

Apologetics | Week 2

Common Misplaced Objections:

- I. "I don't believe in my Straw-Man God." – "I don't like the hurt that happened to me."
- II. "I don't like hypocrites." – "I don't like anti-intellectualism."

Evidential Arguments for the Existence of God¹

- I. The **Cosmological Argument** from Contingency
 - a. Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence (necessity of its own nature/external cause).
 - b. If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is either an eternal abstraction or a Mind (which must be God).
 - c. The universe exists.
 - d. Therefore, the universe has an explanation of its existence.
 - e. Therefore, the explanation of the universe's existence is God.
- II. The **Kalam Cosmological Argument**:
 - a. everything that began to exist has a cause;
 - b. the universe began to exist;
 - c. the universe has a Cause (what is it like?)
- III. The **Moral Argument** Based on Values (judgments-good/bad) and Duties (obligations-right/wrong):
 - a. if God does not exist, objective morals/values do not exist;
 - b. objective morals/values do exist;
 - c. God exists
- IV. The **Teleological Argument**
 - a. Cosmological Design (Fine Tuning, Anthropic)- low entropy condition 1/10 (123)
 - b. Biological Design (Intelligent Design)- DNA; irreducible complexity (Meyer)
 - c. (a) the life-supporting universe is
- V. The **Ontological Argument**: argues from the possibility of the existence of the greatest possible being to its actuality.

¹ William Lane Craig: <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/writings/popular-writings/existence-nature-of-god/the-new-atheism-and-five-arguments-for-god>

- VI. The **Transcendental Argument**: (a) if God does not exist, epistemological realities like logic, morals, aesthetics, mathematics, science do not exist; (b) such realities exist; (c) therefore, God exists

Presuppositional Arguments for the Existence of God (Shared/Suppressed)

- I. The Faith Presupposition: all people trust realities beyond their comprehension
- II. The Presupposition of a Hierarchy of Values: everyone rank orders aspects of reality
 - a. Everyone sees: Center/Edges; Boundaries; Up/Down; Binaries (Gender)
- III. The Moral Presupposition: all people act like God exists
- IV. The Narrative Presupposition: science/Western civ rest on the Biblical narrative
 - a. The pursuit of truth is good
 - b. All people are of equal/ultimate worth
 - c. Everyone wants to be redeemed
- V. The Meaning Presupposition
 - a. The meaningless of tyranny and nihilism is unsustainable
 - b. Maximal responsibility results in maximal meaning