

Theology Proper — God’s Existence

I. EXEGETICAL — *Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.*

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6)

- A. SAVING FAITH REQUIRES A BELIEF IN GOD.
- B. SAVING FAITH REQUIRES MORE THAN A BELIEF IN GOD, BUT NOT LESS.
- C. THE APOSTLE’S CREED: “I BELIEVE IN GOD...”

II. DOGMATIC — *Summarizing the teaching of Scripture as a whole.*

- A. GOD’S EXISTENCE IS DISTINCT FROM THAT OF HIS CREATURES.
- B. GOD’S EXISTENCE IS A PERSONAL SELF-EXISTENCE.
- C. GOD’S EXISTENCE IS NECESSARY.
- D. GOD’S EXISTENCE IS CLEARLY REVEALED & UNIVERSALLY KNOWN.
 - *Creation, Conscience, Cognition, Christianity*
- E. GOD’S EXISTENCE IS SINFULLY SUPPRESSED.
- F. GOD’S EXISTENCE IS NOT ONLY DEFENSIBLE, BUT INESCAPABLE.
 - 1. COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT: *Effects presuppose a supreme First Cause.*
 - 2. TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT: *Intelligent design presupposes an Intell. Designer.*
 - 3. ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT: *(A) The notion of Imperfect (contingent) being presupposes the notion of a Perfect (necessary) Being; (B) The notion of a Perfect (necessary) Being, by definition, presupposes His existence.*
 - 4. ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARGUMENT: *Apart from God’s existence, one cannot adequately account for man’s innate natural tendency, in all ages and places of the world, to believe in (and seek to worship) a supreme being.*
 - 5. TRANSCENDENTAL ARGUMENT: *Apart from God’s existence, there is no transcendent basis for the beliefs which all of us (even atheists) must presuppose in order to make sense of anything, including the debate for God’s existence itself.*
 - a) THE LAWS OF LOGIC (e.g. $A \neq \sim A$)
 - b) THE UNIFORMITY OF NATURE (The future will be like the past.)
 - c) ETHICS OR MORALITY (e.g. Rape and genocide are immoral.)

III. POLEMICAL — *Addressing relevant questions and controversies.*

- A. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EVANGELISM, APOLOGETICS, AND THE BELIEVER’S PERSONAL FAITH AND ASSURANCE OF GOD’S EXISTENCE?
- B. DO ATHEISTS EXIST?
- C. SHOULD WE PRESENT FORMAL ARGUMENTS FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE?
- D. ARE PRESUPPOSITIONAL ARGUMENTS GUILTY OF CIRCULAR REASONING?
- E. ARE THE TRADITIONAL ARGUMENTS FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE (1-4) SINFUL?
- F. IS IT CORRECT TO ASSERT THAT, BY NATURE, ALL MEN PRESUPPOSE (AND SINFULLY SUPPRESS) “THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, INCLUDING THE TRINITY” OR IS THIS LIMITED TO THE CONTENT OF NATURAL REVELATION?
- G. WHICH THEISTIC ARGUMENTS ARE OFTEN MOST HELPFUL IN OUR DAY?

IV. PRACTICAL — *Applying the teaching of Scripture to our lives.*

- A. ATHEISM IS MERELY HANDMAIDEN OF HUMANISM.
- B. THERE IS SOMETHING OF ATHEISM IN EVERY SIN.
- C. EVANGELISM AND APOLOGETICS MUST ADDRESS THE SKEPTIC’S HEART (MIND+WILL), NOT MERELY HIS MIND.
- D. MORE IS NEEDED FOR SALVATION THAN MERELY A BELIEF IN GOD!