

Defining and Defending the Faith 3: Arguments For The Existence Of God

- I. Is belief in God rational or irrational?
- II. The Moral Argument
 - A. Why is there a universal presence of moral "oughtness?"
 - B. Formulation of the argument.
 1. People judge behavior by means of some implied objective standard of morality.
 2. Moral consciousness can exist only in the mind.
 3. For a moral standard to be universally binding it must appear in a mind from which all are minds derive.
 4. This first mind is the mind of God.
 - C. Conclusion: The universal presence of moral "oughtness" can only be sufficiently explained by the existence of a moral God. (Rom. 2:1-16)
- III. The Argument From The Idea Of God
 - A. What is the sufficient reason for coming up with the idea of God?
 - B. Formulation of the argument.
 1. Humans can have an idea of a perfect being which they call God.
 2. Humans cannot come up with the idea of perfection by negating the idea of imperfection.
 3. The only sufficient reason for humans to be able to have an idea of a perfect being is the fact that this being exists.
 - C. Key idea: A concept is logically prior to examples of that concept.
 - D. Conclusion: Only the existence of God can provide a sufficient reason why man can have an idea of God. (Rom.1:18-23)
- IV. The Argument From Longing
 - A. Statement of the argument.
 1. Every innate natural desire reveals the existence of some reality that corresponds to it and would satisfy it.
 2. There exists in each of us a desire for which earth offers no possible satisfaction.
 3. "These two premises together necessarily yield the conclusion that the object desired in this deepest of all desires exists." (Kreeft "Intellectuals" p.226)
 4. The object of this deepest of all desires is God.
 - B. The key to this argument is to appeal to the persons own experiences of this deepest desire.
 - C. Key concept is the observation of Augustine that our hearts are always restless until they find their rest in God.
- V. The Argument from the impossibility of the contrary.
 - A. One must assume the existence of God in order to rationally argue for His non-existence.
 - B. One must assume the existence of God in order to argue for or against anything at all.

Conclusions

- A. Our arguments for God's existence must be valid and true.
- B. The existence of the God of the Bible can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.
- C. The evidence is so overwhelming that God exists that the Bible declares that "The fool has said in his heart 'there is no God.'" (Ps.14:1)
- D. The unregenerate person suppresses all this knowledge of God in unrighteousness and refuses to acknowledge the evidence.