

# An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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WEEK 6

## THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, part 1

### Step One: Establishing the Foundation

1. Truth about reality is knowable
2. Opposites cannot both be true

### Step Two: Establishing the Theistic Worldview

3. The theistic God exists
4. Miracles are possible
5. Miracles confirm a messenger of God

You are here:



### Step Three: Establishing the Evidences for Christianity

6. The NT is reliable
7. Jesus claimed to be God
8. Jesus' claim was confirmed by miracles
9. Therefore, Jesus was God
10. Whatever Jesus says is true is true
11. Jesus affirmed the Bible is the Word of God
12. Therefore, Christianity is true

## III. The Theistic Worldview

**3** "The Theistic God exists." (all non-theistic worldviews are false)

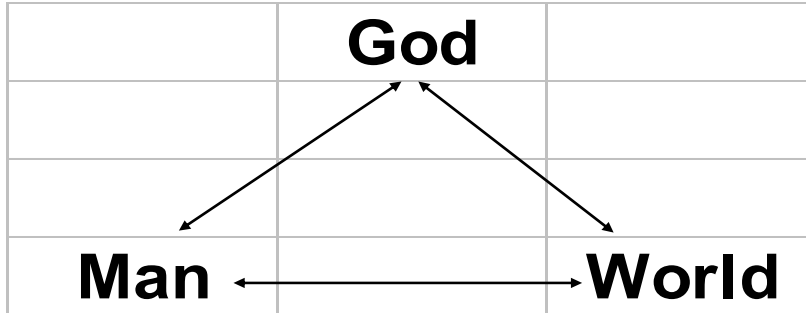
"The problem is not that there is insufficient evidence to convince rational beings of the existence of God, but that rational beings in their present fallen condition have a natural antipathy to the being of God."

Sproul, Gerstner, Lindsley, 69

"Quite apart from any philosophical demonstration of the existence of God, there is such a thing as a spontaneous natural theology. A quasi-instinctive tendency, observable in most men, seems to invite them to wonder from time to time if, after all, there is not such an unseen being as the one we call God"

Etienne Gilson

1. cosmological
2. moral
3. ontological
4. teleological



A. Seven worldviews

- **Atheism (no god at all)**
- **Pantheism (god is all)**
- **Theism (God made all)**
- Panentheism (the world is God's "body")
- Polytheism
- Deism
- Finite godism

(adapted from Geisler and Bocchino, *Unshakable Foundations*, p.59)

	<b>Atheism</b>	<b>Pantheism</b>	<b>Theism</b>
<b>God</b>	No god at all; the universe is all that is or ever will be	God is all; the universe and God are one; impersonal	God is one, personal, moral, and infinite in all His being and attributes
<b>Universe</b>	Eternal, or randomly came to be	Illusion; a manifestation of God	Finite, had a beginning; brought into being by God; ex nihilo creation
<b>Man's origin</b>	Evolved, no immaterial soul	The true self is God ("atman is Brahman")	Created by God, in the image of God, with immortal soul
<b>Man's destiny</b>	Annihilation	Re-absorbed into God	Resurrection to eternal life or death
<b>Evil's origin</b>	Real; grounded in human ignorance	Illusion	Privation of good; caused by abuse of freewill
<b>Evil's destiny</b>	Can be defeated via education, proper engineering of society	Re-absorbed into God	Will be ultimately defeated by God
<b>Religions based upon</b>	Secularism, communism, Marxism, (Buddhism?)	Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age	Judaism, Christianity, Islam

- **The value and limits of theistic arguments**

- **Evidentialism v. non-Evidentialism**

1. **Cosmological** Argument:

- Something exists  
Therefore, something has always existed (is eternal and self-existent)
- Either the Universe is eternal, or there is an eternal God.
  - Whatever has a beginning has a cause  
The universe had a beginning  
Therefore, the universe had a cause  
Therefore, the universe is not eternal  
Therefore, God exists

**"Vertical Cosmological Argument"**

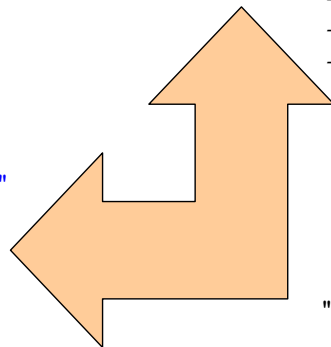
**-- Argument for a Necessary Being**

- something exists
- the current existence of a contingent being must be caused
- there cannot be an infinite regress of causes
- therefore, a Necessary Being exists

**"Horizontal cosmological argument"**

**-- Argument for a First Cause**

- whatever had a beginning has a cause
- the universe had a beginning
- therefore the universe had a cause



**"current existence"**