

“The Existence of God”

Psalm 14:1”

Is there a God? Is there a more important question? The answer shapes our entire worldview.

1) **The Wager Argument** (Blaise Pascal): If one wagers that God exists and he does, one has gained eternal life and joy. If he does not exist, one has lost nothing. On the other hand if one wagers God doesn't exist and he does, one suffers infinite loss.

2) **Morality Argument** (Fyodor Dostoyevsky): Denying God's existence lands us in complete moral relativism, so that no act, regardless how dreadful or heinous can be condemned by an atheist because there is no ultimate authority by which to condemn it. There would be no difference between Hitler and Mother Theresa. Who's to say that burning a widow alive on the funeral pyres of their husband (Hindu practice of suttee) is wrong or that crippling a child for life by binding their feet is cruel, or that that rape, racism, or child abuse is categorically wrong?

3) **Significance Argument** (Francis Schaefer): Once God is denied, human life becomes worthless. 3 Questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Without God, you are an accident with no purpose that will rot into dirt. When God is denied life is an absurd joke. Jean-Paul Sartre, one of the best-known atheistic philosophers stated that hours or years make no difference once you've lost eternity. Everything including philanthropy, achievement no matter how great is pointless. Without God it would be foolish to encourage anyone to do anything that did not gratify pleasure and wasn't totally selfish. Even those claiming to be atheist have to lie to themselves at some level to get up everyday and pretend that life has meaning. We see this played out in a society that has become increasingly hostile to God and at the same time become 10 times more depressed and where suicide is responsible for more deaths than car crashes. This is why research confirms scripture that conversion to Christianity brings people from hopelessness & despair to hope & wholeness.

4) **Hollowness of the Pleasure Principle**: Freud is responsible for the pleasure principle that dominates our culture yet Freud himself eventually concluded that pleasure was temporary & unhappiness was unavoidable. His life was dark and

full of despair. The only thing that could temporarily lift his spirits was a new drug at the time called cocaine.

5) Ability or Inability to face death: Interesting that many who claim to be atheist fear dying. What's to fear if you are so sure. The fear is doubt exhibited in the lives Freud, Voltaire, Bertrand Russell who asked a Christian friend to pray w/ him at his death, Jean Paul Sarte who could not handle the inevitable conclusion of his worldview & recanted at his death. Albert Camus started attending a Methodist church & searching a year before his death. Even Darwin said that when he was dead he wanted people to know that he had cried & struggled over belief in God. Dr. David Nelson, an atheist came to Christ bc of the testimony he saw of the difference of believers & non-believers facing death.

6) Justice Argument: W/out God there is no ultimate sense of Justice: no ultimate reward or punishment. No act of bravery, courage, our self-sacrifice should ever be recognized because they don't matter. But even the atheist will praise this type of behavior. Why? Because they cannot live in a world that has consequences their worldview creates so they must live a lie to get through the day.

7) The Atheism Delusion: Is God the delusion (*The God Delusion*, Dawkins) or is Atheism? It is often argued that belief in God is just a projection of wishes to meet a felt need. But the reason many atheists say they don't believe in God is also the projection of a felt need to cast off all restraint and live their lives unencumbered by anything but their own whims and desires for moral freedom: willful blindness. Research even shows that the overwhelming majority of atheist polled had significant issues with 1 or more parent and more often than not, it was their father. Others see it as a way to get revenge at God (b/c of the doctrine of hell or like Darwin who lost a 10-year-old daughter). Mortimer Adler admits that what kept him away from Christianity for years was not an intellectual decision but was a heart problem. He wanted to control his own life and choices believing there were no consequences. Aldous Huxley did not want to deny his erotic passions. Augustine admitted that he resisted God for a long-time b/c of his sexual passions. So, it's not actually that atheist don't believe in God but that they have made themselves into their own god fashioning god in the image of their desires.