

bethel university

Apologetics
Bethel Community University
Pastor Brad Belcher
Session 2

Apologetics - ...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... 1 Peter 3:15

Axioms

3. God exists and can be personally _____.

- *Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God. "They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.*
- *Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,*

What is Prime Reality?

Naturalism - Prime Reality is the Cosmos _____

Pantheism – Prime Reality is that God and Cosmos are _____

Theism – Prime Reality is an infinite _____ God

Westminster Confession

God and the Box

Proofs for the Existence of God

Ontological Argument - St. Anselm

P1. God is a being which nothing _____ can be conceived.

P2. It is greater to _____ in reality than to be conceived.

Therefore, God _____.

Refutation: Immanuel Kant –

1. Ascribing existence to something is not a real _____. Ascribing existence to something adds no new _____ of differentiation between objects or ideas.

2. Ascribing existence to something does not necessarily correspond to _____.

Cosmological Argument – St. Aquinas

1. It is necessary to arrive at a _____, moved by no other; and this everyone understands to be God.

2. It is necessary to admit a first efficient _____, to which everyone gives the name God.

3. It is necessary to admit the existence of some being having its own _____, and not receiving it from another, but rather causing in others their necessity. This all men speak of as God.

4. There must also be something which is to all beings that which is the cause of their _____: i.e. their goodness, honesty and other perfections, and this we call God.

5. There must be some _____ being that exists by whom all natural things are directed to their end, and this we call God.

Refutation – William of Ockham,

1. Perhaps there are _____ prime movers.

2. Perhaps the prime mover is _____.

3. Just because there might be a prime mover, that does not necessitate that he, she, or it is _____.

Teleological Argument – Argument from _____. Because we can see design, order and function in our universe, there must be a divine Designer who has purposed all things into existence. i.e. the world is like a _____ therefore the cause of the world is probably like the cause of a machine.

Refutation: David Hume

1. Perhaps Infinite Universe with appearance of _____ design elements.

2. Infinite Logical Redaction – who _____ the designer?

3. Not everything we encounter necessarily demonstrates elements of _____.

Moral Argument – C. S. Lewis - Since throughout the world a seemingly similar moral _____ (i.e. no killing, no adultery, etc.) can be substantiated, there must be some sort of universal moral code originator or law giver, namely God. - “human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they _____ to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it.” *Mere Christianity, pg.21*

Refutation – moral and ethical codes have developed along with societies as a practical means of bringing about structure, order, and _____. These moral and ethical codes only serve a societies ongoing survival, _____, and enrichment and therefore God is not necessary for this to take place.

Religious Experience Argument – God must exist because there are people who claim to have _____ Him. Keith Yandell states: “if the subjects of experiences of this sort have no reason to think that these experiences are canceled or counterbalanced or compromised or contradicted or confuted or logically consumed or empirically consumed, then their occurrence gives them evidence that God _____.” *Philosophy of Religion, pg. 231*

Refutation - Religious experience seems to be very _____ culture to culture and the experience seems to be religion specific; so how can any one culture or religion arbitrarily claim that its experience or religion is _____ or ultimate.

The Existence of God

The Apostle Paul - *Because that which is known about God is evident within them; For God made it _____ to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible _____, His eternal power and divine _____, have been clearly seen being understood through what has been _____, so that they are without _____.* Romans 1:19-20