

The Ology Islands #5:



Day Three on Theo-Prime Island

Captain's Log: We are on the third and final day of training in order to start meeting the Ism Pirates in battle. We have circled the shores of Theo-Prime and should wrap up our training today. For our training today we will look at philosophical approaches of defending the existence of God. These four approaches will help us to defend our faith against any Ism. We also have friends and family with us to celebrate the conclusion of our training.



Roll Call/Treasure Hunt: Here are some philosophical “proofs” for God’s existence.

I. The Cosmological Approach (Cause and effect argument; God is presented as the uncaused cause):

Hebrews 3:3-4 ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴And every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. (BSB)

Job 38:1-7 ¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ²“Who is this who obscures My counsel by words without knowledge? ³Now brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall inform Me. ⁴Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who fixed its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶On what were its foundations set, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (BSB)

A. The existence of creatures **requires** the existence of a Creator.

B. Every effect must have an adequate **cause**. The universe has not always existed. There was a time when the universe did not exist. The universe must have had an origin.

C. The Originator, the Source, the First Cause of all existence is God. Of all existence, God alone is **uncaused**, without a beginning. Before God created the universe, He existed alone. God is the first cause of the universe.

II. The Teleological Approach (Where there is design, there must be a designer. God is the original designer):

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. (BSB)

Psalms 104:24 How many are Your works, O LORD! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. (BSB)

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse. (BSB)

A. God has left His fingerprints on everything He has made. Everywhere one looks in nature he can see the fingerprints of God.

B. Order and design everywhere in nature identify the universe as the handiwork of God.

III. The Anthropological Approach: The first two arguments focus on creation as a whole. This one specifically focuses on the uniqueness of mankind.

Genesis 1:26-27 ²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it." ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (BSB)

James 3:9 With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. (BSB)

A. This argument considers indications of God's existence as derived from man himself because we are made according to His image and His likeness. We are so unique among all the other creatures on the Earth.

B. Conscience in man testifies that a Moral Governor, Lawgiver, and Judge exists.

IV. The Personal Testimony Approach:

2 Timothy 4:1-2 ¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction. (BSB)

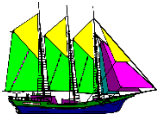
1 Peter 3:15-16 ¹⁵But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you. But respond with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slander you may be put to shame by your good behavior in Christ. (BSB)

A. This is the most effective. It is when you just share what God has done for you personally.

B. This must be backed up with righteous behavior.



Battle With Ism Pirates: Next week we will battle the Arian-ism Pirates. What modern day cult do these pirates go by the name of? These pirates cannot accept the Trinity because they start their understanding of "God" within the confines of time and space.



Set Course: We have completed our training. We will be ready to battle the Ism Pirates next week.