

## Lesson 6: Does God Exist? (Continued)

*Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.  
Romans 2:14-15 (NIV)*

### **MORALITY: Moral Argument**

If there is ANYTHING that is absolutely wrong, than God must exist. Why? Because if God does not exist, morality is simply a matter of personal opinion. Moral absolutes require a power higher than those subject to them. The fact that we know there are moral absolutes indicates that there is a God.

### **HOW DO YOU DISCOVER:**

Who's Right And Who's Wrong? Mother Teresa or Hitler?

We need an objective reference point! We need a standard of measurement.

### **GOD'S UNCHANGING MORAL NATURE IS THE STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT**

Most of us know right from wrong not by or actions, but by our reactions. Not by what we do, but by what is done to us.

Treat someone unfairly, and they will soon realize there is an unchanging standard of justice!

### **If There Is No Objective Morality...**

1. The Nazis were not wrong
2. Love is no better than rape
3. Freedom is no better than slavery
4. Tolerance is no better than intolerance
5. Religious crusades are not wrong
6. You cannot complain about the problem of evil – because there is no evil!

### **EVIL REQUIRES GOOD – AND GOOD REQUIRES GOD**

“{As an atheist} my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?” - C.S. Lewis – “Mere Christianity”, p. 45

### **Straight Line = Standard**

The Shadows Prove the Sunshine! You can have good without evil, and evil with good, but you cannot have evil without good.

WE ARE NOT SAYING:

Atheists Cannot Be Moral – They Can

Atheists Don't *Know* Morality – They Do

WE ARE SAYING:

Atheists can't justify morality. They can theorize about how we know murder is wrong, but atheism provides no immaterial objective standard that establishes why murder is wrong.

An immaterial objective standard of justice requires a theistic God.

**EPISTEMOLOGY** – Definition: The theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. Epistemology is the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion.

**ONTOLOGY** - Definition: In brief, ontology, as a branch of philosophy, is the science of what is, of the kinds and structures of objects.

Moral law existed long before any of us discovered it, just like the times tables.

When atheists use the existence of evil to argue against God, their argument is self defeating because it is self defeating. As we have seen, with God, there can be no evil. IN ORDER TO USE EVIL TO ARGUE AGAINST GOD, THEY MUST BORROW FROM HIM! (Both morality and reason.)

Religion does not poison everything – everything poisons religion!

**From these 3 arguments we know..... THE FIRST CAUSE**

**COSMOLOGICAL: The Beginning**

Is Immaterial, Timeless, & Spaceless

Is Extremely Powerful (He Created Out Of Nothing.)

**TELEOLOGICAL: Design**

Is Extremely Intelligent

Has Purpose

**MORAL: Morality**

Is Absolutely Morally Perfect

Is Personal (You Only Have A Moral Obligation To Persons, Not Impersonal Forces)

**This Is The God Of Biblical Christianity**

(Identified without reference to the Bible)

At this point we have established that Christianity MAY be true, we have not established that it IS TRUE. (That WILL come.)

What We Have Established Is That ATHEISM And PANTHEISM Are NOT TRUE.

We are not saying that EVERYTHING taught by these religions is false. What we are saying is that when it comes to the EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD, these religions have it wrong.

### **THEISM: God Made All THREE MAJOR THEISTIC RELIGIONS**

Which is true:

1. Judaism
2. Christianity
3. Islam

It is logically possible that none of them are true. They could be right about the existence of God, and wrong about most other things. For instance, they could be theists.

If God wanted us to know that one of these world religions were true, what could He do?

He could do miracles..... which is the next lesson.