



Introduction to Christian Apologetics June 22nd

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)



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- The absurdity of life without God
 - Our purpose in life: To know God and to make Him known.
 - “And this is the way to have eternal life-to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” John17:3
 - If you don’t have eternal life; do you die and that is the end of it all?
- Contemporary Man’s Thirst for God
- Man’s Greatness and Wretchedness
- Discuss absolute moral law.
 - Discuss the moral argument for the existence of God.
 - If there are absolute moral laws, then we can argue for an absolute moral Law Giver
- The problem of evil



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- Matthew 7:24-25
 - ⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.
- Psychological Apologetics
- Cultural Apologetics



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- Consider the whole man, not just his reason.
 - Focus on the need for man, whether stated or unstated, for man to have meaning in his life
- An adequate worldview must offer viable explanations for: What happens after



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- The Necessity of God and Immortality
 - Cogito ergo sum
 - I think, therefore I am
 - Man is the only creature that asks: “Why?”, “Who am I?”, “Why am I here?”, “Where am I going?”
 - Animals have instinct, but do not think as humans do.
 - Enlightenment and the death of God
 - Answers are dark and terrible, with the threat of non-being
 - Has the thought of death become so natural that people no longer consider the question?
 - We all must die and the universe will eventually die
 - Cosmological Argument for creation
 - 3rd Law of Thermodynamics



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- This leads to the following:
 - No ultimate meaning without God and Immortality
 - Not relative meaning, ultimate meaning
 - Is there any difference between each of us having been born and not born?
 - Is there any difference if the Universe had not come into being?
 - Are we therefore no different from any other animal?
 - Are we like the two characters in “Waiting for Godot”, just killing time until we die?
 - What about Sartre’s play “No Exit”, the last line of which is “Well, well, let’s get on with it” uttered with an air of resignation.
 - What popular literature adopts the same viewpoint?
 - What popular literature belies that viewpoint?



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- No ultimate value without God and Immortality
 - What are we worth?
 - What's the difference between Hitler and a saint?
 - Why sacrifice for another person?
 - Pure practical reason, even with a good knowledge of the facts, will not take you to morality
- Even with immortality, without God, are there objective standards of right and wrong?
 - If so, where did they come from?
 - Without objective standards, can you really judge Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, slavery, etc?



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- No ultimate purpose with God and Immortality
 - What is our ultimate goal?
 - Not just individual goals, mankind's.
 - Without God, the universe just popped into existence, still with no purpose.
 - Are we then a miscarriage of nature?



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- **The Argument Against Atheistic Meaning and Significance[1]**
 1. If atheism is true, then there is no God and there is no immortality.
 2. If there is no God and there is no immortality, then life lacks adequate meaning and significance.

 - 3. Therefore, if atheism is true, then life lacks adequate meaning and significance.
- **The Argument Against Atheistic Moral Motivation[2]**
 1. If there is no God, then one's ultimate destiny is unrelated to one's behavior.
 2. If one's ultimate destiny is unrelated to one's behavior, then one has no good reason to be moral.

 - 3. Therefore, if there is no God, then one has no good reason to be moral.



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- **The Argument Against Atheistic Morality**[3]

1. If there is no God, then moral values are just expressions of personal taste or the product of evolution and conditioning.
2. If moral values are just expressions of personal taste or the product of evolution and conditioning, then objective moral values do not exist.

3. Therefore, if there is no God, then objective moral values do not exist.

- **The Argument Against Atheistic Purpose**[4]

1. If there is no God, then our lives (and the universe) will end and we're an accident of nature.
2. If our lives (and the universe) will end and we're an accident of nature, then life has no ultimate purpose.

3. Therefore, if there is no God, then life has no ultimate purpose.



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- We have not yet shown biblical Christianity to be true.
 - But what we have done is spell out the alternatives.
 - If God does not exist, then life is futile. If the God of the Bible does exist, then life is meaningful.
 - Only the second of these two alternatives enables us to live happily and consistently.
 - Therefore, I submit that even if the evidence for these two options were absolutely equal, a rational person ought to choose biblical Christianity. It seems positively irrational to prefer death, futility, and destruction to life, meaningfulness, and happiness. As Pascal said, we have nothing to lose and infinity to gain.



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- Man's thirst for God
 - People sense a basic need for God, maybe a dependence?
 - ³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35
 - But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Matthew 4:4
 - If not, why would Freud attempt to explain away this need?
 - People feel a need for something that transcends their existence.
 - Since atheists pre-suppose no God, they must come up with some naturalistic excuse.
 - However, if there is no God, why are there only ~2.0% of the world's population who are atheists as of 2010.



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- Man's Greatness and Wretchedness
 - Man was created in God's image (greatness) but has fallen (wretchedness)
 - Man's quest for greatness comes from acknowledging that he is wretched.
 - That acknowledgment allows man to strive for greatness
 - How many examples do you know of those who have fallen?
 - Since people have fallen, they had to start from some where.
 - Where was that?
 - Christianity (of the world views discussed earlier) teaches that no matter how far man has fallen there is way to get back to greatness.
 - Atheists posit evolution as the reason for man's wretchedness and as we move the evolutionary path we will get to greatness.
 - Really? 20th century wars would argue not so.
 - Are animals really wretched or are they only acting on instinct?



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- **Absolute Moral Law**

- ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. Romans 2:14-15
- If there is no absolute moral law how can we:
 - Judge the right or wrong of an action?
 - Know instinctively the proper action/response in a situation?
 - Feel remorse/guilt for an action?
 - Judge a moral disagreement?
 - Explain why a soldier would throw himself on a grenade?



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- Videos
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWRoJ9myovY>
 - William Lane Craig's much longer take on the subject
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8MzPmkNsgU>
 - William Lane Craig vs Christopher Hitchens
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG0wn4iHxXY>
 - Phil Fernandes and his talk on the world without God
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zNzs6YujPo>
 - Frank Turek on Evil



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- Additional reading:

- <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-absurdity-of-life-without-god#ixzz4kfOQWuQn>
- <http://www.equip.org/article/greatness-and-wretchedness/>