

December 12-13, 2009
Tough Questions About God
"Why Does Any of This Matter?"

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." Romans 1:20

The Cumulative Case for God.

1. The _____ Argument

Premise: Everything that has a beginning must have a cause.

Observation: The universe had a beginning.

Conclusion: Therefore, the universe must have a cause.

The Creator must be: **Uncaused, Timeless, Powerful & Volitional**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... He said "Let there be light and there was light." Genesis 1:1, 3

2. The _____ Argument

Premise: Precision and Order must come from a Designer.

Observation: The universe is precisely ordered.

Conclusion: Therefore, the universe must be designed by a Designer.

The Creator must be: **Intelligent, Creative and Involved**

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:1-3

3. The _____ Argument

Premise: Life begets life and information comes from intelligence.

Observation: The Earth is teeming with complex life based on information.

Conclusion: Therefore, life must originate from a living Intelligence.

The Creator must be the **Life-Giver** as well as the **Information Source of Life**.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13,14

4. The _____ Argument

Premise: Rational, Conscious thought cannot arise from random chemical processes.

Observation: The human mind is marked by Rational, Conscious Thought.

Conclusion: The human mind could not have arisen from random forces.

The Creator must be a **Rational, Immaterial** and **Emotional Being**.

"And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"
Matthew 16:26

5. The _____ Argument

Premise: Every law must have a law-giver.

Observation: There is universal moral law, justice and compassion observed in humanity.

Conclusion: Therefore, there must be a moral law-giver.

The Creator must be **Moral, Just** and **Compassionate**.

O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy,² and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

2 Types of Revelation

_____ **Revelation:** The General attributes of God revealed for all to see in nature, science & reason. The subject of ***"Tough Questions...About God."***

_____ **Revelation:** The more Specific attributes of God revealed in Christ and in the Scriptures. The subject of ***"Tough Questions...About Christianity"*** in March.

3 Myths We Have Debunked in the Last 5 Weeks

Myth #1: _____ is the only legitimate source for real knowledge.

Fact: While there is nothing to fear from good science many scientists carry with them very strong biases that heavily influence their findings.

Myth #2: _____ is nothing more than a personal, subjective experience.

Fact: Everybody has a worldview, or faith, upon which they build their lives. The question becomes which worldview has the most substantial foundation.

Myth #3: _____ Faith is the strongest kind of faith.
Fact: A “blind” faith is irrational and cannot be distinguished from myth. A _____ Faith is a rational belief in the God of the Bible built upon a strong foundation of scientific and historical evidence and solid reason.

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”
1 Peter 3:15

“Why Does Any of This Matter?”

6 Reasons Why This Matters

1. Because _____ You Believe Matters
2. Because _____ you Believe What you Believe Matters
3. Because _____ is More Important Than _____
4. Because a _____ Faith is an _____ Faith
5. Because the God of the Universe Invites You to a _____ of _____
“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. - God”
Jeremiah 29:13
6. Because _____ Matter