

The Existence of God part 2 – Properly Basic Beliefs: Who has the burden of proof?

1 Corinthians 2:14

10.11.15

Main Idea: The root of atheism is unbelief, which often stems from moral, not intellectual objections.

1. We are not _____ when it comes to evidence: We all have presuppositions and naturally oppose God.
 - a. Everyone has _____.
 - b. We are *naturally* opposed to God even though we intuitively know that He exists: the issue is not just evidence; it's pride. 1 Cor. 1:20-21; 3:18-21; 2 Cor. 4:4; Romans 1:21-22; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10; 2 Thess. 2:9-12.
 - c. Biblical presuppositions: Genesis 1:1 The Bible begins with the presupposition of God; Romans 1:16.
 - d. Atheists shouldn't rely on reason: We are free to believe reason got here by chance (non-rational cause – random, atheistic evolution) but then there is no basis to believe that very statement. "No thought is valid if it can be fully explained as the result of irrational causes." C.S. Lewis.

2. Demanding that one prove the existence of God is assuming something you don't have: the **intellectual** high ground.

a. Putting the burden of proof on theists without showing why is intellectual bullying.

Q: Who has the burden of proof? Who has to explain what?

I. *Sensus divinitatis*, 'sense of the divine' - John Calvin

II. The universe and biological organisms.

III. Properly Basic Beliefs: something that is reasonable to believe without the need of scientific evidence & argument.

- Logical & Mathematical truths: why is $2+2=4$?
- Belief in the existence of other minds.
- Memory: the world was not created 5 minutes ago with the appearance of age.
- Aesthetics: beauty and goodness exist.
- Ethical belief: love is a virtue, Nazi medical experiments were wrong, etc.

Alvin Plantinga, "The atheist must logically demonstrate why belief in God should not be included within Properly Basic Beliefs."

3 Reasons why it is rational to believe in God without the necessity of arguments:

- Few people have access to theistic philosophical arguments.
- It seems God has given us an awareness of Himself that is not dependent upon theistic arguments.
- Belief in God is more like belief in a person than belief in a scientific theory.

b. Atheistic presuppositions prevent a theist from giving evidence towards the existence of God because an atheist, by definition, is one who has already concluded there is *absolutely* no God.

3. Demanding proof is _____: _____, not proofs, is reasonable. Proofs are almost impossible to come by.

Q: The question here is: What is faith?

A: Faith is a response to what you believe. Hebrews 11:3

Key: objective/ presuppositions/ intellectual/unreasonable/Reasonableness

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