

# The Basics of Christianity

## Does God Exist?

I Cor. 1:20-25 (NASB)

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# The Basics of Christianity

## Does God Exist?

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#### INTRODUCTION:

We are continuing with "The Basics of Christianity" series. This morning we ask the question: **Does God Exist?**

Most fundamental to all faith questions is the question of God's existence. Without getting a good handle on this question, there is no need to explore the other ones.

Obviously, if there is no God, then the Bible is not God's Word, and Jesus is not God's Son and His death on the cross had no benefit to mankind.

So, I think we all would agree that the question of God's existence is most essential.

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

##### **1 Corinthians 1:20-25 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

#### Prayer

I suspect that everyone here already believes that God exists. So you may ask, If we already know that God exists, why do a sermon on the subject?

The first reason is that we are to be ready to defend our belief to everyone who asks you to give account of our hope.

##### **1 Peter 3:15-16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

The second reason would be to examine God's Word to see what wisdom we can learn from God on how to deal with this question. In other words, how does God answer this question in the Bible?

There are people in our world who look at what we believe and ask that very question.

They either say they do not BELIEVE God exists (atheists) OR they say they cannot KNOW if God exists (agnostics).

Both groups basically say: "We have not seen enough evidence to believe God exists".

Even in the most ancient of times, long before the telescope and microscope were invented, the greatness of God was evident both in the vastness and in the tiny intricacies of nature. Men could look at the stars and discover the fixed order of their orbits. They could observe a small seed reproduce itself into a giant tree, exactly like the one from which it came. They could see the marvelous cycles of the season, and the rain, and the snow. They witnessed the marvel of human birth and the glory of the sunrise and the sunset. Even without the special revelation David had, they could see that...

### **Psalm 19:1 (NASB)**

19 The heavens tell of the glory of God;  
And their expanse declares the work of His hands.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

One such unbeliever supposedly confronted an old Quaker and taunted him:

"Have you ever seen God?

Have you ever felt God?

Have you ever smelled God?

Ha! And you say you have a God!"

In other words: Where is the evidence? Where is the proof?

The Quaker thought for a couple of moments and then replied,

"Hast thou ever seen thy brains?

Hast thou ever felt thy brains?

Hast thou ever smelled thy brains?

**(pause for effect)** Ha! And thou sayest thou hast brains!"

Now, I don't know if that story is true or not... but Scripture agrees with that old Quaker.

### **Psalm 53:1 (NASB)**

53 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

Why would such a person be a fool? Well, because, there is more than enough evidence to believe God exists.

Certainly God could make His existence undeniable, indisputable, and irrefutable. But if God did this, then there would be no such thing as faith, nor a need for it.

How does God say it in our scripture this morning?

### **1 Corinthians 1:20-25 (NASB)**

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

God, in all His wisdom and according to His plan, has made faith a foundational and critical part of our relationship with Him. He chose to use the Gospel to supply our belief, faith, and hope instead of man's wisdom.

## Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

### ILLUSTRATION:

The story is told of a Sunday school teacher who asked his class, “What is Faith?”

A young boy raised his hand and answered, “Oh, that is easy. Faith is believing something you know is not true.”

Unfortunately, that little boy’s definition summarizes what many people think about faith.

Our faith is not blind faith. It is reasonable faith based upon the evidence of God through His creation and His Word.

I believe that God has given us enough evidence that we have reasons to believe, but not so much evidence that faith is not required.

What I want to do with the rest of this sermon, is to share several of the most compelling clues that provide strong evidence for the existence of God.

What is the evidence?

### BODY:

#### I. Our Existence.

The first clue to the evidence of God is our own existence. Atheists and naturalists (who do not accept anything beyond this physical world and universe) say we must have evolved to our current state. To give it proper attention, you must first ask this question: Why do we have something rather than nothing at all? In other words, how did you and everything around you get here? The argument for God can be presented very simply: **Something exists. You do not get something from nothing. Therefore, a necessary and eternal Being exists.**

You cannot deny you exist because you have to exist in order to deny your own existence (which is self-defeating), so the first premise above is true. No one has ever demonstrated that something can come from nothing so the second premise rings true. Therefore, the conclusion naturally follows—an eternal Being is responsible for everything that exists.

This is a position no thinking atheist denies; they just claim that the universe is that eternal being. However, the problem with that stance is that all scientific evidence points to the fact that the universe had a beginning (they call it the ‘big bang’). And everything that has a beginning must have a cause; therefore, the universe had a cause and is not eternal. Because the only two sources of eternality are an eternal universe (denied by all current scientific evidence) or an eternal Creator. **The only logical conclusion is that God exists and created the universe.** Answering the question of God’s existence in the affirmative rules out atheism as a valid belief system.

Now, this conclusion does do one sweeping thing—it rules out all pantheistic religions. All pantheistic worldviews say that the universe is God and is eternal. And this assertion is false. So, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism (Jane' ism) , and all other pantheistic religions are ruled out as valid belief systems.

This "Creator God" exhibits characteristics very similar to the God of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, which interestingly enough, are the only core faiths left standing after atheism and pantheism have been eliminated. Note also that one of the big questions concerning the origins of life is now answered: **We know where we came from.**

## II. The Design of Creation.

### **Romans 1:18-23 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.** <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

The universe evidences great complexity and design; thus, it must have been designed by a great Designer or God.

### ILLUSTRATION:

There's the story of a college philosophy professor who asked one question on his final exam. He picked up a chair, put it on his desk, and wrote on the board, "Using everything we have learned this semester, prove that this chair does not exist."

The students opened their notebooks and wrote as much as they could think of for a whole hour, some of them churning out 30 pages of heady philosophical debate and logic.

But one student turned in his paper after less than a minute and he was the only one to get an "A." What did he write so quickly that turned out to be just the right answer?

He wrote: **(pause and shrug)** "What chair?"

Some people, despite the fact that evidence is right in front of their face, will say "What chair?"

### **Romans 1:20 (NASB)**

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Despite the fact that people do not choose to see God in creation, God tells us that they are without excuse because if you are willing to look closely at creation He will be clearly seen and thus they are without excuse.

When it comes to the universe, some have said that it is as if there were a large number of dials that all had to be turned to within extremely narrow limits - and they were - and it is extremely unlikely that this would happen by chance.

When you look from the perspective of a scientist at the universe, it looks as if someone knew we were coming.

- If the earth were 1 degree closer to the sun, we would fry!
- If we were 1 degree further away, we would freeze!

- If the moon was any closer or larger, the tides would destroy the coast lines.
- If any smaller or further away the oceans would die from a lack of nutrient movement.
- If our distance from Jupiter were any greater, asteroids and comets would pepper the earth.
- If we were any closer our orbit would become unstable.
- If earth's surface gravity was any stronger, it would retain too much ammonia and methane and we would not be able breathe.
- If it were any weaker, earth's atmosphere would lose too much water and we' would not have the liquid necessary to survive.
- If the earth's crust were any thicker, it would absorb too much of our oxygen. We would not be able to breathe.
- If it was any thinner; the earth would move and shake beneath our feet and would make life impossible.
- And these facts go on and on. As David proclaimed, the heavens and the earth all declare creative genius of God.

Except to a mind willfully closed to the obvious, it is inconceivable that such power, intricacy, and harmony could have developed by any means but that of a Master Designer who rules the universe. [It would be infinitely more reasonable to think that the separate pieces of a watch could be shaken in a bag and eventually become a dependable timepiece than to think that the world could have evolved into its present state by blind chance.](#)

### **III. Natural Law in Creation.**

There is another aspect about nature that may be as convincing that it required a creator. That is the regularity or natural law of nature.

Whether we want to admit it or not, we all live by a higher law.

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

[Ask three men, "What is the speed limit through Greenwood on 150 highway?"](#)

1. [Believes it is 40 MPH, but is not sure.](#)
2. [Pretty sure it is 45 MPH.](#)
3. [Is certain it is 50 MPH.](#)

[The speed limit is actually 35. If all three of them were stopped by the local police for going 50 MPH, would #1 \(who thought the speed limit was 40\) get a higher ticket than #2 \(who thought the speed limit was 45\) since he was going 10 MPH above what he thought the speed limit was instead of 5 MPH? Would #3 not get a speeding ticket since he thought he was going the speed limit?](#)

[No, because despite what we believe, we are bound by the laws of the land.](#)

The basis of godlessness is to ignore God. And at the heart of godlessness is ignoring clear declaration of nature that there is a God and you will one day have to deal with Him.

In their mind, Creation could not have a Creator because that would require something beyond a **natural** explanation for why the world existed. It would require a SUPER-natural explanation. And so they reject God on that theological basis.

But down thru the ages, many scientists have recognized God's hand in creation. They see natural law as something that had to be designed.

Our science is based upon the laws of nature. Three people may calculate the speed of the rotation of the earth at different speeds. So does the earth turn at a different speed for each of them based upon their calculation? No. The laws are set. We only observe them and try to understand them.

But how did these laws of nature come to be? And why do they continue with such regularity? The probability that it just happened is astronomical. There must have been a lawgiver.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Imagine a man dealing himself 20 straight hands of royal flushes in the same game of poker.

As his opponents reach for their six-shooters the poker player says, "I know it looks suspicious! But you have just experienced the extremely rare event where I have actually dealt myself 20 royal flushes in a row without cheating."

This argument will have no effect on the other poker players, even though they know it is technically possible for it to happen. It could happen!

It takes far more faith to believe that the laws of nature happened by accident than by design.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Hopefully I have demonstrated that God has left us clues that help solve the mystery of our existence. He has explained to us through the scriptures things we cannot possibly know from our own experience and knowledge. Such as why He has chosen to not fully reveal Himself in order that we could accept Him by free will through a reasonable faith.

Our very existence and the intricacies of our being including our conscience suggests that there had to be a Creator.

The clues about the design of our universe point us to a Creator and Designer.

The clues about the laws of nature point us to Creator and Lawgiver.

Read God's Word regularly because it is through God's Word, that you will find God. The more we read His word, the more you KNOW it has to be from God! As we read in this morning's scripture:

#### **1 Corinthians 1:21 (NASB)**

***21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.***

**He is Lord**