

ANSWERING THE TOUGH ONES DOES GOD EXIST?



Challenge

Does God exist?

Response

The nature of arguments and evidence. You can't "prove" something beyond any doubt. For an argument to be sound its premises must be sound.

1. Questions to Ask the Questioner (from Greg Koukl's *Tactics*):

- 1) What do you mean by that? (Gather information)
- 2) How did you come to that conclusion? (Reverse the burden of proof)
- 3) Have you ever considered _____ ? (Make a point or guide the conversation)

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:15–16; 1 Corinthians 8:1–3

2. Evidence to Consider:

1) Cosmological Argument: Cause and Effect

The existence of the universe is an *effect* that necessitates a *cause*. This first and ultimate Cause is an intelligent Creator.

The argument:

- 1) Everything that has a beginning has a cause
- 2) The universe had a beginning
- 3) Therefore the universe has a cause

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–3; Hebrews 11:3

2) Teleological Argument: Purpose Necessitates a Creator

The universe inherently has intelligent and orderly design. Such purpose, or *telos*, in design necessitates an intelligent Creator. (The Greek word *telos* means "end, outcome, goal, or aim.")

The argument:

- 1) The fine-tuning of the universe is due to physical necessity, chance, or design.
- 2) It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
- 3) Therefore, it is due to design.

Scripture: Romans 1:20–21; Psalm 19:1–4

3) Moral Argument: Morality Evidences God

Humanity has an innate sense of right and wrong, evidencing a moral absolute. This Moral Absolute finds its being in a transcendent personal Creator.

The argument:

- 1) If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
- 2) Objective moral values and duties do exist.
- 3) Therefore, God exists.

Scripture: Romans 1:18–36; 2:14–16

Summary: "To stand on one leg and prove God's existence is a very different thing from going down to one's knees and thanking Him." –Søren Kierkegaard

Suggested Resources:

Books: *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis; *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller; *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* by Frank Turek; *Tactics* by Greg Koukl

Websites: www.reasonablefaith.org ; www.reasons.org