

The Existence of God

Introduction:

The existence of God must be established and developed.

I. The Existence of God Established by Reason

The arguments from reason do not prove that God is — but they support the first truth that God is. (It may be shown, but not proved!)

A. From Universal Belief

The first truth intuition of God is universal. All men everywhere hold this concept, because man is created in the image of God and possesses an inherent God-consciousness. Romans 1:19-20

The fact that this IS universal supports the concept of a universal cause. If only one man or one tribe had this knowledge, it would mean little, but the fact that people in the remotest corners of the world, untouched by Christianity or western civilization also share such knowledge bears great significance.

B. From Cause and Effect

It is an accepted principle that everything must have a cause. Things don't just happen. As we look around the world and see its beauty, wonders, and intricacies, reason brings us to the conclusion that there must be a cause. Additionally, it is evident that the cause must be adequate to produce the effect.

This argument for God's existence:

1. Reveals Intelligence

Man is intelligent, therefore his Cause must also be intelligent. Creation is orderly — its Cause must also be orderly. I Corinthians 14:33a

2. Reveals Personality

Man has personality, therefore his Cause could not have been impersonal. (Otherwise it would be like a hospital making humans!!)

3. Reveals Power

We see great power in many aspects of creation. That power must have had a Cause that is powerful, since energy comes from an energizer.

C. From Design

A clock requires not only a maker, but a designer, and a purpose. So in creation, we see many things that have design and purpose. As an example, consider the body of man, Psalm 139:14, Psalm 104.

D. From Life

Man cannot make life. His laboratories may make artificial eggs, kernels, etc., but these cannot fertilize and produce life. The only Source of all life is God.

E. From History

Oliver Cromwell said, "History is but the record of God trampling beneath His feet those who work in opposition to His purpose."

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In the rise and fall of nations, we see the hand of God moving. e.g. Psalm 75:6-7; 37:10, 13.

II. The Existence of God Developed by Revelation

Scripture does not attempt to prove the existence of God. It assumes it! See Hebrews 11:6.

The Bible asserts the existence of God, and declares the fact of universal intuition, Romans 1:18-20.

Where reason will help establish the innate intuition, the Bible develops it and reveals God to us as He really is.

III. The Existence of God Confirmed by Reality (Experience)

Millions of people have experienced the reality of God in their own lives — far too many for us to say there is NO God! Areas such as salvation, answered prayer, and divine wisdom and guidance confirm what the Bible says.

CAUTION: We do not say that our doctrine of God should be based in any way upon personal experience. Doctrine must only be Bible based!

Summary:

“I know there is a God and that my intuition is correct because of what I see (reason), what I read (revelation), and what I know (reality).”