

#2: Does God Exist?

Sunday Evening Bible Study, September 23, 2018

First Bible Church on the Existence of God

“**We believe in one God**, eternally existing in three persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — these three being identical in essence, equal in power and glory and possessing precisely the same attributes and perfection.” – First Bible Church Constitution (1965)

The Menu of Religious Options (Including Special Orders)

Polytheism (Many Gods)	Monotheism (One God)	Atheism (No God)
Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Greco-Roman Polytheism, Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witness	Judaism Christianity Islam	Religious faith usually replaced by scientific faith. Also, includes pantheism: “no God; god is in all”

#2: Does God Exist?

There are no “quick kills” when trying to persuade an atheist to trust Christ. That’s a long journey that happens in stages: Atheism → Agnosticism → Theism → Monotheism → Christianity. Start the conversation by saying, “All of our views have problems. I’d like to hear your problems with Christianity. Here are my problems with atheism.”

1. The absurdity of self-creation.

1. If the Big Bang was the explosion of super-compressed matter, where did the super-compressed matter come from? What was the catalyst for the explosion?
2. If matter is not eternal: For creation to create itself, it would have to be before it was; exist and not exist at the same time. Law of non-contradiction: A cannot be non-A in the same way at the same time. Effects do not exist without causes.
3. If matter is eternal: Then matter is the uncaused cause, which has never been observed in science. Why is that more reasonable than the existence of God who is the uncaused cause? Each of these positions requires faith.

2. The absence of purpose.

1. Evolutionary philosophers argue that we are the result of chance mutations and our purpose is to survive long enough to inject our DNA into the next generation, then die, cease to exist, and feed the worms with our rotting corpses.
2. This is not intellectually or emotionally satisfying for most people. A logical response would be hedonism when you are healthy and wealthy and depression and suicide when you are not.

3. The meaninglessness of morality.

1. Evolutionary philosophers argue that evolution favors a species in which individuals cooperate with their kin, so we should be good. But who determines what is good?

2. Morality determined by eugenics and “good” breeding, fostering abortion and racism.
3. Morality decided by natural desires (I was born this way; It feels right) not love.
4. Morality shaped by survival of the fittest; natural selection; might makes right.
5. Morality is relative, pragmatic, subject to fads, fashions, “breaking news,” majority rule, demographics. I can trust my reason to determine the best way to pass on my genes.
6. Morality goes unrewarded, immorality goes unpunished. No God = No Judge.
7. This is not to say that all atheists are egregiously immoral people, but that their worldview abandons any authority to make moral pronouncements or judge another person’s behavior to be immoral. They can say an act is stupid, but not evil.

Reasons to Believe God Probably Exists

1. The improbability that *nothing x no one = everything*.
2. The limitations of human knowledge. Do you know everything there is to know?
3. The existence of creation argues for the existence of a Creator, as the existence of a watch argues for a watchmaker, a building for a builder, a rocket for a rocket scientist, a dictionary, etc.
4. The intellectually and emotionally satisfying claims of Christianity.

Now What?

Even if we concede that God probably exists, why believe that he/she is the God of the Bible? There are so many religions to choose from, and these religions contradict each other in such a way that they cannot all be right. Either one is right and all others are wrong, or all are wrong, but they cannot all be right. Therefore, it makes sense to observe five things that distinguish biblical Christianity from all other religions in the world.

Next Week: Isn’t the Trinity Illogical?