



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
PRESENTS

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist Part 1

Featuring

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Introduction

Christians seem to have a problem explaining why Christianity is true

Christians need to be able to answer the objections

75% of church kids in their 20s walk away from the church

Why? Intellectual skepticism

We are entertaining them, rather than informing them

But we have good answers

Why do apologetics?

The Bible commands it

This is a command to worship God with our minds

We're *supposed* to test the Bible

³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment."
—Matthew 22:37

³⁷We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God...
—2 Corinthians 10:5

I. Does truth exist?

Truth is telling it like it is

"What is truth?" Pilate asked.
—John 18:38

Truth corresponds to its object (say, Billy Graham)

The law of non-contradiction: opposite ideas cannot both be true at the same time

Both Lee Strobel and Richard Dawkins can't be right about whether God exists

Avicenna's proof: Being beaten is not the same as not being beaten

There are no relative truths: all truth is absolute

How to deal with objections: applying the claim to itself

- "There is no truth": if it's true, it cuts its own throat
- "You can't know truth": how do they know *that's* true?
- "All truth is relative": then all truths are relative except this one?
- "There are no absolutes": are they absolutely sure?
- "It's true for you but not for me": if it's true, it's true for everybody
- "All truth depends on your perspective"

We can know the truth well enough to make reasonable conclusions

Let's try doubting our doubts, rather than allowing the doubts to take over

Jesus didn't say not to judge: he said to judge righteously

Christians *have* to make judgements

Summarizing what's true about truth:

- Contrary beliefs are possible, but contrary truths are not possible
- An objective truth cannot be denied without being confirmed
- Truth exists and you can know it

Verses on judgment:
 John 7:24, Matthew 7:1, 1
 Corinthians 5:12, 6:2, Titus 1:9,
 James 5:19, Matthew 18:15, 1
 John 4:1, 7:15, Matthew 23

II. Does God exist?

What do we mean by God?

- Theism: God made all
- Pantheism: God is all—the tree, the grass, etc.—the New Age god
- Atheism: No God at all

Three great arguments for the existence of God

1. The cosmological argument

Evidence that the universe had a beginning: SURGE

- Second law of thermodynamics: energy is running out
- Universe is expanding
- Radiation afterglow
- Great galaxy seeds
- Einstein's theory of general relativity

Robert Jastrow, agnostic astronomer, realizes where the evidence points

The kalam cosmological argument: the universe has a beginning

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Therefore there must be a Beginner

Something outside of nature must have brought it into existence

2. The design argument (teleological argument)

The universe is precisely designed: the fingerprint of the Creator is on it

The anthropic principle: the universe was designed for life

So many factors about the universe show it was precisely designed

Life is precisely designed, too

Nature takes things to disorder, not order

Then why are there incredibly complex messages in our DNA?

3. The moral argument

You can't say something is wrong without a standard beyond your mind

That's the unchanging moral law that Christians say is God's nature

We all know there's a right and wrong

Implications of these arguments

1. God is self-existing, immaterial, and eternal outside the universe
2. God must be incredibly powerful
3. God must be incredibly intelligent
4. God must be perfect
5. God must be personal

These are the attributes of the God of Christianity

And if theism is true, then pantheism and atheism must not be true

Resources

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

by Frank Turek and Norman Geisler
www.zondervan.com

“Impact Apologetics”

www.impactapologetics.com

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