

# EQUIP

February 20, 2019

Tactics

Does God Exist?

## General Revelation

Can we know that God exists without the Bible?

The Scriptures teach that we can learn certain things about God from reasoning about Nature, even if we've never read or heard of the Bible.

Psalm 19:1-6. Romans 1:20. Acts 17:27.

*So, if we can reason about God from Nature, why do so many people no longer think that God exists, or are at least skeptical about Christianity?*

Because it is not only what people think that is changing, it's how people think.

People now often want a certain kind of evidence, while unknowingly dismissing other kinds.

There are different ways of acquiring knowledge about the world:

1. Deductive Logic (rather like mathematics),
2. Observation (rather like science).

Many people want evidence for beliefs, especially Christian ones. When they ask for this, whether they know it or not, they are likely thinking of evidence pertaining to 2, Observation.

*Let's not let people think we state our beliefs, and have no evidence at all.*

## **Confidence, rather than Certainty**

Many people think we cannot believe in Christianity or even in God until we have enough evidence to be certain.

“What can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.” -the late Christopher Hitchens, famous atheist.

“Extraordinary claims are not supported by extraordinary evidence.” –Carl Sagan

Yet, we often make important decisions in life without being absolutely certain. We must consider important things as best we can, and act on what we have most confidence about.

There are good reasons for believing that God exists, simply from reasoning carefully about the Cosmos. Many of the world's greatest minds have thought so. Thomas Aquinas, Isaac Newton, Gottfried Leibniz (co-inventor of calculus) are a few examples. Aristotle said, “...there must be an immortal, unchanging being, ultimately responsible for all wholeness and orderliness in the sensible world”

**A Few Arguments for God’s Existence** for you to consider later:

The Moral Argument

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
2. Objective moral values and duties do exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

## The Argument from Contingency

1. Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence.
2. If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.
3. The universe exists.
4. The explanation of the universe's existence is God.

Why is there something, rather than nothing? The Cosmos does not have to exist, and yet it does. Why?

Why is the Universe rationally comprehensible? It could have been so incoherent that our minds could not reason sensibly about it. But the Universe is rational. Why?

The fine tuning and appearance of design convinced famous atheist Antony Flew that there must be a Creator.

Comprehensive Picture: While no single argument convinced me that Christian Theism is true, the arguments, taken together, are very powerful. Each argument serves as a piece to a Great Puzzle. When all the pieces are seen, Christian Theism makes a great deal of sense.

At least, an open skeptic can see that belief in God is not irrational. It is actually very rational. The existence of God makes sense of a great many things, across a wide spectrum: from why we are moral creatures, to why anything exists at all.