

# DGM 102- APOLOGETICS



## **DOES GOD EXIST?**

**"IF THERE WERE NO GOD, THERE WOULD BE NO  
ATHEISTS"**

**--GK CHESTERTON, WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD**

# I. Introduction



- We are living in an increasingly atheistic world
- Every Christian must be ready to discuss the question of God's existence.
- People tend to equate science with truth and other kinds of knowledge with imagination.

## II. Can We Prove Gods Existence?



- The simple answer to this question is yes!
- The existence of God can be proven using logical principles. Not empirical methods.
- But we must understand that the scientific method, while extremely valuable, is only one of the many means that we have for learning about truth and reality.

# III. The Limits of Science



- The aim of science is to study matter and energy.
  - For example, love is a fact of life, but since it is neither matter nor energy it cannot be investigated by science. There is no gadget to measure the mass, length, breadth, or temperature of love.
- The aim of science is not to investigate all reality, but rather to investigate those realities that are seen in the form of matter and energy.
- God is neither matter nor energy. Therefore the methods of experimental sciences cannot be applied to disprove His existence.
- It is true that we cant prove God by the empirical method of verification. But there are many things we cant prove in this way, e.g. History.

# IV. Different Instruments for Each Science



- In the search for truth, one uses different instruments of investigation. Every department of Science has its own specific instruments for investigating truth.
    - Example:
      - ✦ Medicine → Scalpel
      - ✦ Astronomy → Telescope
      - ✦ Biology → Microscope
      - ✦ Chemistry → Test Tubes
  - We simply use spiritual tools to discover spiritual truths.
  - Faith in God is not against reason, it is beyond reason.
- If we could analyze God in a test tube and understand Him logically, He would not be God. We would be God.

# V. Arguments for the Existence of God



- + The Law of Cause and Effect**
- + The Argument from the Origin of the Idea of God**
- + The Argument From Design**
- + A Planet Perfect for Life**
- + The Argument From Conscience (Moral Values)**
- + Relational Verification of God**

# The Law of Cause and Effect



- 1<sup>st</sup> fundamental principle of philosophy and science that "from nothing, nothing comes".
- We know that every event in the Universe has a cause for it.
  - Apples fall down because of gravity
  - Rockets go up because of thrust from burning fuel.
- Everything in this Universe has a cause except the First Cause. This first cause gave rise to everything else: God.

# The Law of Cause and Effect Cont'd



- There are 4 possible explanations for the existence of the universe. It is either:
  - ***An Illusion***: If the universe is merely an illusion, then who or what is having the illusion? Something must exist to experience the illusion.
  - ***Self Created***: referred to as "spontaneous generation" In order for something to create itself, it must exist prior to itself. This is, of course, logically impossible.
  - ***Eternal***: Science proved that the Universe is not eternal.
    - ✦ E.g. violating the 2nd law of Thermodynamics: the universe will eventually reach a state of equilibrium, a cold, dark, dead, virtually motionless universe. Clearly if the universe is without beginning, then the universe should already be in a state of equilibrium.
  - ***Created***: Having established the first 3 options to be unreasonable, we arrive at the final option: the universe is created.
    - ✦ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1).



# The Law of Cause and Effect Cont'd



- We said that from nothing, nothing comes. So the universe could not have begun.
- So there must exist that which has to exist, which cannot not exist. This sort of being is called necessary.
- Either this necessity belongs to the thing in itself or it is derived from another. If derived from another there must ultimately exist a being whose necessity is not derived, that is, an absolutely necessary being. This absolutely necessary being is God.

# The Argument from the Origin of the Idea of God



- Ideas must arise either from ourselves or from things outside us. One of the ideas we have is the idea of God, an infinite, all-perfect Being.
- This idea could not have been caused by ourselves, because we know ourselves to be limited and imperfect, and no effect can be greater than its cause.
- Therefore, the idea must have been caused by something outside us. Someone that is infinite, all-perfect, all knowing.
- But only God Himself has those qualities. Therefore God must be the cause of the idea we have of Him.
- Therefore God exists.

# The Argument From Design



- An intricately crafted universe points to an intelligent Designer. Could time plus chance result in such an intricate design of our universe? Would that not be the greatest leap of faith? *Consider this:*
  - A tornado blowing → Accidentally assembling 747 plane
  - Beautiful painting → An amazing Artist
  - Universe sustained by countless laws of physics

# A Planet Perfect for Life



- Our atmosphere contains a mixture of gases in perfect proportions to sustain life.
  - 21% of air → Oxygen.
  - 21% + 2% → Objects around us could literally burst into flame.
- If earth<sup>↑</sup>, gravity<sup>↑</sup> → hydrogen would be unable to escape earth's gravity, making it inhospitable to live on earth. Yet, if earth<sup>↓</sup> → oxygen would escape.
- Think of the speed the earth rotating around the sun
  - What happens if Earth travels in a slower speed → gets closer to sun
- No wonder the Genesis creation account concludes with this summary of God's handiwork: "*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*" (Genesis 1:31).

# The Argument From Conscience (Moral Values)



- CS Lewis said When I was an atheist 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.
- The existence of a standard of morality requires the existence of a moral God. What else could set the standard? Unless there is a God, there is absolutely no objective basis for morality.
- A moral constitution and moral law imply a creator, law-giver, and judge. This creator, this law-giver and judge, is God.

# Relational Verification of God



- Love is neither matter nor energy. Therefore no scientific apparatus can measure it. Yet love is accepted as a reality. This is because people experience love relationally.
- The same concept is applied in our knowledge of God. He is neither matter nor energy as we stated above. He is a Supreme Being, and He can be known, experienced, and verified only by **the method of relations**.
- God can be known in a personal way, and when people know God it reflects in their lives.
- Countless number of Christians have devoted their lives to serve the poor, the orphans and the unfortunate. **How many atheists do that?**
- Atheists are nowhere to be seen. They do not run hospitals, orphanages, old-age homes, and shelters for the destitute. Christians do that because of their relationship with God. This relationship motivates them to express their love practically.

# VI. Conclusion



- God wants all His creation not only to know Him but to get into a deep relationship with Him. He desires all to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4). But we have to be ready to search for this truth with all our heart. *"You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart"* (Jer 29:13).
- Pascal also says that there are three kinds of people: those who have sought God and found Him, those who are seeking and have not yet found, and those who neither seek nor find. The first are reasonable and happy, the second are reasonable and unhappy, and the third are both unreasonable and unhappy. If what's at stake stimulates us at least to seek, then it will at least stimulate us to be reasonable. And if the promise Christ makes is true, all who seek will find (Mt 7:7-8), then we will be reasonable AND happy.