

Standard of Proof

Beyond a Possible Doubt

- Anything is possible
- There will always be some possible doubt

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

- Highest level used in courts (usually reserved for criminal trials)
- Met when there is no plausible reason to believe that a proposition is untrue
- Facts and answers to questions can be unknown

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Nature of Evidence

Direct

- Eyewitness testimony only
- Issues
 - Witnesses can lie
 - Witnesses can be wrong
 - Witnesses can be biased

Indirect (Circumstantial)

- Everything else
- Issues
 - Can be misinterpreted
 - Requires a cumulative case

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Nature of Science

Empirical (Operation) Science

- Studies present
- Studies regularities
- Studies repeatable
- Re-creation possible
- Studies how things work
- Tested by repeatable experiment
- Asks how something operates

Forensic (Origin) Science

- Studies past
- Studies singularities
- Studies unrepeatable
- Re-creation impossible
- Studies how things began
- Tested by uniformity
- Asks what its origin is

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Making the Case

- God changes people, not your evidence
- Don't be afraid to admit you don't know
- Study so as to be informed
- Answer one question at a time
- There is usually a deeper issue
- Love them well by speaking the truth with gentleness
- Get to the resurrection

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Tactics

Questions

- Gather information: "What do you mean by that?"
- Reverse the burden of proof: "How did you come to that conclusion?"
- Make a point or guide the conversation: "Have you ever considered?"

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Arguments

An argument is **valid** if and only if it takes a form that makes it impossible for the premises to be true and the conclusion nevertheless to be false

An argument is **sound** if and only if it is a valid argument where the premises are true

Example

1. All toasters are items made of gold
2. All items made of gold are time-travel devices.
3. Therefore, all toasters are time-travel devices

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Cosmological Argument

Kalam Cosmological Argument Syllogism

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause
2. The universe had a beginning
3. Therefore the universe had a cause

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Cosmological Argument: Premise 1

- Law of Causality
- Foundation of science
- Required for rational thought
- More modest version: "If the universe began to exist, then the universe has a cause of its beginning"
- Something cannot come from nothing

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Cosmological Argument: Premise 2

SURGE

- Second Law of Thermodynamics
- Universe is expanding
- Radiation from the Big Bang
- Great Galaxy Seeds
- Einstein's Theory of General Relativity

Philosophical: We would never reach today

Geological: Radioactive elements

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Cosmological Argument

Cosmological Argument from Contingency Syllogism

1. Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence, either in the necessity of its own nature or in an external cause
2. If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God
3. The universe exists
4. Therefore, the universe has an explanation of its existence (from 1, 3)
5. Therefore, the explanation of the universe's existence is God (from 2, 4)

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Cosmological Argument Implications

The Cause is:

- Spaceless
- Timeless
- Changeless
- Immaterial
- Powerful
- Intelligent
- Personal

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Cosmological Argument Objections

- Steady State Theory
- Cosmic Rebound Theory
- Challenges to the Law of Causality
- Multiverse
- Lack of Implications

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Teleological Argument

Syllogism

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

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Teleological Argument: Fine-Tuning

Explanation

- The presence of life depends on a complex and delicate balance of initial conditions given in the Big Bang itself

Types

- Constants that are not determined by the laws of nature
- Arbitrary quantities put in as initial conditions on which the laws of nature operate

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Teleological Argument: Cosmology

- Cosmic Background Radiation
- Weak Force
- Dark Energy
- Big Bang's low entropy
- Ratios of these numbers

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Teleological Argument: Biology

- Irreducible complexity
- Information
- Chicken & egg problems

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Teleological Argument: Examples

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Oxygen level | 8. Speed of light |
| 2. Transparency of the atmosphere | 9. Water vapor levels |
| 3. Moon-Earth gravitational interaction | 10. Jupiter |
| 4. Gravity | 11. Earth's crust thickness |
| 5. Carbon dioxide level | 12. Earth's rotational speed |
| 6. Centrifugal force of planetary movements | 13. Earth's axial tilt |
| 7. Rate of universe expansion | 14. Atmospheric discharge (lightning) |
| | 15. Seismic activity |

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Teleological Argument: Objections

- Appearance of design is due to chance
 - Oscillating universe
 - Multiverse

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Moral Argument

Moral Argument Syllogism

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.

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Moral Argument: Premise 1

If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.

1. For something to be objective it **MUST** be grounded in something outside and above it.
2. The explanatory ultimate of objective moral values and duties **MUST** be God.

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C. S. Lewis on Objectivity

"The moral difficulty is that Dualism (good vs. evil) gives evil a positive, substantive, self-consistent nature, like that of good. If this were true, if [Evil] existed in his own right no less than [Good], what could we mean by calling [Good] good except that we happened to prefer *him*? In what sense can the one party be said to be right and the other wrong? If evil has the same kind of reality as good, the same autonomy and completeness, our allegiance to good becomes the arbitrarily chosen loyalty of a partisan . . ."

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C. S. Lewis on Objectivity

"A sound theory of value demands something different. It demands that good should be original and evil a mere perversion; that good should be the tree and evil the ivy; that good should be able to see all around evil (as when sane men understand lunacy) while evil cannot retaliate in kind; that good should be able to exist on its own while evil requires the good on which it is parasitic in order to continue its parasitic existence."

C. S. Lewis, "Evil and God" in *God in the Dock*

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C. S. Lewis' Conundrum

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of *just* and *unjust*? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water, because man is not a water animal: a fish would not feel wet . . ."

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C. S. Lewis' Conundrum

"Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too – for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my fancies. Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist – in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless – I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality – namely my idea of justice – was full of sense . . ."

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C. S. Lewis' Conundrum

"Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. *Dark* would be a word without meaning."

C. S. Lewis, "The Rival Conceptions of God" in *Mere Christianity*

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Moral Argument: Premise 2

Objective moral values and duties do exist.

1. Objective moral values and duties are self-evident.
2. Objective moral values and duties generally span time and culture as universal human behavior.

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Resources

- Reasonable Faith: www.reasonablefaith.org
- Reasons to Believe: www.reasons.org
- *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis
- *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller
- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* by Frank Turek
- *Stealing from God: Why Atheists Need God to Make Their Case* by Frank Turek
- *Tactics* by Greg Koukl
- *Cold-Case Christianity* by Greg Koukl
- *God's Crime Scene* by Greg Koukl

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