

**Psalm 14:1**

*The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”*

**Larger Catechism Q. 2: *How doth it appear that there is a God?***

*The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his word and Spirit only, do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.*

**J. G. Vos**

**Why does the Bible nowhere present an argument to prove that God exists?** *The Bible does mention the fact that God has revealed himself in the world of nature and in the human heart, and that this natural revelation of God witnesses to his existence (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20). But apart from such references to the revelation of God in nature, the Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God. Nowhere does the Bible present a formal argument to prove God’s existence. Instead, the Bible starts out in its very first verse by assuming the existence of God, and going on to tell about his nature, character, and works. Because of the revelation of God in the world of nature and in the human heart, it is natural for mankind to believe in the existence of God. By starting out by assuming that God exists, the Bible really presents the greatest argument of all for the existence of God. For this assumption of God’s existence is the key that unlocks the countless mysteries of nature and of human life. Suppose we make the contrary assumption, that God does not exist – immediately, the universe, human life, our own souls, all are buried in unfathomable darkness and mystery. The person who is not willing to start by assuming that God exists has the responsibility of showing that his theory of no God yields a better and more credible explanation of the universe and of human life than that given in the Bible. Of course the atheist and the agnostic are not able to do this. When we follow the Bible and start out by assuming the existence of God as the Bible does, then every fact in the universe becomes an argument for God’s existence. For there is not a single fact anywhere that can be better explained denying God’s existence than by assuming God’s existence. [Commentary on the WLC, pp. 17-18]*

**WHO ARE WE?** Sinners (saved by grace) and Saints (called to share and adorn the gospel).

**WHO ARE ATHEISTS?** Lost and dying sinners, who “*know God*” (Rom. 1:19-20) and yet, foolishly declare (Ps. 14:1), “*There is not sufficient evidence to warrant a belief in the existence of God.*”

**WHAT IS OUR GOAL?** To win atheists to Christ by sharing and adorning the gospel, refuting atheism specifically as it functions as a hindrance to this great aim.

**WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE KEEP IN MIND?**

1. The question, “*What assures me of God’s existence?*” is distinct from the question, “*How may I legitimately overcome the objections of professed atheists?*” (Analogy: DNA Test)
2. Most people are philosophical hybrids who defy our sophisticated categories.
3. The question of God’s existence is distinct from the question of the authenticity of Scripture.
4. Winning arguments and winning people to Christ can be two very different matters.

## **Five Reasons to Believe in God**

### **1. COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE (C.A.G.E.)**

- *Seeks to show that the existence of the material universe presupposes God as its Uncaused Cause (Cf. Gen. 1:1; Ps. 90:2).*

### **2. TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE (Intelligent Design or I.D.)**

- *Seeks to show that the apparent design in the universe points to God’s role as Intelligent Designer (Cf. Ps. 94:1-11).*

### **3. TRANSCENDENTAL ARGUMENT FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE: LOGIC (T.A.G.E.L.)**

- *Seeks to show that (unlike Christianity) atheism undermines the necessary preconditions for logical reasoning.*

### **4. TRANSCENDENTAL ARGUMENT FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE: SCIENCE (T.A.G.E.S.)**

- *Seeks to show that (unlike Christianity) atheism undermines the necessary preconditions for the scientific method.*

### **5. TRANSCENDENTAL ARGUMENT FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE: MORALITY (T.A.G.E.M.)**

- *Seeks to show that (unlike Christianity) atheism undermines the necessary preconditions for morality.*