

Series: Apology — Giving a Defense for the Faith

Title: Part 4 — Classical Arguments

Text: 1 Peter 3:15

Date: June 30, 2024

Four classical arguments...

1. THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT — THE GOD ARGUMENT

“Ontological” (Ontology) = deals with the nature of being. Philosophers use word related to ontology to speak of the nature of existence.

In essence, the argument states, “People believe God exists; therefore, God must exist.” Another way of stating the argument is as follows — “The concept of God is really popular; therefore, God is real.”

Genesis 1:1

Psalms 14:1

Romans 10:1-2

“...the existence of God is innate in man, and comes from rational intuition.” **Michael Bere**

2. COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT — THE CAUSE ARGUMENT

Psalms 19:1

Hebrews 3:4

“God’s powers are actually represented as in a painting. Thereby the whole of mankind is invited and attracted to recognition of him....” **John Calvin**

The heat of the sun is so great that a body of solid ice as large as our earth would be melted within two hours if the sun came closer to the earth, and if the earth itself would fall into the sun it would be completely vaporized in a matter of minutes.

The distance between the earth and the sun is 93,000,000 miles. Astronomers have estimated that if this distance were increased to 120,000,000 miles instead of the 93,000,000, our planet would be a perpetual frozen Arctic, and life on it would be impossible.

If, on the other hand, this distance were reduced to about 60,000,000 miles, the surface of the earth would be a glowing furnace, again making life on it impossible. But the wonder is that this ball of fire of incalculable heat is exactly 93,000,000 miles away, the exact distance to provide the earth with a balanced amount of heat and light to make life in all its forms possible, and also to divide the earth into climatic zones to make variation in plant and animal life possible.

Here again we notice the perfect balance in nature, even among these remote heavenly bodies, and the perfect balance has been maintained with mathematical precision ever since this cosmic machine was set in motion.

There is no rational explanation for this supreme engineering achievement without a supreme, intelligent, and master Builder. **Alfred Rehwinkel**

3. TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT – THE PURPOSE ARGUMENT

1 Timothy 1:5

“Man’s observations of this world confirm a marvelous ‘effect.’ His rationale demands a cause. What is the Cause behind all that man can see? Surely it must be an omnipotent Creator.”

While the cosmological argument says, “All of this couldn’t have come from nothing,” the teleological argument says, “All of this cannot exist for nothing.” There is an apparent purpose to the natural order. Thus, there must be a purpose giver.

“Teleology, or the study of purpose, involves order plus. It finds order with a purpose. Conceivable, there could be order without purpose; but purpose without order is clearly inconceivable.” **R.C. Sproul**

4. THE MORAL ARGUMENT - THE SIN AND BROKENNESS ARGUMENT

Romans 2:14-15

Romans 1:28

“The knowledge of God in all men is so evident that even the most ungodly, as much as they may labor to do so, are entirely incapable of eradicating all knowledge and consciousness of God, even though they may temporarily succeed in rendering themselves insensitive to this consciousness, and thus become oblivious to the existence of God.” **Wilhelmus À Brakel**

“It is also possible that a man’s hand may be so hardened or cauterized as to lose the sense of touch. But that would not prove that the hand in man is not normally the great organ of touch.” **Charles Thiessen**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which classical argument do you find to be most helpful for today’s culture?
2. Which classical argument do you find most confusing?
3. What would it look like to use these arguments in a daily conversation or interaction?

4. Take time practicing using the four classical arguments with a friend or with someone who is studying with you.