

On the Implications of God's Existence

When we consider the implications of life without God, it seems that we must pay a steep price of giving up objective meaning, purpose, value, and morality if God does not exist.

The Existence of God

- First things
- Some arguments for God's existence
- Some implications if God does not exist

I. First Things...

- Seek truth
- Follow the implications
- Reason and Faith work together
- Community endeavor
- Be nice to yourself

II. Some Arguments for God's Existence

- Individual arguments can be helpful on their own.
- The collective case is very strong.

Witness of the Holy Spirit

And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation) - when you believed in Christ - you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit...and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. —Ephesians 1:13, 4:30

- Your personal relationship with and experience of God is certainly good reason for you to believe that God exists.
- This is very beneficial for you and perhaps those who see spiritual fruit.
- Limited accessibility to others.

Kalam Cosmological Argument

- (1) Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
- (2) The universe began to exist.
- (3) Therefore, the universe has a cause.

Moral Argument

- (1) If objective morality exists, then God exists.
- (2) Objective morality exists.
- (3) Therefore, God exists.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness, because what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible

attributes—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. So people are without excuse. —Romans 1:18-20

Design Argument

- (1) The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
- (2) It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
- (3) Therefore, it is due to design.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky displays his handiwork.
Day after day it speaks out; night after night it reveals his greatness.
— Psalm 19:1-2

Other Arguments

- Ontological Argument
- Argument from Consciousness
- Argument from Free Will
- Argument from Beauty, Colors, Flavors
- And so on...

III. Some implications if God does not exist

From Theism to Atheism

It starts by giving up an active Deity. Then it gives up the hope that there is any life after death. When you give those two up, the rest of it follows fairly easily. You give up the hope that there is an imminent morality. And finally, there is no human free will. If you believe in evolution, you cannot hope for any free will. There is no hope whatsoever of there being any deep meaning in human life. We live, we die, and we're gone. We are absolutely gone when we die.
—Dr. William Provine, Cornell University

If God Does Not Exist...

- No Immortality
- No Objective Purpose
- No Objective Value
- No Objective Meaning
- No Free Will
- No Objective Morality

No Immortality

- Man is an accidental by-product of evolutionary processes.
- Man is a temporal, physical being, a relatively complex collection of physical parts.

For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man as with the fool, inasmuch as in the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die!
—Ecclesiastes 2:16

No Objective Purpose

- There is no higher idea to ascribe to.
- All man can purpose himself to is subjective preferences.
- There are no ultimate achievements, there is just “doing”.

No Objective Value

- Man has no worth.
- Man is just the current end of the evolutionary process and is no more important than anything earlier or later on the evolutionary chain.
- Whatever happens is a matter of random natural selection.

For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust. —Ecclesiastes 3:19-20

No Objective Meaning

- There is nothing substantial to anything we think or do.

And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind...All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun...Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!

—Ecclesiastes 1:17, 2:10-11, 1:2b

No Free Will

- Everything is physical and thus determined by physics and chemistry.
- No genuine self-consciousness, self-awareness.

No Objective Morality

- No good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice.
- No obligation to act in any manner.
- Love, justice, faithfulness are mere descriptions of behavior void of any worth.
- Aurora and Sandy Hook shootings

No Objective Morality

Then I looked again at all the acts of oppression which were being done under the sun. And behold I saw the tears of the oppressed and that they had no one to comfort them; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had no one to comfort them. So I congratulated the dead who were already dead more than the living who are still living. But better off than both of them is the one who has never existed, who has never seen the evil activity that is done under the sun.

—Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Moral Argument

(1) If objective morality exists, then God exists.

(2) Objective morality exists.

(3) Therefore, God exists.

(2) Objective morality exists.

- There are moral values (good and evil) and moral duties (right and wrong) that exist independently of us and our beliefs about them.
- For example, consider: "It is morally wrong to torture a baby for fun." Must we believe that this is morally wrong for it to indeed be wrong?

- The challenge in denying objective morality is making sense of obligation - “you should”, “you ought”, and so on. Why, if morality is subjective, do I have any obligation to act in any certain manner?
- Popular ways of denying (2):
 1. It is an illusion
 2. Moral relativism

1. Objective Morality is An Illusion

“The Darwinian argues that morality simply does not work (from a biological perspective), unless we believe that it is objective. Darwinian theory shows that, in fact, morality is a function of (subjective) feelings; but it shows also that we have (and must have) the illusion of objectivity.” — Michael Ruse, Philosopher

- A huge admission here: Morality seems to be objective.
- Problem: This may explain why we feel a certain way about morality, but it fails to be able to proclaim something as wrong.
- “Evolutionary naturalism gives us the goal of human flourishing.”
- Response: How are we in any way obligated to behave toward human flourishing?
- Example: What if, with the goal of speeding up the evolutionary process and attaining human flourishing, we decided to get rid of certain humans deemed problematic? How is this wrong?
- Naturalistic evolutionary processes could explain the way we feel about certain behaviors, but it cannot explain to us why any behavior is right or wrong.

2. Moral Relativism

- Moral values and duties are relative, dependent upon the subject.
- On moral issues:
 - “What’s true for you is not true for me.”

Moral Relativism

- Two main types of moral relativism:
 - Cultural relativism
 - Individual relativism

Cultural relativism

- One’s culture determines what is good and evil, right and wrong.
- “Because society says so”

Moral Relativism

- Individual relativism One determines what is good and evil, right and wrong, based on personal preference.
- “Because I say so”

Moral Relativism’s Flaws

- In cultural relativism,
 - What is my culture?
 - How does the culture determine morality? Who is making decisions and why should they be the ones to do it?
- In cultural relativism, no immoral societies.

- There is nothing wrong with tribal groups committed to human sacrifice, slavery in the United States, Nazi Germany's treatment of Jews, Iran's desire to destroy Israel...
- Relativists cannot accuse others of wrongdoing. There is no wrongdoing.
 - "You shouldn't force your morality on me."
 - Response: "Why not?" ... "Why are you forcing that moral view on me?"
- Relativists cannot complain about the problem of evil.
 - There is no objective good or evil. Any complaint is merely a personal preference.
 - It seems that God must exist for objective morality to exist, which then allows the complaint to hold.
- Relativists cannot place blame or accept praise for moral behavior.
- Relativists cannot make charges of unfairness or injustice.
- Relativists cannot promote the obligation of tolerance.
- It does not seem to be able to be lived out consistently.
 - A relativist cannot fight for moral causes in an objective way and be consistent.
 - If a relativist is robbed, then he cannot say that it was wrong - just a matter of running into someone with a different view.
- If taken seriously, the consequences are tragic.

There is no good and evil. There is only power and those too weak to seek it.
-Lord Voldemort

The Tragic End of Serious Moral Relativism

"Everything I have said and done in these last years is relativism by intuition . . . If relativism signifies contempt for fixed categories and men who claim to be bearers of an objective, immortal truth . . . then there is nothing more relativistic than fascistic attitudes and activity . . . From the fact that all ideologies are of equal value, that all ideologies are mere fictions, the modern relativist infers that everybody has the right to create for himself his own ideology and to attempt to enforce it with all the energy of which he is capable."
—Mussolini

"I freed Germany from the stupid and degrading fallacies of conscience and morality . . . We will train young people before whom the world will tremble." —Hitler

Moral Argument

- (1) If objective morality exists, then God exists.
- (2) Objective morality exists.
- (3) Therefore, God exists.

If God Does Not Exist...

- No Immortality
- No Objective Purpose No Objective Value
- No Objective Meaning
- No Objective Morality
- No Free Will

Life is absurd.

And there is nothing you can do about it.

If God Exists...

- Immortality
- Objective Purpose
- Objective Value
- Objective Meaning
- Objective Morality
- Free Will

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

—Romans 11:36

God created humankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them.

—Genesis 1:27

Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

—Westminster Shorter Catechism

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

—Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

And even though you were dead in your transgressions...he nevertheless made you alive with him, having forgiven all your transgressions. He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.

—Colossians 2:13-14

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

—C.S. Lewis, The Existence of God