

Some Philosophical Arguments for the Existence of God

Does God Exist? Well, there are a number of philosophical arguments which aren't meant to be proofs but seem to show that God's existence is much more plausible than his non-existence. Each argument stands on its own, but together they make it even more likely that God exists. These arguments (wholly apart from faith and a personal experience of God) form strong evidence (but not proof) of God's existence. The ultimate conclusion is that **it's reasonable for a person to think that God exists**. In fact, if the arguments are sound, thinking that God exists is *more reasonable* than thinking that God doesn't exist!

Kalam Cosmological Argument

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause
 2. The universe began to exist
 3. The universe has a cause
- ➔ And the cause of the universe must be beyond the universe itself: spaceless, timeless, and immaterial. It must also be able to initiate causes: so it must be volitional/personal. Finally the cause must also be unimaginably powerful. The only metaphysical entity that fits this description is: an un-embodied mind – which is what God is.

Teleological Argument from Biological Information

1. Information comes from a mind/intelligence
 2. The first biological cell contains information (DNA)
 3. The information in the first biological cell comes from a mind/intelligence
- ➔ That mind itself can't be biological. Again we have an un-embodied mind/intelligence – or God.

Moral Argument

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
2. Objective moral values and duties do exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

Ontological Argument

1. It is possible that a maximally great being exists.
2. If it is possible that a maximally great being exists, then a maximally great being exists in some possible world.
3. If a maximally great being exists in some possible world, then it exists in every possible world.
4. If a maximally great being exists in every possible world, then it exists in the actual world.
5. If a maximally great being exists in the actual world, then a maximally great being exists.
6. Therefore, a maximally great being exists.

Here's a common argument against the existence of God:

Argument from Suffering

1. If God is all-powerful he could create any world he wants
2. If God is all-loving he would prefer a world without suffering
3. If God is all-loving and all-powerful he would create a world without suffering
4. Suffering exists
5. An all-powerful and all-loving God does not exist

Here's a response:

“Suffering is exactly what we'd expect if an all-loving and all-powerful God gave people free will”

1. If God is all-powerful he could create any world that is logically possible
 2. If God is all-loving he would prefer a world where people are freely able to love
 3. If God is all-loving and all-powerful he would create a world where people are freely able to love
 4. Freedom to love also logically entails freedom to hate
 5. If God is all-loving and all-powerful he would create a world where people are freely able to love and hate
 6. If people freely chose to hate then suffering would exist
 7. If God is all-loving and all-powerful he would create a world where suffering would exist when people freely chose to hate
- ➔ This is not a proof that God exists, rather it shows that there is no logical contradiction between the existence of suffering and the existence of an all-powerful and all-loving God. On the contrary, it shows that suffering is actually **what we would expect** if an all-powerful and all-loving God gave people free will.

If you want more info, then maybe start here:

Audio/Video: <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/defenders-2-podcast/s4>

An article (written for Uni students) <http://www.christoncampuscci.org/atheism/>