

Defending The Faith Series

The Apologetics Pyramid

GOSPEL

RESURRECTION

REVELATION

THEISM

WORLDVIEWS

TRUTH



A Quick Review

TRUTH

Those we are talking to must first of all agree with...

1. THE CORRESPONDENCE VIEW OF TRUTH
2. THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION

WORDVIEWS

1. Theism
2. Atheism
3. Pantheism
4. Polytheism
5. Deism
6. Finite Godism
7. Panentheism

A WORLDVIEW ...

1. Must be logical and consistent with the facts already known to be true.
2. Must be practical and livable.
3. Must be all-encompassing and comprehensive.

Defending The Faith Series

The Apologetics Pyramid

GOSPEL

RESURRECTION

REVELATION

THEISM

WORLDVIEWS

TRUTH



How Do We Know God Exists?

The First-Cause Proof

1. Whatever had a beginning had a cause
2. The universe had a beginning
3. **Therefore, the universe had a cause**

The Design Proof

1. Every design had a designer
2. The universe has a design
3. **Therefore, the universe had a designer**

The Moral Proof

1. Every moral law had a moral lawgiver
2. There is a moral law
3. **Therefore, it had a moral lawgiver**

How Do We Know God Exists?

The First-Cause Proof

1. Whatever had a beginning had a cause

Things don't come into existence by themselves. They must be caused by something.

Science ... "*principle of causality*" ... every effect must have a cause.

ASK THEM: Can you think of anything that came into existence from absolutely nothing?

QUESTION THEY MAY HAVE: If everything needs a cause, then doesn't God need a cause?

NO! Only things that had a beginning need a cause.

How Do We Know God Exists?

2. The universe had a beginning

Evidence that the universe had a beginning:

- a. Expanding galaxies
 - b. 2nd Law of Thermodynamics
- ... if eternal, then it would have run out of usable energy by now

Process of elimination ... the universe was either:

- a. UNCAUSED – violates the principle of causality ...
everything that has a beginning needs a cause
- b. SELF-CAUSED – impossible because something can't create itself
- c. CAUSED BY SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ELSE – only reasonable explanation

How Do We Know God Exists?

ASK THEM: What is more reasonable to believe ... that the universe came into existence from nothing by nothing, or that the universe was created from nothing and by someone?

Hebrews 11:3 (NIV) 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

The First-Cause Proof

1. Whatever had a beginning had a cause
2. The universe had a beginning
3. **Therefore, the universe had a cause**
... this cause we call God!

How Do We Know God Exists?

The Moral Proof

This proof seeks to demonstrate that a person's ability to know right and wrong was given by the Creator.

The goal ... to show the unbeliever that if there is a moral law in our hearts, then there must be a moral lawgiver.

1. Every moral law had a moral lawgiver

Biblical basis ... Romans 2:14-16

Laws do not emerge on their own ... they must be given or legislated.

Likewise, the moral law written within us needs a lawgiver ... this lawgiver we know as God.

How Do We Know God Exists?

2. There is a moral law

First, there seems to be an agreement by all people that certain things are always wrong.

Second, we find that even those who deny there is any moral order live their lives as though there were.

Third, people often make judgments such as “the world is getting worse” or “better”

The Moral Proof

1. Every moral law had a moral lawgiver
2. There is a moral law
3. **Therefore, it had a moral lawgiver**

How Do We Know God Exists?

The First-Cause Proof

1. Whatever had a beginning had a cause
2. The universe had a beginning
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause

The Moral Proof

1. Every moral law had a moral lawgiver
2. There is a moral law
3. Therefore, it had a moral lawgiver

The Design Proof – NEXT WEEK!

1. Every design had a designer
2. The universe has a design
3. Therefore, the universe had a designer