

Apologetics I

Intro to apologetics

- Should Christians engage with arguments and evidence? Can you argue someone to faith?
- How do you know Christianity is true?
 - The role of the Holy Spirit
 - The role of reason and arguments
- 1 Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 2:23-26, Titus 1:9. Acts 9:22, 17:2-4, 19:8-10, 28:23
 - Goal is not to win an argument.
 - Don't have to have all the right answers to evangelize.
 - Usually there's a heart issue. Sometimes guarded by intellectual walls.
- 1) Shaping culture, 2) Encouraging believers, 3) Evangelizing unbelievers.
- 2 types: Offensive and Defensive (each have natural and Christian).

1. Evidence for the Existence of God:

a. Cosmological Argument

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause. The universe began to exist. Thus cause.
2. Must be timeless, spaceless, immaterial, powerful – mind.
3. Beginning of the Universe:
 - 1) Science – 2 Law of Thermodynamics (running out of energy), General Theory of Relativity → Expanding universe from a single point “Big Bang”
 - a. Multiverse and other models fail.
 - 2) Philosophy – A Past infinite is metaphysically impossible. Leads to absurdities. (Would never reach today)

b. Teleological Argument

1. The FT of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design. Not necessity or chance. Thus design.
2. Examples: gravitational constant, expansion rate constant, mass/energy balance.
3. Necessity? Chance?
4. Multiverse – Universe generator would have to be finely tuned.

1) Plus, fine tuning of factors which led from the beginning to today.

c. Moral Argument

1. If God does not exist, objective morals do not exist. Objective morals DO exist. Thus, God exists.
2. Objective morality vs subjective morality
3. Not saying atheists can't be good. Rather, there is no good.
4. Must have a reference point (example up and down).
5. For atheists, humans are just accidents of nature.
6. Evolutionary morality – good = life and thriving for species. (ex: Thanos)

d. The Absurdity of Life without God

1. Without God there is no ultimate meaning, not ultimate value, no ultimate purpose.

e. The Epistemological Necessity of God

1. If God does not exist, why do you trust your own brain? It's all random and purposeless. How can reason come from random chance?

f. Miracles and the Supernatural

1. How do you explain accounts of miracles or supernatural activity?
2. Ex: Tami (Harvest February Sermon)
3. C.S. Lewis, Craig Keener

g. Near Death Experiences

1. Examples: gaining knowledge, heaven or hell.
2. Around 5% of Americans – out of body experience while braindead.
3. Seems to go against naturalism.