

Developing A Biblical Worldview – Does God Exist?
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I. The Great Question

- A. Atheism (no God exists) and Theism (a personal, moral supreme being exists)
- B. The Bible's testimony
 - 1. General revelation (Psalm 19:1–6; Romans 1:18–21; 2:14–15): Natural theology: arguing for God from nature
 - 2. Special revelation (1 Timothy 3:15–17): Written truth from God in the Bible
- C. Task of apologetics (1 Peter 3:15–17; Jude 3): rationally establish Christianity as objectively true and meaningful

II. The Contemporary Scene: Atheism and Theism

- A. America's religious beliefs: overwhelmingly theistic, but atheists have many elite positions in the academy and science
- B. "The new atheists" –
Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (2006); Sam Harris, *The End of Faith* (2004)
Sam Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation* (2006); Christopher Hitchens, *God is not Great* (2007)

III. Three Arguments for God's Existence

- A. The moral argument for God
 - 1. There is objective morality (against relativism)
 - a. Rape is always wrong
 - b. It is always wrong to torture the innocent only for pleasure
 - c. Love is better than hate
 - 2. Argument from morality to God
 - a. If God did not exist, there would be no objective morality
 - b. There is objective morality
 - c. Therefore, God exists as Author of the moral law
- B. The argument from design: microscopic
 - 1. Design of molecular machines: the bacterial flagellum. See Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box* (Free Press, 1996)
 - 2. "Irreducible complexity": the mousetrap principle. All the parts are needed for fruitful function. Could not have been built up gradually as natural selection (a naturalistic explanation) teaches.
 - 3. Best explanation of molecular machines
 - a. Chance: sheer dumb luck; statistically impossible
 - b. Natural law: cannot account for the specificity of the complexity or its function (outboard motor)
 - c. Design: intelligence can account for the specificity of the complexity and its all-at-once (irreducible) functionality

C. The argument for the resurrection of Jesus

1. Jesus' life and death: Known even from pagan sources
2. Jesus was buried in a known tomb
3. Jesus' tomb became empty
4. Jesus' post-resurrection appearances: to many different people at different times and places (Acts 1:3)
5. Best explanation: a miracle from God uniquely credentialing Jesus as Lord (Romans 1:3–4; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4)

IV. A Collective Case for the Christian God

- A. God is the source of morality
- B. God is the designer of nature
- C. God is uniquely revealed in Jesus Christ
- D. There are many other arguments for God, but these are sufficient to cast doubt on atheism and prompt rational and existential interest in Christianity as true and meaningful.

Resources

- Douglas Groothuis web page: www.DougGroothuis.com
- J.P. Moreland, *The God Question* (Harvest House, 2009).
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator* (Zondervan 2004). See the superb DVD as well. Arguments from science and philosophy.
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (Zondervan, 1998).
- A classic debate before nearly 8,000 people at Willow Creek Community Church between William Lane Craig and Frank R. Zindler. The subject of the debate: "Atheism vs. Christianity: Which Way Does the Evidence Point?" August 22, 2008. <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5557644601649749192>
- William Lane Craig and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, *God? A Debate Between a Christian and an Atheist* (Oxford, 2004).
- "Unlocking the Mystery of Life" (Illustra Media, 2002). Tremendous DVD on the evidence for a designer found in biology.

Meet the bacterial flagellum: a living outboard motor that rides on the back of a bacterium in the cell.

