

Arguments for God

That You May Believe: A Series on Apologetics Part 6

1 Peter 3:15

Ryan Cole

Hilltoppers for Christ | Worship Wednesday | 3.12.19

1 Peter 3:15

- “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a *defense* to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with *gentleness and respect.*” 1 Peter 3:15
- Apologetics are mandated by God.
 - The Apostle Peter tells people to give a defense for their faith and hope.
 - Apologetics literally means “defense.” (from the Greek *apologia*: a defense)¹
 - We must be prepared to tell people why we believe what we believe. We tell them why what we believe makes sense.
 - But we do this in a gentle and respectful way.
- Our culture lacks respect and gentleness when it comes to disagreements.
 - See social media
- Why are gentleness and respect needed for good apologetics?
 - We don’t want others to think we’re better than them.
 - We don’t want to run people away.
 - We treat others the way we want to be treated. (*Matthew 7:12*)
- Defend your faith with *gentleness*.
 - You can not argue someone into heaven.
 - Don’t shove your faith “down their throat.”
 - How can we defend our faith with gentleness?
 - We remain calm when we come to a disagreement.
- Defend your faith with *respect*.
 - You do not have to agree with someone in order to respect them.
 - How can we defend our faith with respect?
 - We represent their views and beliefs accurately.
- If we give a good defense of our faith with gentleness and respect, we will be thought well of by those who are not Christians.
 - Peter says that if we were to give a defense with gentleness and respect, we will put those who slander and revile us to shame. (*1 Peter 3:16*)
- Be ready to defend your faith in a respectful and gentle way.

Arguments for God

- Tonight we will discuss arguments in favor of the existence of God.

¹ William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* 3rd edition (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), 15.

- We will watch videos that explain complicated arguments in a succinct and simple manner.
 - These videos are produced by William Lane Craig’s ministry, Reasonable Faith.
 - If you would like to take a deeper dive into these arguments, read William Lane Craig’s book *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*.

The Cosmological Argument

- Structure of the cosmological argument:
 - Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
 - The universe began to exist.
 - Therefore, the universe has a cause.
- [The Kalam Cosmological Argument](#)² video (4:12)

Fine-Tuning Argument (Teleological Argument)

- Structure of the teleological argument/fine-tuning argument:
 - The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
 - It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
 - Therefore, it is due to design.
- [The Fine-Tuning of the Universe](#)³ video (6:22)

The Moral Argument

- Structure of the moral argument:
 - If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
 - Objective moral values and duties do exist.
 - Therefore, God exists.
- [The Moral Argument](#)⁴ video (5:01)

The Ontological Argument

- “The ontological argument attempts to prove from the very concept of God that God exists: if God is conceivable, then he must exist.”⁵

² drcraigvideos, “The Kalam Cosmological Argument,” Youtube video, 04:12, posted [September 2013], https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9Efl-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX&fbclid=IwAR37Jpg7ILPeLsbbwixu3NQOrmn53BT70jeAo_e0M5zKluyDLUgfMTjn2g8.

³ drcraigvideos, “The Fine-Tuning of the Universe” Youtube video, 06:22, posted [June 2016], <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9Efl-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX&index=7>.

⁴ drcraigvideos, “The Moral Argument,” Youtube video, 05:01, posted [January 2015], <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxiAikEk2vU&index=5&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9Efl-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX>.

⁵ Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, 95.

- Anslem (1033-1109) wanted to “find a single argument that would prove not only that God exists, but also that he has all the superlative attributes Christian doctrine ascribes to him.”⁶
- Structure of the ontological argument:
 - It’s possible that a maximally great being exists.
 - A maximally great being exists in a possible world.
 - If a maximally great being exists in some possible world, then it exists in every possible world.
 - If a maximally great being exists in every possible world, then it exists in the actual world.
 - A maximally great being exists in the actual world.
 - Therefore, a maximally great being exists.
- [The Ontological Argument](#)⁷ video (4:40)

It’s reasonable to believe in God.

- You don’t have to be ashamed by believing in God.
- You don’t have to give up thinking to believe in God.
 - You don’t have to bury your head in the sand in order to be a Christian.
 - You don’t have to give up the study of science, philosophy, psychology, sociology, or anything else to be a follower of Jesus.
- Since God exists, live like it.
 - It’s reasonable to believe in God. God exists. Does the existence of God affect your life at all?

⁶ Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, 95.

⁷ drcraigvideos, “The Ontological Argument,” Youtube video, 04:40 posted [August 2016], <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBmAKCvWI74&index=8&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX>.