

What We Believe

ABOUT GOD

1. From Reason

a. Cause & Effect (Cosmological Argument)

- What exists must have come from a first _____.
- “Motion must have a mover” (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle)
- Syllogism:
 - Every event has a cause
 - The universe is an event
 - Therefore, the universe had a cause

- This is a familiar argument (“What came first, the chicken or the egg?”)

b. Design (Teleological Argument)

- Evidence of design implies a _____.
- William Paley used his famous _____ argument to show this.
- Think of impressive items that you could argue that imply a designer.

c. Reality (Ontological Argument)

- Rene Descartes in the 17th century said, “I think, therefore I _____.”
- Every hunger has a corresponding thing which _____ it.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11. “He has also set _____ in the human heart; yet no one cannot fathom all that God has done from beginning to end.”

d. Morality (Moral Argument)

- Immanuel Kant argued that we have a sense of “oughtness” – a sense of _____ and _____.
- The existence of the human conscience implies morality. However, the conscience must be trained. (1 Cor. 8:7 – a conscience can be weak.)
- Feelings of guilt come because the conscience reacts when we’ve done wrong.

e. Beauty (Aesthetic Argument)

- The aesthetic argument sometimes falls under the design argument.
- It is the very existence of beauty (colors, shapes, textures, etc.) implies a creator.
- Charles Darwin saw this argument as the greatest threat to his theory of evolution.

f. History (Historical Argument)

- All cultures throughout time have believed in some form of *god*.
- Acts 17:22-31. The people of Athens once worshipped _____ through their _____ of God. Though they were *commended* for being very _____, they were told the true God now *commanded* them to _____, which means to change their thinking and behavior about it.

2. From Nature (GENERAL REVELATION)

a. Psalm 19:1-4

- The heavens declare God's _____.
- The skies proclaim the _____ of his _____.
- Daily they pour forth _____.
- Nightly they display _____.
- Their voices go out to all the _____, words into all places around the _____.

b. Romans 1:19-20

- What may be known about God should be _____ to everyone.
- God's invisible qualities of eternal _____ and divine _____ are clearly _____.
- Men and women have no real _____ for saying they do not believe in God.
- A common practice by those who do not accept and honor the existence of God is to _____ the truth by their _____ (verse 18)
- Psalm 14:1 calls a person a _____ who claims there is no God.

3. From the Bible (SPECIAL REVELATION)

a. We believe in one God

- The first words of the Bible are, "In the beginning, _____" (Genesis 1:1)
- Deuteronomy 6:4. Our God is _____.
- Exodus 20:2. You shall have no other _____ before me.
- Isaiah 44:6. I am the _____ and the _____. Apart from _____ there is no God.
- Isaiah 45:5. I am the _____, and there is _____; apart from me there is no _____.

b. We believe in one God in three person: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- This is called the _____, but it is not a term used in the Bible but is implied Bible. All three are mentioned together many times. (Ex. – Eph. 4:4-5)
- *God as one God and three persons is impossible to fully understand, but that is what we should expect as finite humans considering the reality of an infinite God.*
- The trinity was present when Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:16-17)
- Matthew 28:19. To become Christians, Jesus said people were to be baptized in the name of the _____, the _____, and the _____.
- The trinity is use in 2 Corinthians 13:14. "May the grace of the Lord _____, and the love of _____, and the fellowship of the _____ be with you all.