

Theology Proper

The Existence of God (part 2) – Lesson 4

• Lesson overview:

- ↳ Teleological Argument
- ↳ Anthropological Argument
- ↳ Ontological argument:
- ↳ Argument from Congruity
- ↳ Argument from God's Effect upon man
- ↳ Conclusion concerning rational Arguments.
- ↳ How to Respond to those who do not believe in God.

I. _____ Argument for the Existence of God

- A.** Simply stated, this argument reasons that the order, purpose, harmony, and almost infinite design of the universe demands a _____. The fact of design or purpose in the universe is apparent, and such order implies an Intelligent Designer.

B. Scripture

1. **Acts 17:28a** – *“For in him we live, and move, and have our being;...”*
2. _____ — *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Heb.1:3).*
3. In Genesis 1:2 the Bible says the earth was “without form and void”; it means the world was “unformed and unfilled”. Then God began to form and fill the earth along with the universe in an almost infinitely organized way. The details, structure, organization, and precision of our universe are beyond what man's mind can comprehend.

C. Example of the design in the _____

1. Evolution teaches that man is a creature who came to be because of ignorant chance. The Bible on the other hand teaches that God created man in His own image and likeness. That God made us on purpose and for a purpose. That we are designed by God.
2. David said in **Psalms 139:14**, *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.* Science on the other hand says, *“You are an animal and share a common heritage with earthworms.”* (Biology book by Holt (Visualizing life, 1994).
3. Could our bodies have evolved? Are they so simply put together that non-intelligence and non-life could have pulled it off? The fact is, the more science has researched the human body, the more incredible the amount of design they find.
4. **The Human _____**
 - a. Cells are the basic units of life and are extremely small, needing a microscope to study them. The architects of evolution in the 19th century had no idea of the complexity of the cell and DNA.

- b. Each cell in your body is living; meaning that it breathes, exhales, takes in food, emits waste, grows, and reproduces. All this is in each cell.
- c. How many cells does the human body have? Around _____.
- d. Every second inside your body, _____ of cells die and are replaced!
- e. **How complex is the human cell? Listen to how scientists describe the human cell in an article in Newsweek entitled “The Secrets of the Human Cell”,** *"Each of those 100 trillion cells functions like a walled city. Power plants generate the cell's energy. Factories produce proteins, vital units of chemical commerce. Complex transportation systems guide specific chemicals from point to point within the cell and beyond. Sentries at the barricades control the export and import markets, and monitor the outside world for signs of danger. Disciplined biological armies stand ready to grapple with invaders. A centralized genetic government maintains order."*¹
- f. The amazing thing is all the millions of parts of a cell had to be there at once for it to work; without all of its parts it would die. Evolution has no explanation for this problem of _____ complexity which says if you reduce any of the parts of the organism it would die, therefore how could it have evolved over millions of years?
- g. *"It is as though everything must happen at once: the entire system must come into being as one unit, or it is worthless."* (F. Salisbury, "Doubts About the Modern Synthetic Theory of Evolution," in American Biology Teacher (1971), Vol. 33, p. 335-336.)
- Note: For more information read *Darwin's Black Box* by Michael Behe, biochemist at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.)
- 5. **The _____ (deoxyribonucleic acid) – The control center of the cell.**
 - a. Every person has a hundred trillion _____ DNA molecules in their bodies.
 - b. Each DNA coil has _____ segments. _____ of those came from your father and _____ of those came from your mother to make the 46.
 - c. In 1953 they discovered that the DNA had coded information in the form of a 4-letter code that operates like a computer software program that has been referred to as the *"language of life"* because it gives the blueprints on how the body is to work. This computer program of the body though is more complex than anything that mankind has ever produced and is the most densely packed and elaborately detailed assembly of information in the known universe.
 - d. If all the densely coded information were placed in typewritten form, it would fill Grand Canyon _____ times! Geneticist Michael Denton has estimated that the amount of biological information necessary to build all the proteins in all the species of organisms that have ever existed on planet earth could be held in a single teaspoon (of DNA) and still there would be room to fit all the books that have ever been written!²

¹ (Peter Gwynne, Sharon Begley, and Mary Hager, "The Secrets of the Human Cell," in Newsweek, August 20, 1979, p. 48)

² Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, p. 334.

- 1) **Question:** If “intelligent” humans cannot create complexity to the level in which our bodies and this universe operate, then how could non-intelligence (Big Bang) create that complexity?
- 2) **Dr. Stephen Myer, geophysicist, who got his PHD from Cambridge university said,** *“The discovery of the information bearing properties of the DNA and RNA is a fundamental challenge to all materialistic theories of the origin of life. Neo-Darwinism and its associated theories of chemical evolution and the like will not be able to survive the biology of the information age, the biology of the 21st century.”*³
- 3) **Chris Williams, Ph.D., Biochemistry Ohio State University** - *“As a biochemist and software developer who works in genetic and metabolic screening, I am continually amazed by the incredible complexity of life. For example, each of us has a vast 'computer program' of six billion DNA bases in every cell that guided our development from a fertilized egg, specifies how to make more than 200 tissue types, and ties all this together in numerous highly functional organ systems. Few people outside of genetics or biochemistry realize that evolutionists still can provide no substantive details at all about the origin of life, and particularly the origin of genetic information in the first self-replicating organism.”*⁴
- 4) **Darwin Said in Origin of Species,** *“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”* Darwin thought the cell was a blob of protoplasm like jello, yet our scientific discoveries show that it is a more high-tech encoded information system than anything we have even come close to building!
- 5) **The New York times reported how this Designed changed the mind of the great outspoken atheist,** Antony Flew, a British philosopher, Oxford professor, and leading champion of atheism for more than fifty years, who has written several books arguing against the existence of God, has changed his position to the shock of his atheistic followers. What caused this change? **The New York Times writes,** *“In 2004, however, he announced on a DVD titled “Has Science Discovered God?” that research on DNA and what he believed to be inconsistencies in the Darwinian account of evolution had forced him to reconsider his views. DNA research, he said, “has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce life, that intelligence must have been involved.”*⁵

D. Example of Design and order in the _____

1. **The _____** - The earth is 25,000 miles in circumference. It weighs six septillion, five-hundred and eighty-six, six trillion tons, hangs in empty space, spins at 1,000 mph with perfect balance. As it spins it is also moving through

³Case for Creator, Lee Strobel.

⁴ Chris Williams, Ph.D., Biochemistry Ohio State University – Dissent from Darwin.

⁵ (The New York Times, published: April 16, 2010, Arts Section; By WILLIAM GRIMES)

space around the sun's 580-million-mile orbit at 1,000 miles per minute; it does all this at a perfect angle that allows our seasons to be what they are.

2. For more than a decade Guillermo Gonzalez, Astrobiologist at Iowa State University, has researched the characteristics in a planet that are required to sustain complex life; estimates vary, but a current list of these factors would number at least 20; they include things such as: an oxygen rich atmosphere; liquid water and large continental land masses; a home star with the right temperature and mass; an orbital path that is neither too far nor too close to the home star; a moon large enough to stabilize the tilt of the planet; a magnetic field strong enough to deflect the sun's radiation; a position in the relatively narrow region of a spiral galaxy; etc. For life to exist, all these factors must exist at one place and at one time in the galaxy.
 - a. Theorists attempted to calculate the odds of all the necessary factors for life appearing at the same time on the same planet. A conservative estimate is one chance in one thousandth of one-one trillionth!
 - b. John MacArthur states, *"the sun has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and if it were any closer or further away, we would freeze or burn? Do you know that our globe is tilted at exactly 23 degrees, and if it wasn't at that exact angle, vapors from the ocean would move north and south and pile up massive continents of ice? Did you know that if the moon did not remain at its exact distance from the earth, the ocean tides would inundate the land twice every day? Do you know that if the ocean slipped to just a couple of feet depth further than it is, carbon dioxide and oxygen in the earth's atmosphere would be completely absorbed and no vegetable life could exist? Did you know that if the atmosphere didn't remain constant in the earth, but it thinned out, millions of meteors which are harmlessly burned up in space would pummel the earth, in a barrage of bombardment that would devastate us all? How does the universe stay in this kind of fantastically delicate balance? Jesus Christ sustains and monitors all its movements and inner workings. Christ, the preeminent Power, maintains it all."*⁶

E. Examples of Design in the _____

1. **Sir Isaac Newton** - ***"This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and domain of an intelligent and powerful Being."***⁷
2. **Example of the fine tuning of Gravity**
 - a. If you didn't have gravity, you wouldn't get planets, stars, or any complex organism. The ratio of electromagnetic force, or gravity, is fine tuned to 1:10⁴⁰. This number is simply staggering. The following is an illustration to help understand how utterly impossible this fine tuning is.
 - b. Lee Strobel gives the following illustration to help illustrate how finely tuned gravity is.
 - 1) *"Imagine a ruler made up in one-inch increments and stretched across the entire universe, a distance of some 14 billion light years; the ruler represents the possible range for gravity; in other words, the setting for the strength of gravity could have been anywhere along the ruler*

⁶ John MacArthur Commentary on Hebrews, pg. 17

⁷ (General Scholium, in Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy, Isaac Newton. 1687).

but it just happens to be situated in exactly the right place so that life is possible. Now if you were to change the force of gravity by moving the setting just one inch compared to the entire width of the universe the effect on life would be catastrophic. No large-scale life forms could exist. Anything more than the size of a pea would be crushed, you might get life but only in a very primitive source such as bacteria, but you could never get conscious observer.”⁸

- 2) This is just one of some 30 separate parameters that must be finally tuned to produce a life sustaining universe.
- c. The “cosmological constant” or the expansion rate of the universe is finely tuned to $1:10^{120}$! This is again just one of some 20 different finely tuned laws that are needed for life to consist!
- d. The power, design, and vastness of creation clearly points to an all wise, all-powerful Creator!
- e. **A common sense and satisfying interpretation of our world suggests the designing hand of a super intelligence.** – Owen Gingerich, Harvard astronomy professor and senior astronomer at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. ⁹

II. Anthropological Argument

- A. This argument reasons from the _____ and _____ of man.
- B. Simply stated, this argument reasons that the fact that men demonstrate a moral nature, the innate understanding that right is distinct from wrong, demands the conclusion that a Lawgiver implanted that moral nature in man. Evolution cannot account for moral sensibilities in mankind.

C. Scripture

1. _____ — And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **27**; So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
2. _____ — For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: **15**; Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)
3. William Evans - “Man has an intellectual and a moral nature, hence his Creator must be an intellectual and moral Being, a Judge, and Lawgiver. Man has an emotional nature; only a Being of goodness, power, love, wisdom, and holiness could satisfy such a nature, and these things denote the existence of a personal God. Conscience in man says: “Thou shalt,” and “Thou shalt not,” “I ought,” and “I ought not.” These mandates are not self-imposed. They imply the existence of a Moral Governor to whom we are responsible. Conscience, —there it is in the breast of man, an ideal Moses thundering from an invisible Sinai the Law of a holy Judge. Said Cardinal Newman: “Were it not for the voice speaking so

⁸ Lee Strobel, Case for a Creator.

⁹ (Owen Gingerich, “Dare a Scientist Believe in Design?” in John M. Templeton, ed., Evidence of Purpose (New York: Continuum, 1994), 25.)

clearly in my conscience and my heart, I should be an atheist, or a pantheist, when I looked into the world." Some things are wrong, others right: love is right, hatred is wrong. Nor is a thing right because it pleases, or wrong because it displeases. Where did we get this standard of right and wrong? Morality is obligatory, not optional. Who made it obligatory? Who has a right to command my life? We must believe that there is a God, or believe that the very root of our nature is a lie. ¹⁰

III. Ontological argument:

- A. Argument from man _____ of God.
- B. Simply stated, this argument reasons that the very fact that man conceives of God, that the idea of God is present demands that God exists. This argument comes from the assumption that a finite being could not conceive of infinity if infinity had not taken the initiative.
- C. Therefore, the very presence in man's mind of an infinite God demonstrates the fact that an infinite God exists who enables finite man to conceive of such a concept.

IV. Argument from the universal _____ in the existence of God.

- A. Mankind has universally believed in the existence of a supreme being or beings to whom he is morally responsible and to whom propitiation needs to be made.
- B. There has never been found a people, a nation, a group, or a tribe of people who were made up entirely of atheists. Why?
- C. How could there be such a universal effect inside the hearts of people all throughout the world that God exists? Such a universal effect demands a universal cause, and that cause is _____.
 - 1. _____ - *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."*
 - 2. It comes from the faith that God has given to every man. We have been made in God's image and Romans 2:14-15 states that God wrote His law on man's heart. There is an inward drawing to God that every man feels. When a man rejects that conviction and inward drawing, they are given over to the darkness of a godless life.

V. Argument from Congruity

- A. This simply argues that, if we have a key that fits all the locks, then we must have the right _____.
- B. Belief in a self-existent, personal God is in harmony with all the facts of our mental and moral nature, as well as with all the phenomena of the natural world.
- C. If God exists than a universal belief in Him would be natural; the first cause is clearly answered; creation is explained; morality is explained; mankind's nature and rationale is explained; the complexity of the universe is explained; the design in the universe is explained; our reason for being is explained; what happens after this life is explained; all the questions get answered; yet with atheism you are left with myriads of questions left unanswered.

¹⁰ (William Evans – The Great Doctrines of the Bible, pg.7)

VI. Argument from God's _____ upon man

- A.** What explains the change in people's lives who come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?
- B.** What changed Saul from killing Christians to being one? From persecuting to preaching? What changed the demoniac of Gadara? What caused the disciples of the Lord to go everywhere preaching the Gospel and resurrection of Christ?
- C.** What changed your life?

VII. Conclusion concerning the basic deficiencies of rational arguments:

- A.** These arguments are based upon a deficient apologetic mentality. They assume that truth exists outside of God, and that verities from within those "truth-fields" can be appealed to in order to demonstrate the accuracy of the claim that God does exist.
- B.** Such arguments as these can be encouraging, and edifying, but are unnecessary to believers.
- C.** These arguments cannot lead to an understanding of God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible; they do not make known the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- D.** These arguments lead to no more than a " _____ " existence of one true God.
- E.** Ultimately, these arguments assert only that a Being exists who is greater than the universe.
- F.** These arguments still leave the thinker with the necessity of faith, but the faith needed for salvation will be encouraged by rational probabilities rather than a propositional statement of God existing.

How to Respond to those who do not believe in God

- People are not usually atheists because of intellectual reasons, rather they had a bad experience with a Christian(s), or for moral reasons (John 3:19-21).
 - People often are closed off as atheists; one way to generate a conversation is not by making statements, but by asking questions.
 - Ask them,
 - _____
 - _____
 - Always remember, an atheist will not believe in God by a clever argument, rather they will be persuaded when they see your genuine faith in Christ, your love for them, and the divine work of the Holy Spirit opening their eyes to the truths of Scripture.
 - The goal in witnessing to an atheist is not to argue with them, but to give them the Gospel. You can say, "If you were wrong, and God was real would you want to know? (Anyone open at all would say yes); then share with them the Gospel.
 - No one can truly say "God does not exist" because they cannot prove He doesn't exist. At best someone can say, "*I don't believe God exists*". You could ask someone, "How much knowledge do you think you have of all things? (Their response is usually just a couple percent). Then ask, "*Do you*

believe God could exist outside of your couple percent of knowledge?” In other words, you cannot make absolute statements on the foundation of imperfect knowledge.

- A Good resource to offer them is “Case for a Creator” by Lee Strobel (former atheist)

- **Weekly Assignments**

- Read “Biblical Doctrine” (MacArthur/Mayhue) pages 160-168
- Study for test over lesson 4