



Asking for a Friend

PART 1: DOES GOD EXIST?

Sermon Notes

Text: Romans 1:20-25

Intro:

1 Peter 3:15 - Apologetics: defending the faith

Proverbs 9:10

"I hold the view that all philosophizing on life's purpose is ultimately founded upon two fundamental assumptions, or conclusions. The first is, does God exist? And the second, If God exists, what is His character or nature? The questions are impossible to ignore, and even if they are not dealt with formally, their implications filter down into everyday life. It is out of belief or disbelief in God that all other convictions are formed" ~Ravi Zacharias

"the moral law within and the starry hosts above" ~Immanuel Kant

Arguments for God's Existence:

1. The Cosmological Argument

If something begins to exist, its existence is dependent (or contingent) on something outside of it that pre-existed it, which caused it to come into being.

"When you look from the perspective of a scientist at the universe, it looks as if it knew we were coming. There are 15 constants—the gravitational constant, various constants about the strong and weak nuclear force, etc—that have precise values. If any one of those constants was off by even one part in a million, or in some cases, by one part in a million million, the universe would not have actually come to the point where we see it. Matter would not have been

able to coalesce, there would have been no galaxy, stars, planets or people."
~Francis Collins.

2. The Argument from Morality

All human beings have moral feelings, and a sense of moral obligation. For objective moral realities to exist, there must be a moral law giver.

"Each party attempts to appeal to an unstated higher standard...what is being debated is whether one action or another is a closer approximation to the demands of [the moral] law" ~Francis Collins

"In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no other good. Nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music" ~Richard Dawkins

"The very fact that something within us is repelled by racism, sexism, and unequal treatment of the poor and disabled begs the question that such convictions would have to come from somewhere, for they are not natural."
~Mark Clark

What does the Bible have to say?

Romans 1:20-25

Worship is hardwired into the soul. Rejecting God only means we choose to worship a created thing instead of creator God.

"You become like what you worship. When you gaze in awe, admiration, and wonder at something or someone, you begin to take on something of the character of the object of your worship." ~N.T. Wright

Conclusion:

"If one puts aside the existence of God and the survival after life as doubtful... one has to make up one's mind as to the use of life. If death ends all, if I have neither to hope for good nor to fear evil, I must ask myself what am I here for, and how in these circumstances I must conduct myself. Now the answer is plain, but so unpalatable that most will not face it. There is no meaning for life, and [thus] life has no meaning." ~Somerset Maugham

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Do people ever ask you tough questions about your faith? Do you feel like you are “always ready” to answer questions like 1 Peter 3:15 says? If not, what would help you be more ready?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday’s message? Did you learn anything new or helpful?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Ravi Zacharias’ quote from the introduction. Do you agree that all of our convictions are formed based on our answer to the question of God’s existence? How would your life look different if you didn’t believe in God?
2. The Cosmological Argument, and the Fine Tuning Argument both point to the “invisible qualities” (Romans 1:20) of God revealed through creation. When you consider creation, what does it say to you about God?
3. Read Romans 1:20-25. What does this passage have to say about the question of God’s existence? What happens when we reject God? What does it mean to “Worship and serve created things” (v. 25)?

Application:

1. James 2:18 says even demons believe in God, but that doesn’t mean they know him and it certainly doesn’t mean they will be saved. Their belief in God causes them to “shudder,” which is the appropriate response. If you believe in God, what is the appropriate response to him? What will you *do* with your belief?

Prayer:

- Pray for opportunities to answer questions people have about your faith.

Other Requests

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