

Apologetics 4: Hasn't science disproved the existence of God?

WHY does it matter for us to give a defence?

We Believe

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
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RECOGNISE where people's ideas come from (Worldviews)

Empiricism: The theory that all sciences are ultimately based on experience and observation as a means to understand truth.

Often using Reductionism – The breaking down of an object to measure its meaning.

New Atheism: Advocates the view that superstition, religion and irrationalism should simply not be tolerated.

There are 4 areas of focus:

1. *Belief in God is irrational (faith is irrational)*
 2. *Science proves God does not exist (Science now fills the God space)*
 3. *Belief in God is dangerous (Due to 'holy wars')*
 4. *Religion is a result of an evolutionary process (Darwin's Theory)*
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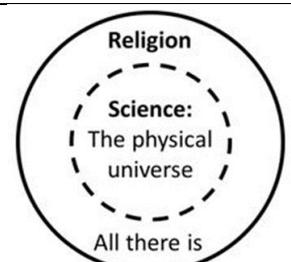
REVEAL what's Good and what's Bad within these worldviews.

Empiricism

THE GOOD	THE BAD
<p>USE OF THE SENSES TO DISCOVER TRUTH Christian Affirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can see God in the material world (<i>Rom 1:20</i>) - We are called to critical thinking (Not Blind Faith) – <i>Isa 1:18 / 1 Thess 5:21</i> - That when we use all our senses to look for God we will find Him (<i>Jer 29:13</i>) <p>WE NEED MEASURABLE EVIDENCE Christian Affirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We too can measure the existence of God through the church (lives transformed), science & the bible (see week 1), archaeology, history, scholars etc 	<p>THE ASSUMPTION GOD IS NOT MEASURABLE (TANGIBLE) & THEREFORE DOESN'T EXIST. Christian Counter argument:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We do not have a sense organ to detect gravitational wave, atoms or motivation – but we do not deny their existence.

We need to note:

- Science is not theistic or anti-theistic, it's simply the limits of the scientific method.
- Therefore, many scientists would say the issue of God goes beyond the reaches and means of science.



New Atheism

THE GOOD	THE BAD
SCIENCE PROVIDES AN ANSWER Christian Affirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- That science provides us with detail we once did not have.	SCIENCE PROVIDES ALL THE ANSWERS AND AFFIRMS GOD DOES NOT EXIST. Christian Counter argument: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Just because the Universe emerged from a Big Bang is that justification to say there is no God.



THE HEART OF THE ISSUE IS NOT SCIENCE BUT ANTI-GOD

REASON for a Biblical Worldview Response

C.S Lewis, *“Men became scientific because they expected laws in nature and they expected laws in nature because they believed in a lawgiver”*.

If science is about following the evidence wherever it might lead us, we need to be open to the fact it may well lead us to God.

THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Whatever begins to exist – **has a cause**

The Universe began to exist (The Big Bang)

Therefore, **the universe has a cause** (*Genesis 1 – In the Beginning God*)

Life From Nothing (quantum vacuum)? or Life From God? Both Require Faith (*Romans 1:20*)

THE INTELLIGENT DESIGN ARGUMENT (FINE TUNING)

MACRO-view (Space)

Our universe has several properties that are set to precise values, and slight changes to those values would prevent life as we know it.

- The Strength of Gravity (Any different and we would be crushed or float into space)
- Position of the earth in relation to the sun (Any different we would burn up or freeze)
- Electro-Magnetic Force (Without it no life and stars would burn up)

MICRO-view (Human Body)

The origin of life requires a massive infusion of information, which can only be explained by intelligent design.

- DNA (Most Complex code for the cell to survive and thus life)
- Complex Molecular Machines/Proteins (Our cells are like a factory that assemble into elaborate machine looking, moving proteins.

REINFORCE through discussion, discipleship and prayer

Why not meet in life groups or with your questioning friends and study Lee Strobel’s Case for a Creator (Available on: www.bcchurch.org.uk/apologeticsvideos)? Remember we engage with **Gentleness & Respect**.