

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

I. Humanity's inner sense of God

- A. Most if not all cultures throughout history have worshipped some type of deity or deities.
- B. Sin and Satan have obscured the right understanding of the true God. Rom. 1:18-32, II Cor. 4:4
- C. There may have been some individuals in these cultures who were atheists. Ps. 14:1; 53:1
- D. Belief in God is intuitive. Some possible explanations: Culver--Systematic Theology pp. 30,31
 - 1. Remnant of primitive truth that endured in garbled form to the present—truth known by early generations of humanity.
 - 2. Inferences from observed phenomena of nature
 - 3. Spontaneous development of phenomena of conscience

II. Proofs/Arguments of God's existence—logical, rational to recognize God exists

- A. Cosmological—every known effect in the universe has a cause, therefore the universe must have a cause—God (Grudem)
- B. Teleological—evidence of harmony, order, and design gives evidence of an intelligent purpose.
- C. Ontological—idea of a being greater than which nothing can be imagined, an absolutely perfect Being, therefore an absolute Perfect Being must exist.
- D. Moral—begins with man's sense of right and wrong and a need for justice to be done, therefore God is the source of right and wrong and Who will mete out justice to all people.
- E. Congruity—a postulate which best explains related facts is probably true. The belief in the existence of God best explains the facts of our mental, moral, and religious nature as the facts of the material universe, therefore God exists.
- F. Life: Biogenesis: life does not come from non-living chemicals.

Valid proofs/arguments—they correctly evaluate the evidence and correctly reason to a true conclusion. Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology p. 144

Value of proofs/arguments—overcoming some of the intellectual objections of unbelievers; for believers: provides intellectual evidence for something they have been persuaded from the inner sense of God and the testimony of Scripture. Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology p.144

III. Nature is testimony of God's existence

- A. Creation testifies of the existence of God. Rom. 1:20, Ps. 19:1-6
- B. Rains and seasons, food and gladness Acts 14:17
- C. Human beings in the image of God with intellect, emotions, will, and moral sense.
- D. Everything that exists gives evidence of God's existence
 - 1. Universe of galaxies
 - 2. Life
 - 3. Microbiology
 - 4. DNA

IV. Scripture's testimony of God's existence: Scripture assumes God's existence and does not try to prove it.

A. Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning God" from the first verse of the first book of the Bible

B. From Genesis through Revelation with the exceptions of Esther and Song of Solomon write of God.

C. Jesus testifies of the existence of God.

V. Only God can overcome our sin and enable us to be persuaded of His existence.

A. Man is dead in his sin. Eph. 2:1-3

B. Man is blinded by Satan. II Cor. 4:3-4

C. How God has revealed Himself to mankind (Culver 1-7): through

1. Inward prompting by the Holy Spirit
2. what He has made
3. employing mankind's own personal, moral, and rational nature
4. original and direct revelation
5. special Works (miracles)
6. Scripture
7. Jesus Christ, Son of God
8. drawing the elect to Himself
9. Holy Spirit quickening and regenerating the elect

Therefore, we are dependent upon God to remove the blindness and irrationality caused by sin
And enable us to evaluate the evidence rightly, believe what Scripture says, and come to saving
faith in Christ.

VI. Why testify of God's existence.

A. Great Commission Matt. 28:19,20

B. Give an answer for the hope we have. I Pet. 3:15

C. Example of Paul in Athens Acts 17:16-34

VII. Resources

A. Bible

B. The Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns

C. Ready Defense by Josh McDowell

D. 5 Views of Apologetics General Editor Steven B. Cowan

E. "Indescribable" DVD Louie Giglio

F. "How Great is our God" DVD Louie Giglio

G. Systematic Theology Biblical and Historical by Robert Duncan Culver

H. Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem