

# DOES GOD EXIST?

Part 1 of Reasons To Believe. 1 Peter 3:14-16.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 28, 2024.

## I HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT MY NEW-FOUND FAITH

### I wanted to know ...

- Does God exist?
- Is the Bible reliable?

### Unhelpful answers would have been:

- Yes, God exists. The Bible says so.
- Yes, the Bible is reliable. The Bible says it is God-breathed.
- That is circular reasoning. Skeptics won't accept it.

## CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

### Christian Apologetics offers answers to the questions people ask.

- “Apologetics” is from the Greek word meaning an answer, a defense, or a reasoned argument. For example:

1 Peter 3:14-16 (CSB) But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, 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. 16 Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.

### Note four insights from the passage:

- The letter is addressed to Christians in general. We can all be apologists.
- We can do apologetics even when the culture is hostile.

- It's important to learn the evidence for the Christian faith so we can "be ready at any time to give a defense."
- Our reputation should match our evidence - "gentleness" toward people, and "reverence" toward God. This gives us credibility to speak.

## **DOES GOD EXIST?**

### **Answer One: Personal Experience**

- We could say, "Yes, I know God is real. I've met him through faith in Jesus Christ. His Spirit is alive in me, reassuring me that I am his child. I pray, worship, trust because he's very real to me."
- That's a legitimate answer, but it may not satisfy a skeptical friend.

### **Answer Two: The Uncaused Cause**

- Begin with a question: Do you believe the universe had a beginning? Most scientist believe this today.
- The cosmological argument can be stated as follows:
  - Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
  - The universe had a beginning.
  - Therefore, the universe had a cause.
- What kind of cause would be able to create a universe?

### **Answer Three: The Fine-Tuning of the Universe**

- Every design had a designer.
- The universe's highly complex design suggests that an intelligence is at work in the way it began and continues to operate.
- Anthropic constants are design elements essential for life on Earth:

- Oxygen levels.
- Atmospheric transparency and composition.
- Moon-earth gravitational interaction.
- The force of gravity in the universe.

- Astrophysicist Hugh Ross concluded that:

The probability that the 122 anthropic constants would exist for any planet by chance (i.e., without design) is one chance in  $10^{38}$ . In effect, there is zero chance apart from an intelligent Designer.

### **Answer Four: The Argument from Desire**

- C. S. Lewis developed an argument for God's existence based on our natural tendency to desire things.
- Some desires are met by natural objects: hunger-food.
- The desire for something transcendent cannot be met by natural objects, thus something outside this world; i.e., God.

### **Answer Five: Jesus Christ**

- Jesus Christ reveals God to us because he is God in human form.
- The Gospels record several times when Jesus claimed to be God.

John 14:9 (CSB) "The one who has seen me has seen the Father."

- His supernatural works reveal his divine power and authority.

John 14:11 (CSB) "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves."

- C. S. Lewis: Jesus is either a lunatic, a liar, or Lord.

# SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

## Recommended Books

- Evidence for Jesus by Josh and Sean McDowell.
- More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell
- I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist by Geisler and Turek.
- When Skeptics Ask by Geisler and Brooks.
- Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell.

## Recommended Websites

- [cross-examined.org](http://cross-examined.org) - Frank Turek - general apologetics
- [preparedtoanswer.org/](http://preparedtoanswer.org/) - Scott Stein - cultural apologetics
- [reasonablefaith.org](http://reasonablefaith.org) - William Lane Craig - philosophical apologetics
- [reasons.org](http://reasons.org) - scientific apologetics

## DIVE IN

- Review Peter's study guide. What were the five arguments for the existence of God?
- What questions do you have about these arguments? What insights can you provide?
- Evaluate the five arguments. In your opinion, which may be most effective and least effective? Which one would you use with a friend?
- If possible, watch the following (short) YouTube videos:
  - The Kalam Cosmological Argument - Part 1: Scientific  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0)
  - The Kalam Cosmological Argument - Part 2: Philosophical  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vybNvc6mxMo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vybNvc6mxMo)
  - The Fine-Tuning of the Universe  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0&list=PL9A91B68D2FB071C1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0&list=PL9A91B68D2FB071C1)
  - Bishop Barron on God's Existence and The Argument from Desire  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X71Gq9a1qxE>

## PRAY TOGETHER