

# Biblical Apologetics

How do we know it's true?



## Class 2, Wednesday, January 11, 2023

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."*

(1 Peter 3:15-16, NIV)

### Introduction to This Class

1. We must know *what* we believe.
2. We must be able to explain *why* we believe.
3. We must talk to non-believers with gentleness and respect.
4. Our lives as Christians must match our words as Christians.

### Personal Notes

1. I believe that the Christian faith is true.
2. I believe that my faith is reasonable and makes sense religiously, scientifically, historically, and philosophically.
3. I believe that one of the best things I can do is to persuade others of the truth of Christianity.

### Section 1 – Reasons Why There Must Be A God

We will look at reasons for the existence of God, why the Bible is trustworthy, and evidence for the reality and divinity of Jesus.

Many people don't need reasons for faith. Their experiences confirm their belief; nothing will change it. However, even firm believers acknowledge that many do not believe in God, and it is necessary for us to know these reasons to make disciples as Jesus taught us to do.

#### #1 The argument from causality. (Last Week)

Everything that *is* came from something else. Everything that *happened* was caused by something. At some point, there must have been an "uncaused cause," so there must be a God.

#### #2 The argument from design. (Last Week)

The universe displays incredible order and intricacy, by chance or design. Study and experience say it can't be by chance. Evidence of intelligent design implies a designer, so there must be a God.

#### #3 The argument from D \_\_\_\_\_.

Every *natural* desire (food, drink, sex, sleep, knowledge, beauty, friendship) corresponds to a real object that satisfies that desire. There is not an innate desire for non-existent objects. The desire for something beyond humanity or nature, something perfect, for a better world seems to be a universal desire in every known culture. Therefore, this natural desire has a real object—God.

#### #4 The argument from M \_\_\_\_\_ or C \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Moral obligation is a fact. Every human is obligated to do good and avoid evil, though we might disagree on specifics.
2. Broadly speaking, there are only two ways of looking at life: Atheistic-materialism or "religious."
3. Atheistic-materialistic viewpoints can't explain built-in moral obligation, for chance by its nature is completely purposeless.
4. Either there is no moral obligation, and all is subjective (which no one really believes) or morality is built-in to us.
5. Therefore, morality must have come from the outside—God.

*Ever heard of Pascal's wager? Come back next week!*

### More Study:

**Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions**, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli. (*A study book which I have used extensively in preparing for this class.*)

**The Big Book of Christian Apologetics: An A to Z Guide**, by Normal L. Geisler. (*A Dictionary approach to Apologetics.*)

# Biblical Apologetics

How do we know it's true?



## Class 2, Wednesday, January 11, 2023

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."*

(1 Peter 3:15-16, NIV)

### Introduction to This Class

1. We must know *what* we believe.
2. We must be able to explain *why* we believe.
3. We must talk to non-believers with gentleness and respect.
4. Our lives as Christians must match our words as Christians.

### Personal Notes

1. I believe that the Christian faith is true.
2. I believe that my faith is reasonable and makes sense religiously, scientifically, historically, and philosophically.
3. I believe that one of the best things I can do is to persuade others of the truth of Christianity.

### Section 1 – Reasons Why There Must Be A God

We will look at reasons for the existence of God, why the Bible is trustworthy, and evidence for the reality and divinity of Jesus.

Many people don't need reasons for faith. Their experiences confirm their belief; nothing will change it. However, even firm believers acknowledge that many do not believe in God, and it is necessary for us to know these reasons to make disciples as Jesus taught us to do.

### #1 The argument from causality. (Last Week)

Everything that *is* came from something else. Everything that *happened* was caused by something. At some point, there must have been an "uncaused cause," so there must be a God.

### #2 The argument from design. (Last Week)

The universe displays incredible order and intricacy, by chance or design. Study and experience say it can't be by chance. Evidence of intelligent design implies a designer, so there must be a God.

### #3 The argument from D \_\_\_\_\_.

Every *natural* desire (food, drink, sex, sleep, knowledge, beauty, friendship) corresponds to a real object that satisfies that desire. There is not an innate desire for non-existent objects. The desire for something beyond humanity or nature, something perfect, for a better world seems to be a universal desire in every known culture. Therefore, this natural desire has a real object—God.

### #4 The argument from M \_\_\_\_\_ or C \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Moral obligation is a fact. Every human is obligated to do good and avoid evil, though we might disagree on specifics.
2. Broadly speaking, there are only two ways of looking at life: Atheistic-materialism or "religious."
3. Atheistic-materialistic viewpoints can't explain built-in moral obligation, for chance by its nature is completely purposeless.
4. Either there is no moral obligation, and all is subjective (which no one really believes) or morality is built-in to us.
5. Therefore, morality must have come from the outside—God.

*Ever heard of Pascal's wager? Come back next week!*

### More Study:

**Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions**, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli. (*A study book which I have used extensively in preparing for this class.*)

**The Big Book of Christian Apologetics: An A to Z Guide**, by Normal L. Geisler. (*A Dictionary approach to Apologetics.*)