

Mark A McGee

In Defense of
The Existence of
God

By

Mark A McGee

In Defense of The Existence of God

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Our Defense

The existence of God is at the root of the Christian Faith and defense of that Faith. Atheists say God does not exist. Agnostics say no one can know if He exists. Pantheists believe that God is all things and all things are God. Polytheists believe in many gods. Deists believe in a God Who Created the universe, but is no longer involved in it. Monotheists believe in One God, but disagree about Who He is. So many views about something so simple – either there is a God or there isn't.

When I was an atheist and encountered Christians who wanted to debate the issue of God's existence on my radio show, I asked them a simple question – Can you prove it? That's where most Christians stumbled. They didn't know what to say, so they started quoting Scripture to prove God's existence and I would stop them – saying that you can't prove the existence of God from an ancient document purportedly dictated to people by the God you cannot prove. The Christians I spoke to during the years I was on radio didn't know where to go when I wouldn't let them argue from the Bible. Many got angry with me or said they would pray for me, then hung up. The way I saw it back then, I won the argument.

The fact is, they were right but didn't know how to deal with an atheist who wouldn't let them try to prove the existence of God from Scripture. Is there any proof of God outside the Bible? I ask that question to help you think outside the normal way Christians present the Gospel to people. Christians have a spiritual language they understand, but atheists don't get it and don't want to hear it. So, what do you do? How do you talk with an atheist about God when they won't listen to you quote Scripture to them? Is there any other way to share

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the Truth of God's existence?

Atheists already know what Christians believe, so don't start there. Begin by asking them a question about what they believe – and ask it in a kind way.

I've asked many atheists through the years to tell me about their beliefs and most were willing to tell me. People like to talk about themselves and their beliefs, so listen carefully and respectfully.

- As they share their beliefs, ask questions that lead to more insights into what they believe and how they think.

Atheists are individuals and have individual thoughts, if we just give them an opportunity to talk about them. Don't lump atheists and agnostics into one group and think you understand them. I've given atheists my book, *A History of Man's Quest for Immortality*, and asked them to tell me what they thought about it. That has led to further discussions about the existence of God.

- Remember that all atheists are skeptics, but not all atheists are scoffers.

If an atheist is not on the offensive against you, don't be offensive with them. Your hope should be that one discussion will lead to a second discussion, a third, a fourth, and more.

That's how I came to Christ. I interviewed Dr. Henry Morris on my radio talk show, then Terry Lytle, then met with Dr. Ed Hindson. After

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many, many discussions with Terry and Ed, I responded positively to the invitation to ask God for His forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. Kindness and good answers can go a long way when you talk with an atheist or agnostic about the existence of God.

- At what seems like an appropriate time, ask atheists why they don't believe in God.

Be sure you ask the question kindly and not in an accusatory or confrontational manner. As soon as you accuse or confront, you've changed the tenor of the discussion and atheists will react. Listen carefully and ask follow-up questions. People become atheists for a variety of reasons and it's good to know why they believe the way they believe.

- Remember that atheism is a "faith" system.

Atheists "believe" there is no God. They can't prove it, so they have to have a lot of faith in what they believe. They are trusting something and it's helpful to know what that is.

- Once you've listened to them explain why they don't believe in God, ask if you can share with them why you do believe in God.

Most atheists I've spoken with through the years have given me the opportunity to share my beliefs, probably because I listened to them politely and asked questions respectfully. Remember to share with them and not preach at them. Most atheists and agnostics seem to respond well to Christians sharing with them, but they don't like being preached

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at.

- Remember that the goal for sharing your belief in God with an atheist or agnostic is not to prove a point.

If you talk to atheists and agnostics because you love them, proving a point is of no interest or importance. Much more is at stake in your discussion – the eternal destiny of a soul is in the balance. I am not a fan of debating atheists because it is often more about proving a point than sharing as one soul to another. If you do get into a debate with an atheist, speak the truth in love and look to the Holy Spirit for the right heart motive and attitude.

- After you share your reasons for believing in God, ask the atheist or agnostic what they think about what you've shared.

Listen to their response and respond thoughtfully. I remained open to what Terry and Dr. Ed shared with me over a long period of time because I could tell they liked and respected me as a person. I knew we disagreed on beliefs that were very important to them, but they never demonstrated anger or disrespect toward me.

- Don't think about atheists or agnostics as "objects" to be won over.

The goal in sharing the Gospel with people and defending the faith is to bring glory to God. When I was an atheist, my goal was never to glorify God. After becoming a Christian, my goal is always to glorify God. That should always be the goal of talking with any unbeliever about God.

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You will learn a lot about an atheist or agnostic after talking with them for a little while. Remember to listen to them respectfully and prayerfully. The Holy Spirit will help you listen and give you words to share that will be meaningful. It's important to remember that God knew all about your conversation from before He Created the universe. Nothing a person says to you will be a surprise to God. Because you are a child of God, you have a spiritual advantage in your discussions. Use your advantage to help make a big difference in the life of the person God has placed in your life. Look at your conversation as a spiritual opportunity God appointed.

Atheists believe there is no God. Agnostics believe no one can know if there is a God. Let's start with atheists.

Atheists often make emphatic statements, like – “There is no God” – but how do they know for sure there is no God? Have they fully investigated all of the arguments for the existence of God? Have they looked into all the evidence in the universe for a living God? Can they answer every objection you have to atheism?

Their honest answer should be – “no” – they don't know for sure there is no God. The fact is they can't be sure about it. They have not fully investigated all arguments for the existence of God. They have not looked into all the evidence in the universe for a living God. They cannot answer every objection you have to atheism? It's not because they aren't smart or haven't done their homework, it's just not possible for anyone to accomplish these things. The human race lacks the ability to travel to every part of the universe, and even if we could, we are not able to see the invisible spiritual world with our eyes or any electronic

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instruments.

Ask atheists if they view their position on God's existence on the basis of it being a possibility, probability or certainty. Atheists will usually say they are certain God does not exist, but how can they know something that big for certain? God has been believed for thousands of years by hundreds of millions of people as the Creator of the universe. Now, that's big! How can any one person – or even a large group of people – be certain there is no God anywhere in the universe? They can argue from the position of remote possibility (even that is an extremely weak argument), but saying that God absolutely does not exist is far from probability or certainty.

Faith is thought by some to cover a gap in knowledge. In the case of an atheist who is certain there is no God, that gap in knowledge is huge – which means an atheist's faith in their unbelief has to be huge. It does take a lot more faith to be an atheist than it does to be a Christian.

- Atheists believe their arguments against the existence of God are reasonable and logical. In fact, they are unreasonable and illogical.

Atheists say there is no God, but can they prove it? They have no evidence to sufficiently support their belief. To believe something absolutely without having sufficient supporting evidence is unreasonable and illogical. A person may believe that life cannot exist in ocean depths beyond man's current ability to investigate, but they can't be sure. The only way to know for certain is to physically go below those depths and cover every square inch of the ocean around the world. The fact is that new life forms are being discovered at ocean depths far greater than anyone thought possible in the past. Someone who still believes there is no life at those depths would now be looked at as being unreasonable

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and illogical.

The same is true about the existence of God. An atheist cannot be certain that God does not exist until they have explored every inch of the vast universe and developed the ability to see the invisible. Even if someone could explore every inch of the universe and could see things that are invisible, they would have to go even farther in their search before they could say without doubt that God did not exist. The Bible teaches that God dwells in unapproachable light (i.e. inaccessible light) and exists outside the universe He Created – in addition to existing within the universe. So, again, I say that anyone who claims they are 100% certain God does not exist is unreasonable and illogical.

What's different about agnostics? They admit they don't know if God exists, but they also say there's no way for anyone to know. Just as you would for an atheist, listen respectfully and ask them questions for clarification and understanding. One question I like to ask agnostics is – how can they be sure no one can know if God exists since they admit they don't know? Is it possible that their lack of knowledge about the existence of God is an area of knowledge Christians possess? If they say that's not possible, then ask them how they can be sure that Christians don't know when they readily admit they don't know. The agnostic argument that they don't know – so no one can know – is not reasonable or logical. Not knowing something often means that someone else does know that something.

I've learned that many people who say they are agnostics are really closet atheists. Once you begin asking them how they can be sure Christians don't have knowledge of God's existence just because they don't know, many agnostics will take a stronger position and show themselves to really be atheists. They may be weak atheists (someone who doesn't

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believe there is credible scientific evidence for the existence of God or gods) rather than agnostics. The line between the two is often thin, so be aware of that possibility as you share with unbelievers.

So, what happens when an atheist or agnostic asks you to explain why you believe in God – without quoting from the Bible? Are you prepared to do that? I used to push that point with Christians when I was an atheist and have had atheists pull that on me during the past 40 years. The ultimate argument for God's existence is in God's Word – His Revelation of Himself – but sometimes knowing how to speak with atheists and agnostics from other types of arguments may give you the opportunity to share God's Word and be heard.

I began teaching self-defense in 1964. I did it because I saw the need to help people gain confidence in their ability to deal with bullies or criminals. I had been the victim of bullying as a child and martial arts gave me the confidence to stand up to people who tried to hurt or intimidate me. 47 years later, I am still teaching people for the same reason. Bullies and criminals are still among us.

I began teaching faith defense in 1971 for a similar reason, except that I was the one who had done the bullying. I was an atheist who used the bully pulpit of a radio talk show to attack anyone who believed in the existence of God. Finding out that God did exist and loved me changed my life forever. From that point on, my desire has been to tell atheists, agnostics and other unbelievers about God and His love for them and to help Christians know how to share Christ with them. That's the purpose of FaithAndSelfDefense.com – to support and encourage Christians in their ministries and to reach the lost with the wonderful message of God's love for them.

Talking with atheists and agnostics is more than just a “ministry” that

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some Christians are called to do (e.g. pastors, evangelists, apologists). For many Christians, talking with atheists and agnostics is what they do every day because members of their family or their neighbors or co-workers are skeptics and scoffers. Having a personal relationship with an atheist or agnostic makes faith defense personal – and that’s the way it should be. Each of us needs to be prepared to give an answer (“defense”) to everyone we know about the spiritual hope we have in Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)

We now come to the part of our study where we look at some of the answers (apologia) we can give atheists and agnostics about why we believe in the existence of God – without quoting from the Bible. I personally believe that sharing God’s Word with atheists and agnostics is vital to their salvation, but you may have to spend time sharing defenses from outside Scripture to help them see the importance of hearing from God Himself. I am not suggesting you don’t talk with unbelievers from the Scriptures, but these are some ways to continue your apologia if they won’t listen to God’s Word. Some of you may have a parent or grandparent or child or aunt or uncle or cousin or spouse who will not listen when you try to prove God’s existence from the Bible. Does that mean you can’t have an important discussion with them about God? No, it just means you may have to change the way you talk with them until they become open to hearing what God says from His Word.

An apologia is the verbal argument belonging to the defense – the one accused. Making an argument in defense of something does not mean you are “arguing” with someone. It means you are presenting verbal evidence and testimony in defense of the one accused. There are many such arguments Christians can share in defense of the existence of God. Here are some examples we’ll cover in this study. These are some of the arguments shared with me when I was an atheist before I was open to

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hearing what God had to say from His Word. I pray these are helpful to you as well.

The Cosmological Argument

The Teleological Argument

The Law of Causality

The Laws of Thermodynamics

The Moral Law Argument

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The Biblical Argument

Before I share these arguments with you, I first want to share a powerful argument from the Bible. This is to help Christians understand the inner workings of an atheist. Atheists probably won't listen to this argument – at first – so, it's just for Christians at this point.

The belief in God is intuitive – “what may be known of God is manifest in them.” Everyone is born with an intuition about God, but it's often replaced by the futility of heart and mind. Here's the context of Paul's statement concerning what people know.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.” Romans 1:18-23

That's atheists, agnostics, pantheists and polytheists in a nutshell. They suppress the truth in the sphere of unrighteousness. The truth is that God does exist as the Supreme Being and the proof of that is through the Creation of the world. God's invisible attribute are clearly seen

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through Creation – “being understood by the things that are made.” Those invisible attributes include His eternal power and Godhead. So, why don’t atheists believe? They “became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” And it’s not just atheists and agnostics. It’s also pantheists and polytheists – “professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

This is important to remember when you talk with an atheist or agnostic or any other scoffer or skeptic. The truth of God’s existence – His invisible attributes – are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made. Just because someone says they do not believe in God does not mean they “cannot” or “will not” believe in God. It just means that at that moment – when you are talking with them – they are suppressing Truth. That means they are very close to knowing the Truth. When I talk with unsaved people, I know how close they are to being saved. They are the ones Jesus came to find – and He is finding many of them. Pray to the God of Creation that He will shine the Light of His Truth on their futile thoughts and foolish hearts and bring them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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The Cosmological Argument

When an atheist or agnostic will not continue talking with me about the existence of God because I'm using God's Word in my faith defense, I like to turn to the Cosmological Argument because it deals with something everyone can see – the universe. Atheists and agnostics argue that they don't believe in anything they cannot see, hear, taste, touch, or smell. They say they believe in the natural only – not the supernatural. The universe is something they can see (light waves) and hear (radio waves). The earth – a part of the universe – is also something they can taste, touch and smell.

The Cosmological Argument is that everything that had a beginning had a cause; the universe had a beginning, therefore the universe had a cause.

Other ways of saying it are -

“First, whatever begins to exist has a cause.”

“Everything begun must have an adequate cause. The universe was begun; therefore, the universe must have an adequate cause for its production.”

“Everything which has had a beginning was produced by a sufficient cause. The Universe has had a beginning, and therefore must have had a cause sufficient to bring it into existence.”

This is an old argument – dating back at least to the time of Plato (theory of the “demiurge”) and Aristotle (theory of “the unmoved mover”). Even more ancient civilizations than Greece had First Cause philosophies about an uncaused being or beings bringing the universe

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into existence.

Atheists have a quick response to our use of the Cosmological Argument – What caused the Cause? That’s a tough one for some Christians to answer because they struggle with some of the same issues. How can God have always existed? How can it be that God did not have a beginning? Every experience we have on earth has a beginning. Everything in the universe has a beginning. The universe itself had a beginning. So, how can it be that God had no beginning?

We make a mistake thinking of God as being bound by the universal laws that are our boundaries. God exists outside those boundaries. In fact, God is the One Who designed the universal laws that affect every aspect of life inside the universe. God, who is larger than the universe is not affected by those universal laws.

This is honestly a great point of faith on the part of Christians and something God spent a great deal of time explaining to His people through the centuries. It is hard for a created being to understand how the Creator could have always been. However, it is not outside the realm of possibility or probability that a Being with the power to Create the universe could also be Eternal in Nature. Just because someone has difficulty in understanding a truth, their struggle does not impact the truth of that truth. Christians believe what God says about Himself even though some of what He says is beyond our ability to comprehend. Atheists do not believe what God says about Himself because they do not believe in God. However, their unbelief does not change the truth of God’s existence. As we will see in future Faith Defense studies, the weight of proof is squarely on the shoulders of unbelievers.

Another objection you will probably hear from an atheist or agnostic is that even if they accepted your argument as proof of a First Cause, that

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doesn't prove that the First Cause is God. Before you answer their objection, ask them if they are saying that they accept your argument as proof of a First Cause. If they say, yes, they do accept your argument, then you can move on to share other arguments that will lead to the reasonable conclusion that the First Cause is God. If they say, no, they don't accept your argument as proof of a First Cause, then ask them why. It is a solid argument that deserves the attention of anyone who really wants to know the truth. Remember, we're not trying to win an argument. We're trying to help a fellow human being place their faith and trust in their Creator – just like we did. We are no better than unbelievers – we're just saved.

Some atheists will also argue that the Cosmological (First Cause) Argument falls apart at this point – “The universe was begun” – because, they say, the universe is infinite and had no beginning. This argument against the existence of God is known as the Infinite Universe Theory (IUT) – and has also been called the Steady State Theory (SST). Both reject the Big Bang Theory (BBT) and Intelligent Design Theory (IDT). The question is which theory is based on the best scientific investigation and reasoned logic. We will deal with these in detail in upcoming articles because you will run into this issue as you talk with skeptics and scoffers.

Atheists, and some agnostics, think of themselves as freethinkers. That term is based on the philosophical viewpoint of “freethought” that says opinions should be based on science, reason, and logic and not on dogma or tradition. I once thought of myself as a freethinker – someone who was above believing in religious fairytales. I was a journalist and everyone knows journalists seek after truth. The fact is I was not, and atheists are not, really seeking after truth. Atheists believe what they believe because it fits with their sinful lifestyle and allows them to do as they please without guilt. I usually bring that up in discussions with atheists and

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agnostics – that truth is the goal of freedom. If they are truly freethinkers, they will go wherever truth takes them – without prejudice. I ask them if they agree with that. If they do agree, then we can move on to continued discussions about a variety of arguments for the existence of God. If they do not agree, then I ask them why. Knowing their reasons can open doors to further discussions. The arguments for the existence of God are steeped in science, reason, and logic – as well as faith – so anyone who wants to know the truth should give those arguments a fair hearing.

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The Teleological Argument

The second argument for the existence of God (outside of Scripture) is the Teleological Argument – also known as the Argument of Design – or the Argument to Design. As with the Cosmological Argument, we go back to Greek philosophers for early presentations of the argument. They include Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. The Intelligent Design Theory (IDT) is a modern version of the Teleological Argument that proposes that many features of the universe and living things are best explained by intelligent design – an intelligent cause. Logical reasoning from the Intelligent Design of the universe is that there is an Intelligent Designer of the universe.

Here are some explanations of Intelligent Design -

The universe evidences great complexity or design; thus, it must have been designed by a great Designer or God.

The position that there is positive evidence that life on Earth was created by one or more intelligent agents, but without making any explicit claim as to the identity or divinity of the agent or agents.

Certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.

The scientific support for what many call Intelligent Design is enormous and growing by the day. More and more scientists are writing papers and books about “The Mind” behind the Design of the universe. Some of the scientific fields represented by those who are concluding that a Great Intelligence is behind the design of the universe are physics,

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astrophysics, astronomy, biology, and biochemistry. Concepts being discussed among scientists include Irreducible Complexity, Specified Complexity, Fine-Tuned Universe, and the Thermodynamic Argument.

I was a television journalist in Huntsville, Alabama for almost 13 years. Huntsville is home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and where Werner von Braun and his team of German scientists settled after they were "captured" by Allied forces at the end of World War II. Von Braun died a few years before I moved to Huntsville, but I had the opportunity to know and interview many members of his German team. I spent time in their homes and saw many of von Braun's pictures, letters, papers, and drawings. One of my favorite quotes from von Braun is this one about the Creator:

"The vast mysteries of the universe should only confirm our belief in the certainty of its Creator. I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science." Werner von Braun

The more science investigates the complexity of the universe and life within the universe, the more we learn about the amazing design of the universe. For many years, Christians viewed science as an enemy because of the conclusions "scientists" were making about scientific discoveries. The problem was that these so-called discoveries were being viewed through the glasses of people who did not believe in the existence of God. Because of their pre-conclusions, they wouldn't know the truth if it bit them. What's been happening in the last 20 – 30 years is that many scientists have dealt with the weight of scientific discoveries that point more and more to Intelligent Design – or as Christians would say – the Creator God.

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The Teleological Argument is based on the fact that every design has a designer, the universe has a complex design, therefore, the universe has a complex Designer. It makes perfect sense to us, but atheists will have none of that. Most still believe in evolution. That's what I was taught in the public school system of the 1950s and 60s. Believing that humans evolved from apes that evolved from smaller creatures that evolved from even smaller and less complex creatures played a role in my becoming an atheist. If humans evolved from single-cell slime, there is no place for a soul that continues beyond death. However, there is now powerful evidence that evolution is a farce.

Scientists with impeccable credentials from many of the most prestigious universities and laboratories in the world are skeptical about evolution. They got together and wrote an official dissent -

“We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.”

You can read more about the Dissent from Darwin at www.dissentfromdarwin.org. Another good website to visit is PSSI – Physicians and Surgeons For Scientific Integrity.

There have been many atheist responses to the Teleological Argument. They believe the analogy of “design = designer” doesn't work in the case of the universe because comparing natural objects with man-made objects (e.g. Paley's watch-design argument) is similar to comparing apples and oranges. They believe the big bang and evolution are a better explanation of the complexity in the universe (though they still can't explain how something came from nothing – among many other major problems with Big Bang/evolutionary theory). Some say that even if the

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Teleological Argument is true, it doesn't prove the existence of the God of the Bible.

Understand that when you talk with an atheist or agnostic about God, they are coming from an opposing philosophy. If you want to put them in their place, quote God's Word to them and let that be that. God's Word is True and trumps all other belief systems. However, if you want to invest time and effort to reach an atheist or agnostic for Christ, work on finding areas where you can reach their heart and mind. God's Spirit will reach their soul. I'll never forget how God used a Creation scientist to crack open my armor and touch me with the possibility that I might be wrong. God's Spirit will do what you and I cannot do. He will reach those He wants to reach and will change them for the Glory of God.

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The Law of Causality

This defense can be stated in many ways:

- Causality is the relationship between an event (the cause) and a second event (the effect), where the second event is understood as a consequence of the first.
- The law of causality states that every material effect must have an adequate antecedent cause.
- If every material effect has an adequate antecedent cause, and if the Universe is a material effect, then the Universe had a cause.

We saw this idea earlier in our study about the Cosmological Argument - “Everything which has had a beginning was produced by a sufficient cause. The Universe has had a beginning, and therefore must have had a cause sufficient to bring it into existence.”

The Law of Causality is a fundamental principle of science. Science is a search for causes. That’s what scientists do. They search for causes. In the Science of Physics, this search for causes is known as Causality – describing the relationship between cause and effect. We see this law all around us – gravity, for instance. Gravity is a force that attracts objects toward the earth. Gravity is the cause – force and weight are effects of the cause. If I jump out of a tree and there is nothing between the tree limb and the ground, we all know what will happen. I will hit the ground at a force determined by mathematics and physics. If I am standing on the ground and step onto a scale, gravity will act upon my body in such a way as to reflect a certain weight on the scale. If I am standing on the

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moon, the gravitational force on the earth has little effect on me. Instead, the gravitational force on the moon will determine my weight – which will be substantially less.

The Law of Causality is also a fundamental principle of journalism. When something happens, whether good or bad, journalists ask several basic questions which are based on the law of cause and effect: who, what, where, when, why and how. Journalists ask those questions because that process leads to answers to fundamental questions of interest. Who shot the sheriff? Who died in the fire? Who won the spelling bee? Who did people elect to be our next mayor?

The Law of Causality – relationship between an event (cause) and a second event (the effect), where the second event is understood as a consequence of the first.

- We know someone shot the sheriff because the sheriff was shot.
- We know someone died in a fire because there was a fire, a body was found in the fire, and the medical examiner determined that the fire was the cause of death.
- We know someone won the spelling bee because a spelling bee was held and there was a winner.
- We know someone will be our next mayor because an election for mayor was held, voters cast their ballots, and one of the candidates won the election.

Simple, but profound. Most of us know things happened because something “caused” them to happen. It’s logical. It makes sense. That’s the Law of Causality.

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The Bible is filled with examples of the Law of Causality – the science of cause and effect. Take Hebrews 3 for example -

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”
Hebrews 3:1-6

The Law of Causality – “For every house is built by someone.” When I drive through a neighborhood and see house after house after house in row after row after row on street after street after street, I know that somebody built those houses. I don’t wonder how those houses got there. It’s not a mystery to me. I know someone built them because they were built.

The Law of Causality – “but He who built all things is God.” When I look at the earth and the sea and the sky and the moon and the sun and the stars, I know that someone built them. I don’t wonder how the earth and sea and sky and moon and sun and stars got there. I know Someone built them because they were built. I believe that Someone is the Creator God. The Apostle Paul said it so well – “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that

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they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20) Paul made a statement of logical cause and effect. Another way I’ve seen it explained is – “Since the Universe exhibits design, it must have had a Designer; since it exhibits intelligence, the Designer must have been intelligent; since it exhibits life, the Designer must have been living; since it exhibits morality, the Designer must have been moral.”

But, atheists will argue, what does the Law of Causality have to do with proving the existence of God? Go back to the first step in the Cosmological Argument - “First, whatever begins to exist has a cause.” Atheists will use the Law of Causality to argue that God cannot exist because He would have to have a cause. But read it again – “every material effect must have an adequate antecedent cause.” Two things – 1. God does not need a cause because He did not have a beginning, 2. God does not have to have an adequate antecedent cause because He is not material. The existence of God cannot be explained away by any true law of science because God established all scientific laws. And because God established all scientific laws when He “built all things,” He will be found in those laws by those who do not suppress the truth of those laws.

In Defense of The Existence of God

The Laws of Thermodynamics

This argument for the existence of God is based in science, so it can be a point of discussion with atheists and agnostics who will only talk with you about the existence of God from science, reason and logic.

Thermodynamics (from the root words: thermo = heat ... dynamic = power) is a branch of physics that deals with energy and work of a system – including fundamental physical quantities like temperature, energy, and entropy – it studies the efficiency of energy transfer and exchange.

There are four laws or principles of Thermodynamics:

Zeroth Law – if two systems are in thermal equilibrium with a third system, they are also in thermal equilibrium with each other.

First Law – The energy going into a system, minus the energy coming out of a system, equals the change in the energy stored in the system – energy can be transformed (changed from one form to another), but cannot be created nor destroyed - energy is conserved in all thermodynamic processes.

Second Law – Heat will, of its own accord, flow only from a hot object to a cold object – in a closed system, heat cannot pass from a colder body to a warmer body by itself – it is impossible to finish any real physical process with as much useful energy as you had at the beginning - while many physical processes that satisfy the first law are possible, the only processes that occur in nature are those for which the entropy of the system either remains constant or increases.

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Third Law – the entropy of a perfect crystal approaches zero as the absolute temperature approaches zero – the entropy of a pure perfect crystal is zero (0) at zero Kelvin (0° K).

Entropy is an important word to understand as we talk about the scientific Laws of Thermodynamics. It is often interpreted as the degree of disorder or randomness in a system – the gradual decline into disorder. The entropy of a substance increases whenever the energy it possess to do work decreases. It measures the spontaneous dispersal of energy at a specific temperature – how much energy is spread out and how widely it spreads. Entropy increases as usable energy decreases and unusable energy increases. That leads to an increase in disorganization, randomness and chaos.

The First Law of Thermodynamics is often called the Law of Conservation of Energy. Though energy can be transferred from one system to another in many forms (e.g. from solid to liquid to gas to plasma and back again), it cannot be created or destroyed. That means the total amount of energy available in the universe is constant.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics is often called the Law of Increased Entropy. The First Law states that while quantity remains the same, The Second Law states the quality of matter and energy deteriorates gradually over time. In the process of usable energy being used for growth and repair, it is converted into unusable energy. That means usable energy is irretrievably lost in the form of unusable energy.

British astrophysicist Sir Arthur Eddington, who became Director of the Cambridge Observatory and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1914, was an expert on General Relativity. In fact, it was Eddington who

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discovered an error in Einstein's theory (known as the "fudge factor" Einstein built into his theory to try to show that the universe was static and did not have a beginning – the so-called "cosmological constant"). Eddington's understanding of General Relativity was later supported by Russian mathematician Alexander Friedmann, Dutch astronomer Willem de Sitter, and American astronomer Edwin Hubble. Here's what Sir Eddington said in 1927 about the importance of the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

"The law that entropy always increases-the second law of thermodynamics-holds, I think, the supreme position among the laws of Nature. If someone points out to you that your pet theory of the universe is in disagreement with Maxwell's equations-then so much the worse for Maxwell's equations. If it is found to be contradicted by observation-well, these experimentalists do bungle things sometimes. But if your theory is found to be against the second law of thermodynamics I can give you no hope; there is nothing for it but to collapse in deepest humiliation." Eddington, A.S., "The Nature of the Physical World," [1928], *The Gifford Lectures 1927*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge UK, 1933, reprint, pp.74-75. Emphasis original

So, what does this have to do with proving the existence of God? Many atheists still believe that the universe is eternal and infinite. They were dealt a blow by General Relativity, but some still hold to the old idea that the universe has been around forever and didn't need a Cause (e.g. Creator). However, the Second Law of Thermodynamics states that energy deteriorates over time. If the universe was truly eternal, it would have already run out of energy and you and I wouldn't exist. The fact that the universe is running out of energy every second but still has energy for heat and work, goes to prove that it had a beginning. Using

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the Law of Causality – that every material effect must have an adequate antecedent cause – we know that that the universe had a cause. That brings us back to the question – what “caused” the universe?

The Law of Thermodynamics does not prove that God exists, but it is strong proof that the universe had a beginning. Interestingly, the Bible starts with that very point – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1) The fact that the heavens and the earth had a beginning is a powerful point of defense for the existence of God. If God did not Create the heavens and the earth, what did? What started everything? You may find that atheists who accept the scientific truth of the Second Law of Thermodynamics may agree to the idea of a “big bang” as the beginning of the universe, but what started the bang? What caused everything to come into existence?

Scientists are now able to describe some of the events of the beginning of the universe to the shortest fraction of a second. Here’s how science historian Owen Gingerich described the events of that first moment of time.

“At that point, at a second split so fine that no clock could measure it, the entire observable universe is compressed within the wavelike blur described by the uncertainty principle, so tiny and compact that it could pass through the eye of a needle. Not just this room, or the earth, or the solar system, but the entire universe squeezed into a dense dot of pure energy. And then comes the explosion.” Owen Gingerich - Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and of the History of Science at Harvard University and a senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

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What could have the power necessary to compress enough energy into a space of time too small to calculate at temperatures greater than any heat known to exist now anywhere in the universe? God – “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” (Hebrews 11:3)

There is so much more we could say about this proof for the existence of God – and we will say it in weeks and months to come. These scientific laws support the belief in the existence of God – and are, therefore, a powerful defense of the Faith given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ -

“He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” John 1:2-3

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:16

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The Moral Law Argument

This argument for the existence of God is based on generally accepted points of morality within societies. It is based on the premise of moral normativity – the awareness of civilized human beings that some actions are right while others are wrong. Here are three ways to state the Moral Argument.

- Some aspect of Morality is observed
 - Belief in God provides a better explanation of this feature than various alternatives
 - Therefore, to the extent that (1) is accepted, belief in God is preferable to these alternatives
-
- If God does not exist, objective moral values do not exist
 - Objective moral values do exist
 - Therefore, God exists
-
- Every law has a law giver
 - There is a Moral Law
 - Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver

Why do people have moral conflicts if morality does not exist? If people have moral conflicts, then morality exists. Without morality, there is no moral conflict. People do have moral conflicts, so morality exists. The word “morality” comes from the Latin *moralitas* (“manner, character, proper behavior”) and is concerned with the principles of right and wrong behavior and the goodness or badness of human character.

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Moral codes have existed for thousands of years – Adamic Code (40th Century B.C.) ... Noahic Code (25th Century B.C.) ... Egyptian Code of Ma'at (23rd Century B.C.) ... Babylonian Code of Hammurabi (18th Century B.C.) ... Hebrew Law of Moses (15th Century B.C.) ... Greek Moral Code (8th Century B.C.) ... Chinese Code of Confucius (6th Century B.C.) ... Roman Code of Morality (5th Century B.C.) ... Christ's Sermon on the Mount (1st Century A.D.). The long history of moral codes demonstrates that people and societies are aware and sufficiently concerned about morality to define and codify it for the good of the social majority. These and other codes of morality have governed the populations of numerous civilizations as far back as evidence of the written word to explain them.

I was a child in the late 1940s and 1950s and teenager and young adult in the 1960s. The changes in morality during those years were amazing. How did we go from the strong moral values following World War II to the relativism of the 1960s? What was absolutely true in 1948 was not necessarily true in 1968. How can that happen in just 20 years? Doesn't it take generations before morality shifts?

Atheism has been around for a long time, but it came of age during the 20th century. I wrote in another article about the impact the writings of Bertrand Russell had on me as a teenager and young man. Another influence was Joseph Fletcher. Fletcher was an ordained Episcopal priest who taught Christian Ethics at Episcopal Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School – and Medical Ethics at the University of Virginia. He later said he was an atheist. Fletcher wrote a book called "Situation Ethics: The New Morality" in 1966. That book and its presentation about morals and values had a profound impact on my young life.

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Situation ethics attempts to remove the concept of absolutes in the areas of morals and values. Instead of following the directives of an absolute moral law, situation ethics determines morality and value based on the “situation.” Situation ethics said that moral principles can sometimes be cast aside if love is best served to do so in certain situations. Fletcher believed that the only law that was absolute was agape love and that all other laws could and should be set aside to achieve the greatest amount of that love.

As a budding atheist in the second half of the 1960s, I liked Fletcher’s situation ethics. It fit very well with my desire to do whatever I thought was right for me. I became the definer of right and wrong for my life. I determined what love was and did as I pleased. Situation ethics is very appealing to the sin nature. I had been raised in churches where moral law was taught continually. My desire to sin free of guilt and consequence responded to Fletcher’s view of no absolutes in life – no absolute truth, no absolute right or wrong, no absolute values, no absolute standards – everything is relative – or so they say.

The fact is people like Fletcher do believe in absolute truth, values and standards – theirs. They believe they are absolutely right and anyone who disagrees is absolutely wrong. I know that from my own pre-Christian thinking. I didn’t want anyone stepping on my rights, but I didn’t mind stepping on theirs because they didn’t have any rights – or so I said. Ask an atheist what they think about someone killing a member of their family. Since they believe everything is relative and situational, shouldn’t they embrace other people’s right to kill, maim, kidnap, rob and rape if they believe that’s right for them? If someone who espouses situation ethics had a loved one or best friend on one of the planes that Muslim extremists flew into the Twin Towers in New York City, or the Pentagon, or the field in Pennsylvania, do you think they would say what

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the extremists did was fine since they believed it was the right thing for them to do? Since there are no absolute truths or right or wrong or values or standards – since everything is relative and based on the situation from the perspective of each individual – what the Muslim extremists did was good for them and therefore okay to do. Right? Of course not – and I dare say it would be difficult to find atheists who would embrace people who murdered their loved ones. There is something inside of every person that tells them crimes against humanity are wrong – even atheists.

For thousands of years, societies have developed around common beliefs about protecting and providing for families. Moral law – and the enforcement of it – have been foundational to that protection and provision. If an atheist was robbed at gunpoint and badly beaten, they would have no need to call police to investigate because they don't believe in moral law. Why would they want police to capture the robber and put him in prison when there are no absolute standards – no moral values? Why would they want the robber to be tried in a court of law when all the robber was doing was what was right in his own eyes? There are no human rights without Moral Law. There is no justice or injustice without Moral Law. There is no right or wrong without Moral Law.

Even though atheists don't believe in Moral Law, they benefit from it. The justice system is as much for them as for those who believe in Moral Law. The big mistake atheists make is thinking they can enjoy the benefits of living in a society that believes in Moral Law while living their personal lives as if there wasn't a Moral Law. They can't have it both ways. Either there is a Moral Law and a Moral Law Giver or there is no Moral Law and no Moral Law Giver. If there is a Moral Law and Moral Law Giver, then atheists have a major problem. If they continue to deny the existence of the Moral Law Giver through the end of their

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life, they will face Him at their death and suffer the penalty of their denial. If there is no Moral Law Giver, then atheists have no right to protection from society against those who would harm them. I can tell you from personal experience – and the Word of God – that atheism is foolish.

Speaking of foolishness – most atheists I’ve known (including myself many years ago) believe in evolution. Some explain morality from an evolutionary viewpoint – that as the species have evolved by natural selection, so has morality evolved. Evolved to what? One of the problems with this argument of evolutionary morality is that Darwin’s beliefs about the evolution of life assert that only material exists. No soul. No spirit. Just material. Interesting. Material doesn’t have morality – so how can it evolve? If evolution is about natural selection – survival of the fittest and preservation of favored races in the struggle for life – then where does morality fit with that theory? Species destroy species. The conquering species are the fittest – the preservation of favored races. It doesn’t matter how the species survive – the important thing is that they survive. Right? Isn’t that the argument of evolution? There is no morality in the evolutionary drive to survive – even at the destruction of another species or even members of the same species that are weaker. Views on morality can differ – and that may be what evolutionists call evolutionary morality – but it is not truly evolutionary in the Darwinian view of natural selection.

Why would atheists be upset when dictators imprison and kill their opponents? Why would evolutionists be disturbed by the rich and powerful exploiting the poor and powerless? That behavior fits perfectly with the evolutionary “survival-of-the-fittest” mentality. Why would atheists have any problem with what Hitler did during his reign of terror? In fact, wouldn’t it make sense – in light of evolutionary beliefs –

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for atheists to do the same? If atheists and evolutionists really believe what they profess, doesn't it seem logical that they would lead a campaign to rid the world of all "inferior" human beings so that the species would be stronger and brighter? Of course that makes no sense. Even atheists and evolutionists have feelings of compassion toward the downtrodden. That compassion does not spring from evolution nor the denial of a moral law – it comes from the law God wrote on the hearts of all people - "... for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them." (Romans 2:14-15)

Atheists have no foundation in their philosophy for why anything is morally right or wrong. Real atheists must state without hesitation that they do not believe murder, rape, incest, pedophilia, torture or any other similar action is wrong. Their belief system will not allow any view of morality because they believe there are no standards, no right, no wrong, no values. The only thing that exists is one's opinion – and everyone has one. If there is no Moral Law Giver, there can be no morality. If the strongest must survive, then survive they must at any cost to anyone who gets in their way. That is the path and end of pure materialism.

Moral Law can exist only if there is a Source higher than ourselves. Only God the Creator can say what is right or wrong. Only God the Creator can establish absolutes and value to life. He is the Giver of life and His Laws are based on His Nature of infinite love, righteousness, mercy, and justice. It is in God that we all find our purpose and reason for living. It is in God that atheists will find purpose and meaning for their lives. I know – because in God I found my purpose.

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In Summary

- The Cosmological Argument
- The Teleological Argument
- The Law of Causality
- The Laws of Thermodynamics
- The Moral Law Argument

These and other arguments for the existence of God are not absolute proofs of His existence. The one absolute proof is God's Word. It stands alone in the universe as absolute Truth and needs no assistance from human wisdom and insight. However, the various laws presented in our faith defense are based on science, logic and reasoning – something skeptics and scoffers say they trust more than faith. While these arguments and laws do not prove absolutely that God exists, they do present a powerful argument for the strong possibility – in fact, the probability – that God exists. For anyone to say otherwise is to say they are not interested in searching science, logic and reasoning for truth. In fact, anyone who will not declare that the existence of God is possible after hearing our arguments is demonstrating their complete lack of faith in anything scientific, logical or reasonable. If after sharing the many laws of science and arguments from logic with an atheist or agnostic and they continue to deny the reasonable possibility of God's existence, you may want to quote this verse to them - "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Psalm 53:1) I can promise you that it will not endear you to your audience, but it is an honest summation of their moral and intellectual poverty.

I leave you with these Truths that stand all tests from men and angels.

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“He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.” Jeremiah 10:12

“He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.” Jeremiah 51:15

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’; and again, ‘The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.’ 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power

of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.' For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters,

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inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:16-32

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