p. 143*

The teleological argument observes the order and design in the universe and rightly concludes that order and design cannot come from a “force” it must come from a mind or a person. Thus if there is order and design, there must be an *Orderer* and *Designer*.

These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation at the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. -*Genesis 2:4 HCSB emphasis added*

3. The Moral Argument

The moral argument notes the inner sense that we all have that there is right and wrong.

Even those who argue for moral relativism desire justice (a sense of right) when they are wronged.

Not only does the existence of God give us our sense of right and wrong, it ensures us that one day God’s justice will triumph over all evil and injustice.

WHY DO SOME REJECT GOD’S EXISTENCE

+ **Sin suppresses the truth**

Human sinfulness cannot be understated, apart from the grace of God, sin will continue to lead a person to suppress their inner sense of God.

For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. -*Romans 1:18 HCSB emphasis added*

+ **Satan has blinded their eyes from the truth**

There is an invisible war against taking place in order that the Devil might prevent the truth from being known.

In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. -*2 Corinthians 4:4 HCSB emphasis added*

+ **He cannot be known through human wisdom**

Because God's existence can never be fully proven through philosophy or in the science lab, some refuse to believe.

Where is the philosopher? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of the message preached. -1 Corinthians 1:20-21 HCSB emphasis added

WHAT DOES GOD'S EXISTENCE MEAN FOR US

+ **God is GOD**

God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." -Exodus 3:14 HCSB

As we will see later in this study, God is unchanging. What God is, he has always been and will always be. When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, he told him, "I AM WHO I AM." Moses asked God what he was supposed to tell the Israelites when they asked who sent him. God replied tell them I AM sent you.

The phrase uses the word "AM" (*hâyâ*, in Hebrew) which means "to be." God is telling Moses, I will continue to be, that which I have always been.

God is tenseless, he never "was" and He never "will be," God just "is" and he always "is." He is the self-existing one (the uncaused cause.) He will always be GOD!

+ **God is Personal**

The phrase, "I AM WHO I AM" uses the personal pronoun "I." God was revealing to Moses that He was a personal God. God is not a "force" or a "power," God is a person. The personhood of God should not be understood to be the same as the personhood of human beings, but it is similar.

The foundation of personhood is being able to make a decision. A "force" or a "power" is completely unable to make a decision, for only "persons" can make decisions. For example, it would be completely illogical to look at a lit lamp and say, "the force of electricity chose to turn on the light." Electricity is just a force, with no will of its own.

Something outside of electricity (a person) must make a choice to apply the force of electricity.

+ God's purpose for revealing Himself is to: be Known

When a person makes a choice, they reveal something about themselves. Since God is a person who has made choices, then His choices reveal who He is. For example, God chose to create the universe. Therefore, God created the universe to reveal Himself.

It may seem selfish to us to think that God created the universe just to reveal himself (show off His glory.) As humans that thought comes across as vain. However, we fail to realize that God is the most Glorious, most Beautiful, most Good, most Holy, most Kind, most Gracious being in existence and He knows it. Therefore, because he knows he is the greatest thing we can know, he has made Himself known to us. (That's not vanity, that's LOVE)

He created me that I might have the privilege of knowing Him.