

God as Truth



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The Search

- The question of Truth is a matter of life and death. It is the question that lies at the bottom of every heart. It encompasses a whole line of questions that every person sets before themselves:

What is life?

What is the origin of all existing things?

Is there a God, Creator of all things, or does the world exist without a Creator?

If there is a God, can we have a possible communion with him?

Does there exist another world besides the visible one?

What is death?

etc.....

- From the beginning of time, philosophers have discussed this question more than any others. It is the core of all science, philosophy, and religion. The branch of theology that attempts to deal with these questions is called ***Apologetics***, or Fundamental Theology.
- Upon the question of truth lies the meaning and aim of life.
- We were created with a hunger for this Truth.

Solutions to this religious problem can be many sided:

1. *Skepticism* is a doubt in everything including the existence of God. This person states "I don't know". This solution is fruitless because it does not make any moral or spiritual effort of the will to perceive the absolute Truth (God).

2. *Criticism* is a declaration that the Absolute Truth (God) is not perceptible. This person states "I cannot know" (impossible to prove by science). Criticism is only the recognition in the limitation of scientific knowledge and rationale.
3. *Atheism* is the assertion that there is no God. Atheism is itself a belief, since to know that there is no God is impossible. Atheism is the faith that there is no God. This theory is incapable of building a world view or theory of matter.
4. *Pantheism* is the belief that God and nature are one in the same thing. This also is a kind of faith. This belief is unable to explain the origin, aim, or meaning of the world and man, nor the expedience of the universe, the origin of evil, or moral law.
5. *Deism* is a belief in God only as the originator and Creator of the world and its laws, but denies God as providentially caring for His

creation. This also cannot give any answers to the most urgent questions of man's spirit.

6. *Theism* is a belief in God not only as the Creator and original cause, but also as the intellect of the universe: Man can be in communion with God through the Sacraments and prayer. Only Theism, and, especially in its most complete form--the true Christian religion--gives the most orderly, complete, deep, wide, reasoned, proved, convincing, and at the same time, the most bright and joyous world-view.

At the foundation of the Christian religion lies a thirst for Truth and a will to Truth. There must be absolute Truth, and I want to know it no matter what happens! From this act of will is begun the building of a Christian world-view.

The Truth of the Existence of God

- Faith in God cannot be proved mathematically. It requires an act of the will to believe. Man is forced to use faith, in accordance with God's wisdom and our free will.
- The meaning of proofs of the existence of God are sometimes denied validity on the grounds that they do not have the character of mathematical precision. But mathematical proofs are very few. In place of them, in philosophy, in science, and in practical life, other forms of proofs are often used.
- Science cannot prove basic religious truths, and in general, cannot answer the most urgent questions of man's spirit, then this shows only the limitedness of the scientific method of knowledge. St. Basil the Great says, "faith precedes knowledge (scientific)".

- Bible rarely mentions any proofs in the existence in God, regarding this truth to be so evident that one who denies it is qualified as senseless, *The fool has said in his heart: There is no God* (Psalm 14:1). Unfortunately for the skeptic, the Scriptures have no meaning whatsoever.

Proofs of the Existence of God

- External Proofs

1. *Cosmological Proof* of the existence of God is one of the most ancient. *The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork* (Psalm 19) *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and*

Godhead (Romans 1:20). The world is not self existing and must have a cause, and this cause must be outside of this world. Such a cause can only be an all-highest Being: God.

2. *Teleological Proof* of the existence of God is based on the expedient arrangement of the world. If cosmological proof concentrates on the investigation of the original cause of the universe, then the teleological proof interest itself in the final purpose. It examines the world not only as something existing, but as something whole, harmonious, artistic; pointing to the wisdom of the Creator. It is Purpose.

- Internal Proofs

3. *Ontological Proof* is the inherent idea of a higher, all-perfect and endless Being and the reality of this Being. That is, in understanding the All-Perfect, there is already contained an understanding of its existence. This is what every soul is created with.
4. *Ethical Proof* is practical in that faith in God assists improvement of morality, while faith in atheism usually leads to a fall in morality. There can be no real morality without God.

Athanasius says:

For what use is the existence to the creature if it cannot know its maker? How could men be reasonable beings if they had no knowledge of the Word and Reason of the Creator, through whom they had received their being ? They would be no better than the beasts had they

no knowledge save of earthly things; and why should God have made them at all, if He had not intended them to know Him?

The Way, the Truth and the Life

Christ said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). That is, I am the Method (Way) of perceiving the Truth; I am myself the Incarnate Truth (being God), and I am the Life (without Me there cannot be life for without Truth there is no life).

We can choose to believe or disbelieve these words.

Knowing the Truth

- Human Beings are limited and therefore cannot know the absolute truth on their own. As a result, it has to

be revealed to us (i.e. Divine Revelation).

- There are two kinds of Divine Revelation:
- Direct Revelation (e.g. When God spoke directly to Moses on the mountain) - However, direct revelation came in its fullness with the Incarnation of God, the Word.
- Intermediary Revelation (e.g. Through the Angels such as Gabriel with St. Mary and also all the Prophets)
- There needs to be a way to measure what is True Divine Revelation and what is false Divine Revelation:
 - Divine Revelation must be one that enlightens the Human Race. St. Clement of Alexandria used to show that Christianity was the only true Philosophy/Religion because

of how it brought humanity to perfection morally and spiritually. There cannot be any moral or spiritual contradiction in Divine Revelation. Only Christianity can make this claim.

- Divine Revelation must be accompanied by supernatural signs. Only Christianity has had the experience of authentic supernatural signs (and even more specifically, Orthodox Christianity). Even in our most recent times, we have signs such as those of St. Mary's apparition in Cairo (Zeitoun), "Weeping Icons", and the numerous miracles performed by the prayers of the saints.

The Truth of the Immortality of the Soul

For people who believe in God, the most convincing proof of the immortality of the soul is this:

- If God is a living Personality, possessing attributes of All-Mightiness, All-Goodness, and unconditional justice, then in creating people, He could not have created them deprived of immortality.
- In addition, we know that we possess certain attributes of the soul and spirit (love, joy, hope, etc.) that are not part of our physical make-up. Therefore, there is no evidence that this aspect of our nature dies along with our physical death.

Life Without the Truth (God)

God has been dying in the hearts of people since the world began. As time moves on, the state of mankind gets worse. What happens when someone is void of the Truth?

Discussion:

- Sex
- Drugs
- Violence
- Materialism
- The Occult, etc..
- Suicide
- In general, any type of experience that is not of this world.

We can see what is happening in the world

around us and we can say with certainty that these things are a direct result of not knowing the True God. And of course, the ones who suffer the most are our children.

Glory be to God Forever. Amen