



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: LESSON 15

**Do we have evidence for the existence of God?** We hear statements like, "it is impossible to prove the existence of God ... it is only by faith that we can say that God exists ... nobody can prove this so for me I just don't believe in Him." In reality there isn't a person who is not aware of the existence of God.

People know the existence of God even apart from the Bible (light of Scripture), through the light of nature (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19-21), and the light of conscience (Romans 2:14-15). Though general these are plain and clear. People everywhere are without excuse for not believing in God's existence.

Some say that God is wholly other from humans. They say we are finite and sinful creatures, so any information from our sense perceptions and logical reasoning may not be accurate and cannot be used to prove the existence of God. Without presenting any rational proof for the existence of God, they begin with the presupposition that God exists per Scripture. This results in more problems than solutions.

Made in His image we are alike, but different. God is distinct and separate from His creation. But this does not mean that God is wholly other and that His logic is utterly dissimilar to ours. If that was the case then it would have been impossible for us to communicate with Him at all. Logic is not a law above God but something which flows from God Himself, part of His character and built into His creation. As creatures made in His image we have the capacity to think, communicate and make decisions.

As Christians, we cannot just sit back and urge people to believe in God, without dealing with the arguments on the rational level, demonstrating the veracity and superiority of the Christian faith. Here are some traditional arguments for the existence of God.

**Ontological Argument** – Ontology is the study of being (ontos). It is the study of reality. It answers the question "What is real?" The ontological argument argues from the idea of a perfect necessary being (i.e. God) to the existence of this being in reality. We are unable to think of its nonexistence.

**Cosmological Argument** – Cosmology is the study of cosmos. This argument reasons that if something exists now, then something exists necessarily (i.e. it must have the power of being within itself). If we discover a molecule, we are faced with four possible explanations. The molecule is possibly:

1. An illusion – this option is a absurd, as all we need to do is jump off a balcony and see what happens
2. Self-created (or created by chance) – This option violates two laws of logic; the law of causality, which states that every effect must have a cause; and the law of noncontradiction, which states that "A" cannot be "A" and "non-A" at the same time and in the same relationship
3. Self-existent – evidence shows that the universe had a beginning, and a cause greater than itself
4. Created ultimately by something which is self-existent – a cause which has the power of "being" within itself. Sounds like the God of the Bible (Psalm 33:6; Colossians 1:16-17; John 5:26)

**Teleological Argument** – From the Greek word Telos, which means purpose, design and outcome. In summary the teleological argument reasons from design to an intelligent designer.

**Moral Law Argument** – The moral law argument reasons from the existence of universal objective moral laws to a moral law giver (Romans 2:12-15).

These reveal that there is something beyond the universe. A necessary being, an uncaused cause, an eternal self-existent being, a personal being, the creator and sustainer of all things; who has given His moral laws. The laws of logic and science support and point to this God. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," (Genesis 1:1) is still the most logical and meaningful description of reality.