

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT GOD EXISTS?

Apologetics 2025

By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Today we are going to start a new sermon series on apologetics.
2. What is apologetics?
3. **1 Peter 3:15** “but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”
4. Notice the word “defense.”
5. This verse says that you need to be able to defend your beliefs.
6. The Greek word for “defense” is “apologia.” It was originally used as a speech of defense in a court of law. After the accusation, the defendant was allowed to refute the charges with a defense. So apologetics has nothing to do with making an apology. Instead, it means defending the Christian faith. (Kenneth Boa, “What is Apologetics?”, *If God Made the Universe, Who Made God?* 1)
7. Apologetics is all about giving answers to the questions that nonbelievers have about God – questions like...
 - i. How do you know that God exists?
 - ii. Why do you trust the bible?
 - iii. What’s wrong with abortion?
 - iv. Doesn’t science disprove the Bible?
 - v. If God exists, why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?
8. The Bible says you need to always be ready to answer questions like these.
9. In 1 Peter 3:15, notice the word “reason.” You need to be able to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. In other words, it is not enough to know what you believe; you need to know why you believe it. You need to know the reasons.
10. Why do you believe in God? Why do you believe in the Bible? Why do you believe in Jesus Christ?
11. Today we are going to tackle the biggest question of all. How do you know that God exists?

12.If somebody asked you, “Why do you believe in God?” What would you say?

13. There are three main arguments for the existence of God.

II. **THREE ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

1. **The Cosmological Argument.**

- i. The simplest way to state the cosmological argument is this: something cannot come from nothing.
- ii. The universe could not have created itself. So where did it come from? There had to be something outside of and pre-existing the universe, something all-powerful and all-knowing who could create it. That’s God.
- iii. A more in-depth explanation of the cosmological argument can be presented with the following syllogism:
 1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
 2. The universe began to exist.
 3. Therefore, the universe has a cause.
- iv. A syllogism works has two premises and a conclusion. If it can be demonstrated that the two premises are true, then the conclusion must also be true. So, let’s look at the two premises.
- v. The first premise: Whatever begins to exist has a cause. Is that true?
 1. Have you ever seen anything come from nothing? Have you ever seen something just pop into existence? No one has. Everyday experience and scientific evidence confirm that if something begins to exist, it must have a cause.
 2. Let’s say you were walking through the woods and you came across a little glass sphere. Would you conclude that it came from nothing? No. It had to come from something. What if it were ten times bigger? Then would you conclude that it came from nothing? What if it were one hundred times bigger? Would you conclude that it came from nothing? No. It obviously came from something. But what if that little sphere were one million times bigger; then would you conclude that it came from nothing? No. It had to come from something.

3. Nothing got here on its own. Nothing just pops into existence. There are no examples of this in nature. Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
 4. Notice I said everything that “begins” to exist has a cause. That’s important. If I just said, “Everything that exists has a cause,” that would mean that God would need to have a cause. Only things that begin to exist need a cause; God is eternal, so He needs no cause.
- vi. The second premise: The universe began to exist. Is that true?
1. It used to be held that the universe was eternal. But several recent scientific discoveries have proven that the universe had a beginning.
 2. The second law of thermodynamics or the Law of Entropy (developed in the mid-19th century) indicates that the universe is slowly running out of usable energy. If the universe had been here forever, it would have run out of energy by now. Therefore, the universe must have had a definite beginning.
 3. In 1929 Edwin Hubble looked through his telescope and discovered that the universe was expanding, taking galaxies farther and farther away from each other. If everything is expanding, then if you go back in time the galaxies would be closer together. If you go back far enough, the universe shrinks into nothing and disappears. In other words, he was able to see with his own eyes that the universe had a beginning.
 4. For these reasons and more, the vast majority of scientists are convinced that the universe had a beginning; it is not eternal. The prevailing theory is that the universe was created fifteen billion years ago in a huge explosion called the Big Bang.
 5. **Stephen Hawking** (Theoretical physicist and cosmologist) wrote, “Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang.” (Hawking and Penrose, *The Nature of Time and Space*, p. 20)

6. Therefore, the second premise is true. The universe began to exist.
- vii. If the two premises are true, then the conclusion is true. The universe has a cause.
- viii. What could cause the creation of the universe?
- ix. Before you answer that question, there's something you need to know. The universe includes time, space, and matter. Before the universe was created there was no time, no space, and no matter. Before the Big Bang there was nothing, and the Bang, there was something.
- x. Therefore, whatever caused the Big Bang would have to be...
 1. Spaceless
 2. Timeless
 3. Immaterial
 4. Powerful
 5. Intelligent
 6. Uncaused
 7. In other words, God.
- xi. To put it differently, before the universe there was no such thing as nature. The creation of the universe of the universe was the creation of nature. Therefore, something outside of nature, or supernatural, had to create the universe. In other words, God.
- xii. Scientist **Francis Collins** put it this way in his book *The Language of God*: "We have this very solid conclusion that the universe had an origin, the Big Bang. Fifteen billion years ago, the universe began with an unimaginably bright flash of energy from an infinitesimally small point. That implies that before that, there was nothing. I can't imagine how nature, in this case the universe, could have created itself. And the very fact that the universe had a beginning implies that someone was able to begin it. And it seems to me that had to be outside of nature."
- xiii. The Bible, of course, tells us where the universe came from.
- xiv. **Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

- xv. The first argument for the existence of God is the cosmological argument. To put it simply, something cannot come from nothing. Something had to cause the universe to come into existence. Something outside of, before, and strong enough to create a universe. The best explanation is God.

2. The Teleological Argument.

- i. The teleological argument is also called the intelligent design argument, or the fine-tuning argument.
- ii. The simplest way to state it is like this: Design is proof of a designer.
- iii. When you look at the universe, nature, you see obvious signs of intelligent design. Design requires a designer. What kind of being could design the universe? It would have to be someone all-knowing and all-powerful. In other words, God.
- iv. What do I mean that the universe shows obvious signs of design?
- v. Scientists have found that the universe appears to have been designed intentionally to allow for life to exist.
- vi. The structure of the universe is determined by a series of fundamental or universal constants – the speed of light, the gravitational constant, the strength of the weak and strong nuclear forces, etc. If any of these numbers were changed by even a hairsbreadth, life would not be possible. Let me give you two examples.
- vii. The gravitational constant is what determines the force of gravity. If the gravitational constant were changed by just 1 part in 10 to the 60th, life would not be possible. 10 to the 60th is 1 with 60 zeros after it. To give you an idea of the size of that number, you have 10 to the 14th cells in your body. From the beginning of the universe until now, 10 to the 20th seconds have ticked by. But we're talking about 10 to the 60th. Imagine a dial (like you might have on your kitchen oven) divided into 10 to the 60th increments. If the gravitational constant were altered by just one increment, life in the universe would not be possible (the universe would expand too rapidly or too slowly).

- viii. The question is why is the gravitational constant just right for life to exist? Chance? No. The odds are impossible.
- ix. A second example is the cosmological constant, which determines the expansion rate of the universe. If the cosmological constant were altered by one part in 10 to the 120th power, life could not exist (the universe would expand too rapidly or too slowly). Remember, when we were talking about the gravitational constant, it was 1 part in 10 to the 60th. Now we're talking about 1 part in 10 to the 120th. That's one part in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion.
- x. Again, why is the cosmological constant set just right for life to be possible? Chance? The odds are impossible.
- xi. Theologian **Tim Keller** wrote, "The probability of this perfect calibration happening by chance is so tiny as to be statistically negligible." (*The Reason for God*, 134.)
- xii. But that's just two universal constants. According to Astrophysicist Hugh Ross, there are at least 35 universal constants like this in the universe that had to be set perfectly, down to a fraction of a fraction, for life to be possible.
- xiii. In other words, our universe only supports life because these numbers are finely tuned and balanced on a razor's edge.
- xiv. What is the best explanation? Why is the universe finely tuned for life?
- xv. The smartest scientists say the fine-tuning of the universe points to design and not chance.
- xvi. **Stephen Hawking** also said, "It would be very difficult to explain why the universe would have begun in just this way except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us." (Quoted in Tim Keller's *The Reason for God*, 134.)
- xvii. This has been called the "Anthropic Principle," which is the idea that the universe was created specifically for human beings.
- xviii. Someone might object, the odds may be crazy, but there is still a chance. That reminds of the scene in the movie "Dumb and Dumber" in which Jim Carey's character, Lloyd, the ultimate idiot, asks this beautiful woman, "What do you think the chances are of

a girl like me and a guy like you ending up together?” She replied, “Not good.” He said, “You mean not good like one out of a hundred?” She said, “I’d say more like one out of a million.” Then Lloyd says, “So you’re telling me there’s a chance. Yeah!”

- xix. In other words, the odds of the universe being created just right for life are so small, that chance is an unreasonable belief.
- xx. What if you were walking through the forest and you came upon an abandoned cabin. As you get closer, you notice something very strange. Above the door there is a sign with your name on it. When you go inside, you notice that the temperature is exactly how you like it. The refrigerator and the pantry have all your favorite foods. And your favorite movie is playing on the TV. On the table there’s a stack of your favorite board games and DVDs. The closet is filled with clothing that is just your size. Would you conclude that the cabin and everything about it was there by chance? Of course not. That’s not reasonable. It was obviously designed with you in mind.
- xxi. In the same way, when you look at how the universe is perfectly created for life to exist, it is unreasonable to conclude that it was created by chance.
- xxii. When you look at the universe, you see obvious signs of design, and design is proof of a designer.
- xxiii. What kind of a designer could create a universe? God.
- xxiv. **Psalm 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.”

3. The Moral Law Argument.

- i. The simplest way to state the moral law argument is this: The moral law in our hearts proves the existence of a moral law giver.
- ii. In other words, everyone knows right from wrong. Where does this moral intuition come from? It had to have been put there by God.
- iii. Let’s go a little deeper with the moral law argument.
- iv. There is a moral law. In other words, there are moral absolutes. There are moral obligations that are binding on all people, at all times, in all places.

- v. Why do I say that? Two reasons.
- vi. First, everyone agrees on general moral principles.
- vii. **Romans 2:15** “They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts either accuse or even excuse them”
- viii. The Bible says that God has written His moral law on the human heart.
- ix. That may be what the Bible says, but is that true?
- x. Yes. All people have a sense of right and wrong. Everyone knows that love is better than hate; courage is better than cowardice; everyone knows that murder is bad, and gratitude is good.
- xi. Someone may ask, “Doesn’t morality differ from culture to culture?” Yes and no. There may be minor differences between cultures, but overall, when it comes to the main things, all cultures agree on basic moral principles.
- xii. C.S. Lewis wrote about this in his book *The Abolition of Man*. He compared ancient cultures and civilizations like Babylon, Greece, Native America, Judaism, Hinduism, Confucianism. And he found that they all agreed on the basic moral values of impartial justice, truthfulness, kindness, mercy, marital fidelity, and respect for human life.
- xiii. So, we know that there is a universal moral law because everyone agrees on general moral principles.
- xiv. But we also know that there is a universal moral law because nobody believes in the opposite.
- xv. The opposite of moral absolutism is moral relativism, and it is the most widely held moral view in our culture today. According to moral relativism, there are no moral absolutes. Morality is subjective; it’s based on personal opinion, or on personal preference, or on culture.
- xvi. But the problem is that nobody actually believes this. There are a couple of ways to demonstrate this. First, everybody demands to be treated fairly. In other words, if someone says that there are no moral absolutes, then just treat them unfairly. They may claim it is not objectively wrong to lie, but if their spouse or a politician

lied to them, they would vehemently protest. They may claim that it is not objectively wrong to steal, but if you stole something from them they would cry foul.

- xvii. Second, everybody is passionate about some moral cause. Even people who claim to be moral relativists are passionate about moral causes like animal rights, gay rights, the environment, trans-rights, etc. To prove that they believe in moral absolutes, just relativize their passion. Just say, "If morality is relative, then there's nothing wrong gay-bashing, or racism, or ethnic cleansing, or torturing animals, or polluting the environment, or outlawing abortion, right?" They wouldn't agree with that. Nobody actually believes in moral relativism.
- xviii. So we know there is a moral law.
- xix. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** put it like this in a speech when he was pointing to the evil of racism: "I'm here to say to you this morning that some things are right and some things are wrong. Eternally so, absolutely so. It's wrong to hate. It always has been wrong and it always will be wrong! It's wrong in America, it's wrong in Germany, it's wrong in Russia, it's wrong in China. It was wrong in 2000 BC, and it's wrong in 1954 AD. It always has been wrong... Some things in this universe are absolute. The God of the universe has made it so. And so long as we adopt this relative attitude toward right and wrong, we're revolting against the very laws of God himself." (From "Rediscovering Lost Values," a speech delivered in Detroit, Feb 28, 1954.)
- xx. So we know there is an absolute, objective, universal moral law.
- xxi. Where did that law come from?
- xxii. Some suggest that this moral tuition is the product of evolution. That to preserve our species, humans developed this moral sense over millions of years of evolution. But if that's the case, then morality is relative. There's no such thing as right and wrong, good or bad; there are just behaviors benefit our species, and those that don't. But if you don't want to act in a way that is species-benefitting, you're not actually bad, or evil, or wrong. Hitler wasn't actually evil when he murdered six million Jews, he

was just acting in a way that doesn't benefit humanity. The Hamas terrorists who invaded Israel on October 7, 2023 and killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, weren't evil; they were just acting in a way that wasn't beneficial to the survival of our species. But again, nobody actually believes that morality is relative. We all know that there is a moral law. Everybody knows that it's always wrong to torture babies and rape women – no matter who you are, or where you live, or when.

- xxiii. So, the question is, where does this moral law come from? There has to be a moral law giver. That's God. The Bible says that God is morally perfect, and He has written His moral code on the human heart.
- xxiv. The realization of this moral law was the main catalyst that led **C.S. Lewis** out of atheism into Christianity. He wrote, "As an atheist my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"
- xxv. In other words, C.S. Lewis would see things happen in the world such as the Holocaust and say, "That's evil; objective, universal, absolute evil." Then he asked, "How do I know that something is evil, or that something is good?" He realized that there must be a universal moral law that he compared things to. Acts that conform to the moral law are good, and those that don't are evil. But then he asked, "Where did that moral law come from?" The existence of the moral law proves the existence of a moral law giver.

III. CONCLUSION

1. So, if someone asked you, "Why do you believe in God?" you have three simple answers:
 - i. Something cannot come from nothing.
 - ii. Design is proof of a designer.
 - iii. The moral law in our hearts proves the existence of a moral law giver.

2. A 2022 Gallup survey found that 81% of Americans profess belief in God. That's an all-time low, but it's still 81%. Why do so many people believe in something they can't see. 81% don't believe in Santa Clause, or the Tooth Fairy, or in aliens. Why do so many people believe in God?
3. **Romans 1:18-20** 18 For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, 19 since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse.
4. This passage makes two important points.
 - i. First, it says that God has made His existence obvious. He has left hints all over the universe that point to Him. When you take an honest look at all the evidence, it takes more faith to be an atheist than it does to believe in God. This is why most people believe in God.
 - ii. Second, it says that some people suppress the truth. The reason that some people don't believe is not because they are unconvinced by the evidence, it is because they don't want to believe. They don't want God to exist. Because if God exists, then they accountable to Him. They don't want to give lose their autonomy; they don't want to give up their sin.
5. Here's the obvious truth. God exists, and you are accountable to Him. One day you will have to stand before God to be judged for everything you have done. The bad news is that you are a sinner, and you deserve eternal punishment. The good news is that God loves you, and He has provided a way for you to be forgiven and go to heaven. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for your sins; He was punished in your place, and He rose again. The Bible says God will forgive you and give you eternal life if you do three things – ABC.
 - i. Admit you are a sinner in need of a Savior.
 - ii. Believe that Jesus is the Savior who died for your sins and rose again.
 - iii. Call on Jesus to be your Savior and Lord, repenting of your sins.