
Week 4: Is God Real? Arguments for God's Existence

A Brief Introduction to Logic

Every logical argument has two basic parts: **premises** and a **conclusion**.

- The **premises** are the starting points — the reasons or evidence being offered.
- The **conclusion** is what follows from those premises if they are true.

Arguments can also be **Unsound** (*Structure is valid, but premise is false*), **Invalid** (*Premises are true, but conclusion is false*), or **Incoherent** (*Conclusion is self-defeating*).

Classical Arguments for God's Existence

1. The Cosmological Argument

Premise 1: Everything that begins to exist has a cause.

Premise 2: The universe began to exist.

Conclusion: Therefore, the universe has a cause, that is timeless, spaceless, immaterial, powerful, and personal.

2. The Teleological / Fine-Tuning Argument

Premise 1: The universe is finely tuned for life.

Premise 2: This fine tuning is either the result of necessity, chance, or design.

Premise 3: It is not plausible that fine tuning is by necessity.

Premise 4: It is not plausible that fine tuning is due to chance.

Conclusion: Therefore, the fine tuning is the result of design

3. The Moral Argument

Premise 1: If a Transcendent Lawgiver does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.

Premise 2: Objective moral values and duties do exist.

Conclusion: Therefore, a Transcendent Lawgiver exists.

4. **The Evolutionary Argument**

Premise 1: If naturalism is true, then human cognition is the result of unguided evolutionary processes aimed at survival, not truth.

Premise 2: Unguided evolutionary processes select for adaptive behavior, not for the discernment of true beliefs.

Premise 3: If naturalism is true, the probability that our cognitive faculties are reliable truth-trackers is low or inscrutable.

Premise 4: If we have reason to doubt the reliability of our cognitive faculties, then we have reason to doubt all beliefs produced by those faculties — including the belief in naturalism.

Conclusion: Therefore, naturalism is self-defeating: if it is true, we cannot rationally trust the belief that it is true.

5. **The Argument from Desire**

Premise 1: Every natural, innate human desire corresponds to some real object in nature that can satisfy it.

Premise 2: Human beings experience a deep, innate desire for ultimate fulfillment, meaning, joy, and transcendence that nothing in the natural world can satisfy.

Conclusion: Therefore, something exists beyond the natural world that can satisfy this desire.

Memory Verse for the Week

Psalm 19:1 – *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”*

Notes:
