

Introduction

We are building this series around the apologetics pyramid.



A QUICK REVIEW

TRUTH

WORDVIEWS

Questions People Have ...

1. How do you know that God exists?
2. How can you believe in someone you can't see?

We can use three memorable proofs ... each of them built on logic ... we'll look at two of them this week ...

I. The First-Cause Proof

This argument is used to establish that God must be the first cause of the world.

THE LOGIC

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

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

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

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!

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.

3. Therefore, the universe had a cause

II. 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.

THE LOGIC

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

3. There is a moral law

How do we know that all humans know the difference between right and wrong?

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” ...

3. Therefore, a moral lawgiver exists

CONCLUSION

We're going to look into the Design Proof next Sunday evening ... this is one of my favorite proofs to talk about.