

REASONS FOR BELIEVING

- Every Culture Has Had a Belief in God.
 - This is prima facie evidence for the existence of God.
- The Existence of the Universe.
 - It's design, requiring a designer.
 - The grand and obvious creation of an original cause.
- Created Life & It's Complexity.
- Scientific Evidence.
 - The grand design of all created things, including living organism.
 - Unconvincing theories that don't address an original cause.
 - The assumption of self-creation, unrepeatable.
 - The assumption of infinite time & chance; neither of which has ever been experienced or observed, and is not repeatable or demonstrable in a laboratory.
- The Existence of Morality.
 - Where did it come from?
 - How could infinite time & chance create a non-physical emotion or personality attribute like morality?
 - All humans have it in one degree or another, but only humans – why?
 - How does Darwinian theory explain morality?
- The Resurrection of Christ
 - Only God could rise from the dead.
- Logic
 - First Principles of Philosophy & Logic.
 - A thing must be identical to itself.
 - The law of non-contradiction.
 - The excluded middle.
 - Only being can create being. Only that which exists can cause existence.
 - Three types of proof:
 - Scientific – Christianity is not and cannot be subject to this type of proof.
 - Scientific discoveries, however, do support claims of the Bible – Anthropology and Paleontology.
 - An approach that makes sense in the scientific realm is that of observation – the creation is observed; therefore, there must be a creator.
 - Historical – Christianity is well supported with this type of proof.
 - Evidentiary – Christianity is well supported with this type of proof.
 - The science of observation and conclusion – deductive reasoning.
 - The complexity, order, and design of the universe.
 - Anthropology and Paleontology support the claims of the Bible with respect to ancient peoples and cities.
 - The Law of Cause and Effect.
 - Infinite time plus chance is NOT an answer to any question.
 - From absolutely nothing, comes absolutely nothing; therefore, there must be an original cause, an uncaused cause.
 - All things existing had a beginning; therefore, the universe began, requiring an original cause that itself was uncaused.
 - The theories proffered by science for the creation of the universe are unsupportable and beyond logical belief. In addition, scientist are attempting to answer the

question of the creation of the universe with the answer that it was never created, but rather self-existed (never began), a concept repugnant to scientists when applied to God.

- The Continuous Creation/Steady State Model.
- The Oscillating Model.
- The Many Worlds Theory.
- The existence of morality in the world. Where did it come from?
- The existence of the worldwide church.
- The existence of good.
- The indisputable existence of changed lives.

REASONS FOR NOT BELIEVING

Presence of Evil in the World.

➤ Rebuttal:

- The presence of evil does not negate the presence of good or the possibility of God.
- This argument always leaves out the obvious existence of good in the world.
- The presence of hate does not negate the presence of love; or hot, cold; or black, white. The existence of one has nothing to do with the existence of the other.
- If the existence of evil equates to “no God,” then what does the existence of good equate to?
- The assumption that a good God would not allow evil in the world assumes that 1) you know what God would do and not do; 2) therefore, you have all knowledge and wisdom in order to know what God would or would not do; 3) if God were to take away all evil, He would be removing your freewill, which you apparently would agree to.
- Evil emanates from the free will of mankind. When God created us with free will (having done so that our love for him would be our decision, not His) coming along with the package was the possibility of choosing evil over good. Evil comes from man, not God.

Can't See God; Therefore, He Doesn't Exist.

➤ Rebuttal:

- This argument states: I only believe in that which I can see. But, of course, that is not true for anyone; it is self-defeating in its inconsistency; otherwise, how would one explain the belief in:
 - Can't see gravity.
 - Can't see air.
 - Can't see love, hate.
 - Can't see fear.
 - Can't see wisdom.
 - Can't see George Washington.
- Argument really means: I don't believe in things I can't see, if I don't want to believe in them.

No Scientific Proof of God or Life After Death.

➤ Rebuttal:

- Can't prove that God exists. Only prejudice would lead one to this (only one of two possibilities) negative conclusion.
- Can't prove He doesn't exist either.

- Simple observation of our surroundings is prima facie evidence of the existence of a creator. The creation exists; therefore, a creator must also exist. This is a scientific observation.
- Science is not a proper venue for the proof of God in that science is limited to proof that can be demonstrated in repeated experiments designed to confirm or falsify a certain hypothesis. God is not repeatable; therefore, He is not and cannot be subject to scientific proof.
- Science has provided negative proof of the existence of Intelligent Design by not answering the question of the original, un-caused, cause.

Science Has All Answers.

➤ **Rebuttal:**

- Science has no answers for creation other than self-creation and infinite regress.
- Not one of Darwin's theories on macro-evolution has ever been proven, observed, or demonstrated. Problem of Irreducibly Complex Systems (the human eye; blood clotting; cilium; bacterial flagellum).

Do Not Agree With the Bible – Doesn't Apply to Today – 2,000 Years Old.

➤ **Rebuttal:**

- Have you read the Bible?
- Exactly what parts do you disagree with? What exactly does not apply today?
- Are you practicing those things that you feel the Bible disallows?
- Do you actually believe in God?
- Do you believe that Christ was resurrected and that He is God?
- Do you believe that the Bible is the word of God?
- If so, how could you not agree with His word?
- Do you feel that you are actually the final arbiter of God's revealed word?
- Do you feel that the Bible is irrelevant?
- If so, is it reasonable to believe that an all-powerful God would provide a faulty and out of date revelation to His people?

Don't Agree With Christian Lifestyle.

- Not practical or reasonable today.
- One should decide his own lifestyle.
- **Rebuttal:**

- Exactly which parts do you not agree with?? Why?

Don't See Good Example in Christians; They Are Bigoted & Intolerant; Say One Thing & Do Another.

➤ **Rebuttal:**

- How do you know this – specifically?
- How many Christians do you know?
- What is your definition of bigoted and intolerant?
- How, specifically, do Christians manifest the bigotry and intolerance?
- How do you know the level of their commitment to Christ?
- Are you measuring by a Humanist standard? If so, is that a good measure to use on people who never claimed to hold to that standard?
- Specifically what things do Christians say and do that are antithetical?

Every Culture Has Had a Belief in God. It's Just a Cultural Thing From Ancient Mankind.

➤ **Rebuttal:**

- This is not proof of there being no God. Matter of fact, this very point should raise one's suspicions that there just might be something to the claim.

- Every culture does many things: consumes food, builds shelters, procreates, abides by moral standards, dies, etc. Do you then disregard and marginalize these things?
- This argument is without substance and is self-defeating. To say that the fact that past cultures believed in God proves that there is no God, is absurd and baseless.

☐ **There are Many Religions, and They All Say That They are True, and That Their God is the Only True God. Who's to Say Who is Right & Who is Wrong. There are Many Ways to the Truth. Each Person Has His Own Truth.**

➤ **Rebuttal:**

- It is a self-defeating argument to say that there are many truths. You are, in effect, saying that it is true that there are many truths; therefore, you are using your own truth to claim superiority over the other stated truths. Therefore, your truth is the higher truth, or the one true, truth; therefore, there aren't many truths; only yours.
- Truth is mutually exclusive. Two contradicting claims of one's God being the one true God cannot both be true. Either one is false, and the other true, or both are false. But, in no way can both be true. One of the first rules of logic and philosophy is the Law of Non-Contradiction.
- To say that each person has his own truth is to say that there is NO TRUTH. Thus, a self-defeating argument.
- What one believes does not necessarily make it true. Years ago, it was believed that the earth was flat. That belief did not change the fact that the earth is actually round. Truth is above belief and must be arrived at independent of unfounded belief.
- Just because there are many varying claims to truth, does not preclude the possibility of one of the claims actually being the truth, while the others are false.
- It is intellectual and spiritual indolence to avoid the search for truth based upon there being various claims to it.

☐ **Morality Differs Among Cultures; Therefore, There is No Absolute Moral Standard.**

➤ **Rebuttal:**

- Do you actually believe in God?
- Have you read the Bible?
- If so, did He reveal Himself in the Holy Scriptures?
- If so, do they apply today? If not, why not?
- Do your moral values agree with those expressed in the Bible?
- The moral values of various cultures throughout the ages have actually been very close. They all agree on the basics: adultery, stealing, lying, murder, senseless violence, breaking one's word, not keeping contracts, honor for parents, protecting children, etc. Moral differences in divergent cultures have to do more with social customs, than with base moral values.
- The existence of differences in moral values in various cultures, assuming such differences exist, does not negate the existence of a CORRECT MORAL STANDARD. The existence of a counterfeit does not negate the existence of the "genuine item" (legal tender v. counterfeit; forged painting v. the genuine painting; incorrect answer v. correct answer).

☐ **The Truth is, I Just Don't Want To.**

- I don't want to be subject to anyone's God. I'll handle my own life and decisions.
- I'm not going to give glory and honor to anyone but me. I'm the one who accomplished so much in life.
- I'm an educated person. What would my friends say?
- Look, I don't like being around a bunch of religious people, I don't enjoy church, I think that Christians are given to histrionics and emotion. I make my decisions by fact, not wishful thinking.
- **Rebuttal:**
 - **Don't worry; no one will be in heaven who doesn't want to be there. God respects you free will, and will abide by your decision.**