



ELUSIVE GOD

Steps: (so far)

1. Everyone must deal with God's elusiveness and the anxiety and pain it causes.
2. There are many possible reasons justifying how God is elusive, and many evidences that we are evasive.
3. We must choose between the approach of a demanding spectator or a learner seeking to attune to the master.

Steps: (coming up)

1. God's invitation starts as a moral challenge to our wills. We are not "non-resisting". None of us. This is called "conviction".
2. To those that receive the challenge, he invites them into an experience of attunement that is focused on transformation. This is "discipleship". (Dec 21st)
3. Jesus himself is the center of both the challenge and the experience (Dec 24th!!)

Mark 1:15

“‘The time has come,’ he said.

‘The kingdom of God is near.

Repent and believe the good news!’”

**God's attunement
process starts
with a challenge**



Conviction

You are dangerously and criminally wrong.



John 16:7-11

“But **I tell you the truth**: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, **the Counsellor** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, **he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment**: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

Acts 2:37-39

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, **‘Brothers, what shall we do?’** Peter replied, **‘Repent and be baptised,** every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **The promise is for you** and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call.’”

I'm not convicted. I'm a...

Non-Resistant Non-believer

If a relationship with God is God's desire and our greatest good, then God must give revelation sufficient so that there are not non-resistant non-believers.

There are non-resistant non-believers.

Therefore, God does not exist.



I don't believe
And it means I'm right.

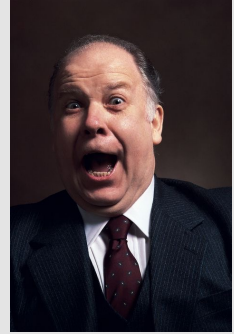


John 3:19-21

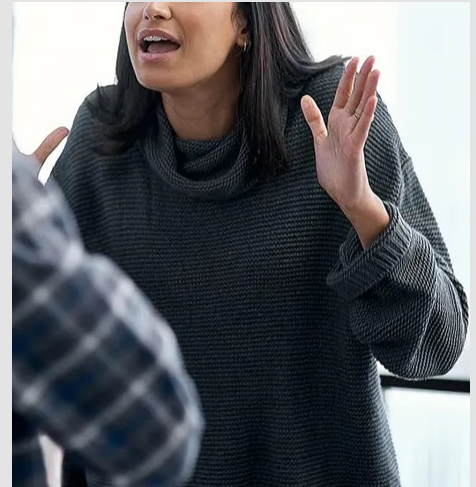
“This is **the verdict**: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

So, which is it?

Let's Play:



Gas Lighting Or Intervention?



Is this confrontation an attempt to make me feel crazy
or someone helping me see my delusion?

Gas lighting

Tells me I can't trust my own judgment.

Tells me there is something wrong with me.

Tells me I'm wrongly externalizing blame.

Tells me I should listen to them.

Intervention

Tells me I can't trust my own judgment.

Tells me there is something wrong with me.

Tells me I'm wrongly externalizing blame.

Tells me I should listen to them.

3 Tests: heed or resist?

1. Is their argument true or valid?
2. Does this uncomfortably reveal something I don't emotionally want to acknowledge?
3. Can I trust the intentions and judgment of the person/s confronting me?



1. Is their argument true or valid?

**There are no
non-resistant
non-believers**

There aren't even non-resistant believers.



Non-res non-belief

1. If there is not overwhelming accessible empirical evidence that God exists, belief in God isn't warranted.
2. There is no such evidence.
3. Therefore, my non-belief is non-resistant.
4. QED: I am a non-resistant non-believer.

Is there a
fallacy here?

$$\frac{140}{400} = \frac{\cancel{2} \times \cancel{2} \times 5 \times 7}{\cancel{2} \times \cancel{2} \times 2 \times 2 \times \cancel{5} \times 5} = \frac{7}{20}$$

Non-res non-belief

1. If there is not ~~overwhelming accessible empirical evidence~~ that God exists, belief in God isn't warranted.
2. There is no such evidence. (really?)
3. Therefore, my non-belief is non-resistant.
4. QED: I am a non-resistant non-believer.

Is there a
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No evidence except...

Natural Theology and creation

Rational proofs/arguments

Moral intuition and divine longing

Mystery of mind and consciousness

Fulfilled prophecies and Christ's resurrection

Miracles, Rel histories, and apostolic constancy

Preternatural and religious experience

Consciousness w/o brain activity/near death exp.

Fallacy:
Begging the
question



DEBATE: "Does God Exist?" - Michael Jones vs. Dr. Richard Carrier

41K views • 2 weeks ago



InspiringPhilosophy

DONATE: <https://inspiringphilosophy.com/give> This is a debate on the existence of God between Mike Jones and Dr. Richard ...



22 chapters

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Nothing “collapsed” into everything

The “multiverse” must be true (w/o empirical ev.)

You can get a moral “ought” from an “is”

Materialist explanations have explained everything, but physical idealism is essentially true. “When you touch this table, you’re touching a ‘field’.”

The Equivocation

$$\frac{140}{400} = \frac{\cancel{2} \times \cancel{2} \times 5 \times 7}{\cancel{2} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{2} \times 5 \times 5} = \frac{7}{20}$$

1. I am aware there are arguments and evidences believed by many that lead to their belief.
2. I have successful resisted all these arguments/evidences for belief in God.
3. Therefore, I (also) have “resistant non-belief”
4. But “resisting a belief” and “not believing it” are essentially the same thing.
5. Thus, I have just “non-belief.”
6. I may be justified, but it's not an evidence against belief.

The deeper intervention

Christians preach that we are not philosophically pure in our resistance to repentance and faith because all of us have recognized constant moral resistance to God in ourselves- as a human universal.

We don't believe in non-resistant *believers*.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

3 Tests: heed or resist?

1. Is their argument true or valid?
2. Does this reveal something I don't emotionally want to acknowledge?
3. Can I trust the intentions and judgment of the person/s confronting me?

2. Does this uncomfortably reveal my heart?

**There are no
pure hearts**

God's challenge is volitional and moral.



Humans are divine resistors.

1. We do not want responsibility
2. We don't want accountability
3. We don't want an authority that demands 1 & 2
4. We don't want competition (divine beauty)
5. We don't want an essential moral identity
6. We don't want judicial consistency

Etc...

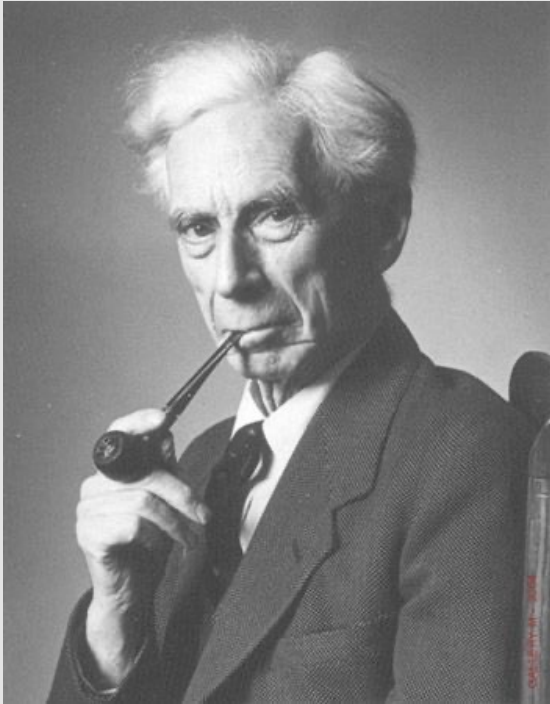
Counselor hot take:

“[People think that if they want something then there isn't any resistance to it in them, but that is almost always proven false in counseling. It's why they're IN counseling.]”

Most people use their rationality to avoid their gut checks- and they don't understand their feelings.

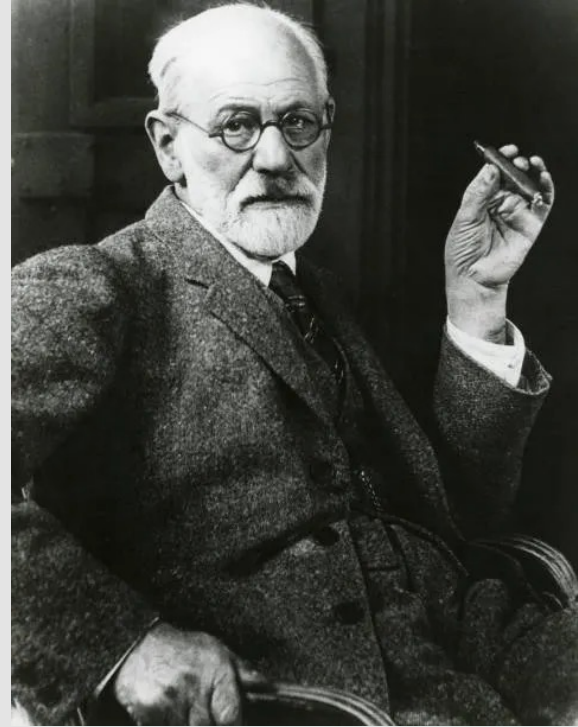
People think they are checking themselves with their rationality- when it is their rationality that is being used by their feelings to justify their evasion. The mind doesn't know it's a tool of the heart's evasion.]”

Russell



Wife count: 4

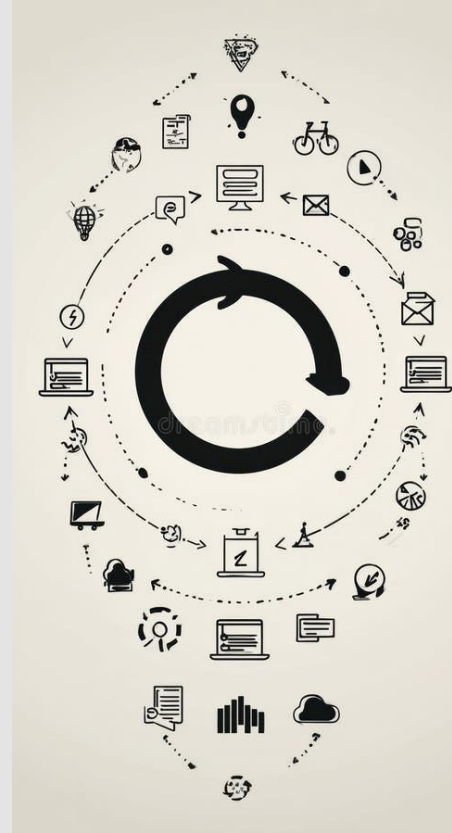
Freud



Wife count: 1

Anthropology of resistance:

- 1. Sin-** fear of exposure
- 2. The Flesh-** the self-justifying and gratifying principle.
- 3. The World-** the mob-affirmation cycle of false beliefs- resistance systematized and institutionalized
- 4. The Devil-** The deceiver and archetype and source of deception.



Spectator

God should show me empirical, immediate and compelling evidence that he exists.

Then I will believe in him. He has not done so. The ball is in his court.

Attunement

God's confrontation is:

He is making a morally authoritative loving demand that I submit my resisting will to his loving purposes

This may require empirical deniability for it to be authentic in me.

3 Tests: heed or resist?

1. Is their argument true or valid?
2. Does this reveal something I don't emotionally want to acknowledge?
3. Can I trust the intentions and judgment of the person/s confronting me?

**You can trust
the
interventionist**



Acts 2:37-39

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘**Brothers, what shall we do?**’ Peter replied, ‘**Repent and be baptised**, every one of you, **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **The promise is for you** and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call.’”



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