

## **DEFENSES FOR OUR BELIEF**

### **(1 Peter 3:15)**

#### **1.The Cosmological Argument.**

- a.This argument in its simplest form says that the universe is here and it must have a cause for being here.
  - i.This based on the First Law of Thermodynamics.
  - ii.This basically means that heat energy cannot be created or destroyed.
  - iii.Notice that it says you and I cannot create heat energy.
  - iv.From where did it come then?
- b.In scientific terms, the cosmological argument says there are no infinite regressions.
  - i.In other words, at some point there had to be a beginning.
  - ii.If, as many say, there was a big bang, which goes against scripture, from where did the elements come that went bang?
- c.Ultimately what this is, is the law of cause and effect.
  - i.For an effect to have occurred, there must be a reasonable cause.
  - ii.You can't cause an earthquake by jumping up and down, it's not reasonable.
  - iii.A chair is in a room so we know that someone had to place it there.
- d.The universe exists, so there must be a cause great enough to have this effect.
- e.We believe and know this Cause to be God.
- f.Science does not argue at all with the Law of Cause and Effect because it is the backbone of every scientific experiment that is done.
  - i.In The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, renowned American philosopher and professor Richard Taylor wrote, "Nevertheless, it is hardly disputable that the idea of causation is not only indispensable in the common affairs of life but in all applied sciences as well".
  - ii.In the book "The World As I See It", Einstein wrote, "But the scientist is possessed by the sense of universal causation".
- g.Since science does not argue with this Law, it butts its head against it trying to explain the origin of the universe.
- h.The Christian does not have the headache that the scientist has because the Christian believes in the Uncaused Cause - God.
  - i.If every natural effect has a cause, then the ultimate Cause of the universe must be super-natural.
  - ii.The creationist has not problem with this because this is what the Bible teaches (Hebrews 3:4).
- i.The only perceived weakness of this argument is that an atheist or evolutionist would ask, From where does God come?
  - i.If everything has a cause, what caused God?
  - ii.The Bible teaches God is infinite and that is something that we cannot understand.
  - iii.Jesus said about Himself, Before Abraham was, I am, thus indicating His eternity.
  - iv.Not only that, this Law deals with the physical but God is a Spirit (John 4:24).
  - v.You can't put the spiritual in a test tube.

- vi. Also, if there was ever a time that nothing existed, then nothing would now exist because something cannot come from nothing.
- vii. The Psalmist of old knew that God was the Great Cause (Psalm 102:25-27).
- j. This argument is simple and effective: every effect has an adequate cause.

## **2. The Moral Argument.**

- a. Nearly everyone knows that certain things are right to do and certain things are wrong to do.
  - i. How did we come to know this?
  - ii. Who determined what is right and wrong?
- b. Basically, this argument states God is necessary for objective moral values or duties to exist.
  - i. There are such things as objective moral values or duties.
  - ii. Therefore, God has to exist.
- c. It might help to word it in the negative.
  - i. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
  - ii. Objective moral values and duties do exist.
  - iii. Therefore, God must exist.
- d. I have heard this argument described as a sense of ought.
  - i. I ought to do this or I ought not do that.
  - ii. We are born with a sense of oughtness.
  - iii. There are those who simply do what they want and these people are described as sociopaths.
  - iv. Sociopath is defined as “a person with a psychopathic personality whose behavior is antisocial, often criminal, and who lacks a sense of moral responsibility or social conscience.”
- e. An article about this I read described it this way: “Commands imply a Commander”.
- f. The first argument we noticed said that for every effect, there must be a cause.
- g. There has to be a cause for our morality and that cause is God.
- h. If there is no ultimate standard of morality, then a person can do whatever he wants to do.
  - i. The Holocaust was not evil if such is the case.
  - ii. The beheading of a Christian by a Muslim is fine if such is the case.
  - iii. A child rapist is just doing what he wants to do if such is the case.
- i. We know that there are standards of morality and they have been given us by God.
- j. Our Lord used this argument against the Pharisees.
  - i. Matthew 23:23.
  - ii. Why should they ought to have done the other?
  - iii. Because it was the morally right thing to do.
  - iv. Why was it the morally right thing to do?
  - v. Because God had made it the morally right thing to do.
- k. Peter and the apostles used this argument to defend why they needed to continue to preach Jesus (Acts 5:29).
- l. Numerous biblical examples could be given where this sense of oughtness or morality is used to describe why people should do or not do certain things.
- m. God exists because there is a sense of morality that all normal people

possess.

### **3.The Teleological Argument.**

a.That's a big word isn't it?

b.The is the argument from design: design demands a designer.

c.A man named William Paley came up with the watchmaker argument, which simply says: "If you found a watch in an empty field, you would logically conclude that it was designed and not the product of random formation."

i.The same principle holds true with the universe.

ii.There are obvious signs of design with the placement of planets, moons, and stars, so there must be a Grand Designer.

iii.Remember, no effect without an adequate cause.

d.This argument is consistent with scripture, as are the other arguments (Romans 1:20).

e.The human body shows amazing signs of design.

i.Each system of the body works in conjunction with the other systems.

ii.The detail in the eye, the lungs, the skin, and all parts of the body demand a Designer.

f.Listen to this statement by a self-described militant atheist names Richard Dawkins: "The more statistically improbable a thing is, the less we can believe that it just happened by blind chance. Superficially, the obvious alternative to chance is an intelligent Designer".

g.Sir Fred Hoyle, another atheist, made this brilliant remark: "the chance that higher forms have emerged in this way is comparable with the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junk-yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein".

h.The fact that the universe, the body, the earth and its various ecosystems, all show signs of design prove that there is a Grand Designer.

Much of the material in this sermon came from [apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org)