

THE TRANSCENDENTAL ARGUMENT

Presuppositional Apologetics: approaches unbelief by examining competing worldviews and the fundamental assumptions that human beings inevitably make about the nature of reality, knowledge, morality, and rationality.

No Neutrality and the Noetic Effects of Sin

1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 1:18–23; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 10:5; Ephesians 4:17–18

The Transcendental Argument: God is the necessary precondition that makes logic, morality, and rationality possible.

- God is a rational being and is the source of all rationality.
- God created us with the ability to understand the universe and to know him.
- Therefore, the only way to truly account for rationality is to presuppose that God exists and created us.

Presupposing God's Existence

- Allows the Christian to be internally consistent within their own worldview.
- Forces the unbeliever to examine the unexamined assumptions inherent in their secular worldview.
- Systemic/Virtuous circularity vs. vicious circularity

Notes:

THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Ontological arguments attempt to demonstrate God's existence through reason alone, typically arguing that the very concept of God, rightly understood, implies his existence.

Ontology: The study of being and existence.

Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion* (1077)

Chapter Two Argument

- God is the being than which nothing greater can be conceived.
- A being that exists only in your mind is not as great as a being that exists in reality.
- Therefore, the being than which nothing greater can be conceived must exist, and this is the being we call God.

Chapter Three Argument

NB: A thing possesses necessary existence if it has to exist and it exists by virtue of its own nature.

- A being that cannot be conceived not to exist is greater than a being that can be conceived not to exist.
- If the greatest conceivable being could be conceived not to exist, then it would not be the greatest conceivable being.
- Therefore, the greatest conceivable being cannot be conceived not to exist.

Objection 1: Gaunilo's Parody

Objection 2: Kant's "Existence Is Not a Predicate"

The Modal Ontological Argument

- It is possible that a maximally great being exists.
- If a maximally great being exists, it exists necessarily.
- If a necessary being exists in one possible world, it must exist in all possible worlds.
- Therefore, God exists in the real world.