

Biblical Apologetics - Session Six: Defending the Faith (ETC pp. 99-110)

The following are sample answers that demonstrate the presuppositional approach to giving an answer to the hope within us. They are only meant as an example and as we grow more experienced in defending the faith we will develop our own arguments.

The Existence of God

Argument by Truth:

- 1) **Admit** that your fundamental reason for belief in the existence of the Christian God is your faith in Christ
- 2) **Give** the evidences for the existence of the Christian God.
 - A. Evidence from Scripture
 - The Bible assumes the existence of God and operates on the reality of His existence without long drawn-out proofs (**Gen. 1:1**). Even if there were no external proof of His existence He would still remain.
 - Belief in the existence of God is the beginning of all wisdom (**Prov. 1:8**). He is the ground of all true wisdom and understanding, not human wisdom (**1 Cor. 1:21**).
 - The Scriptures teach that only a fool would deny God's existence (**Psalms 14:1**). Without the Christian God nothing else would be (love - **1 John 4:7**, laws of logic, science - **Col. 1:17**, morality - **Rom. 1:32**), not even the questioning of His existence.
 - The fact that the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments were and are being fulfilled shows that the Christian God exists and is working all things by His own will (**Isaiah 41:21-23; Micah 5:2; Luke 21:20-24; John 2:19-22**).
 - B. Evidence from the External world
 - God is clearly revealed in the nature of the world (**Psalms 19:1; Rom. 1:18**). The order of the world points to God's ordering wisdom. The good things in the world show God's mercy (**Matt. 5:45**). The beauty in the world shows God's glory.
 - The grand abilities of man generally (abstract thinking, ability to appreciate beauty, ability to reproduce after our kind etc.), and individually (art, music, writing, inventions and design) are a demonstration of God's existence and Creatorhood.
 - C. Evidence from personal experience
 - I know the Christian God exists because He saved me from my sin and is working in my life to bring conformity to His purposes (**Rom. 8:28; Phil. 4:7**)
- 3) **Show** the nonbeliever that he is not convinced by these arguments because he is committed to his own independence. "You are committed to your own independence as the final source of truth and I can demonstrate that reality by asking you a few questions." *Why do you think the evidence is unconvincing? Why do you not believe the witness of the Bible? Why do you believe that the Bible is unreliable? Why do you believe that your argument against the Bible is trustworthy? How do you know that? WHY? WHY? WHY?*

Argument by Folly

- 1) **Question** - having already demonstrated the unbeliever's commitment to independence, show him the futility of that position by asking him to justify that allegiance. In other words ask him by what standard he holds to his position. Logic? Reason? Sensory perception? Third party authorities? Religious teaching? etc. If he says that his commitment to independence is not able to be justified then ask him why he holds on to it so dearly? He has categorically denied the existence of the Christian God with no justifiable reason.
- 2) **Demonstrate** to him that his specific position taken against the existence of the Christian God is self-refuting.
 - A. Absolute Certainty
 - "There is no god" - He can't hold this position by his own standard of "proof" because he has not, and can not examine all of the evidence.
 - "There is a god, but not the Christian God" - Ask what sort of god he believes in and then show him why he has not dealt with all the possible evidences for the Christian God.

B. Total Uncertainty

- “We can not know whether God exists or not” - although this position may on the surface appear safe and neutral, it is in reality a bold statement of unbelief. He is claiming that God has not made Himself known in a way that should be accepted by all men. Since he has not examined all of the evidence he can not be sure about his agnosticism.
- “God’s existence is a personal matter and should not be debated” - Since the unbeliever has not, and can not examine all of the evidence he can not know for sure that God’s existence is an entirely personal matter.

- 3) **Challenge** - because the unbeliever is in the frustrating position of an allegiance to independence and the resultant irrationality he must be challenged to repent. He has no right to sit as judge of God’s existence, but must turn to Him in faith and be saved from his present hopeless condition (**Acts 17:30-31**)

The Problem of Evil

“If God is all good and God created all things, then there must be something wrong with your God since there is evil in the world.”

Argument by Truth

1. **Admit** - “I do not have all the answers, but because Jesus saved me and thus I believe that the Bible is true, I am going to approach this question from that commitment.”
2. **Give** - the Biblical answers to this admittedly difficult question (many possible approaches).
 - A. Evidence from Scripture
 - God created the world good but man cast it into evil by his rebellion against God (**Gen. 1:27; 3:17**). In line with His character, God only gives good and perfect gifts (**James 1:17**)
 - Sometimes people suffer evil because of God’s creation principle of reaping what you sow (**Gal. 6:7**)
 - Evil fits into God’s plan for displaying His glory as that which He will ultimately defeat and conquer (**Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:23-24, 36**)
 - God never tempts men to sin, even when He tests their faithfulness to Him (**James 1:13**)
 - What God does is good, however, not because it passes the human standard for “goodness,” but because God is good and the standard for all goodness (**Ex. 34:6**)
 - B. Evidence from the external world
 - God continues to order the universe for man’s benefit (**Gen. 8:22; Matt. 5:45**)
 - The fact that God allows us to live when we deserve to die shows His goodness toward us (**Rom. 3:23**)
 - C. Evidence from personal experience
 - God is good because He gave His own Son to take the penalty for my sin.
3. **Show** - Let me show you that the reason that you do not accept the Biblical answer to this question is because you are committed to your own independence. *Why do you believe that? How do you know?*

Argument by Folly

1. **Question** - by what standard he justifies his commitment to independence: *logic? science?*
2. **Demonstrate** the impossibility and rationality of his position
 - A. Absolute Certainty
 - “God is evil” - the unbeliever has not and can not fathom the motives and secret purposes of God’s mind. Therefore he can not claim God is evil simply because there is evil in the world. He also can not be absolutely certain that there is no way for evil to exist in the creation of a good God.
 - B. Total Uncertainty
 - “God’s character and existence are confusing therefore it is senseless to speculate about god” - Since they have not experienced all the evidence for the character and existence of God they can not insist on silence in these matters.
3. **Challenge** - your futile thought stems from your commitment to independence - you must repent and believe.