

The Doctrine of God

There is enough evidence to convince anyone who is not set against it, but not enough evidence to force anyone into the kingdom who will not go (French philosopher Pascal).

Defining God: God is Eternal in nature and eternity itself is beyond our understanding. Eternity is freedom from the restriction of time with unlimited duration. There is no past or future of its own. God is totally out of the scope of time. He is eternally, perpetually, everlastingly infinite and describes Himself as "I AM!" He has no beginning or ending, indicating that He never ages or changes.

God is a personal being, not composed of parts for He is a Spirit (John 4:24). As such, He possesses intellect, emotions and will. He is the only self-existent (uncaused), eternal, infinite, supreme being.

He is all-powerful, all-knowing, merciful and gracious as delineated in His Self-revelation, the Bible. ***For the LORD your God is God of gods, and LORD of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward*** (Deuteronomy 10:17).

There is only one God and yet He is described as a Trinity. He is undivided, but exists in three distinct Persons in the Godhead, all equal in substances, power and glory.

Complication: No one can see Him for He is a Spirit and no one can come to know Him personally apart from His self-revelation. ***There is none that understandeth, there is none that seek after God*** (Romans 3:11). Jesus said, ***No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him*** (John 6:44).

Caution: Exodus 20:4-5 forbid mankind to make unto himself any graven image or any likeness to God, nor to bow down to worship or serve such. Therefore, it does not matter whether or not we can see God to define Him but simply to believe His self-revelation. Exodus 20:5 reveals that He is a jealous God and we are instructed: ***Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave...*** (Deuteronomy 10:20).

Consider (When Sharing Your Faith)

1. It is not how much faith one has, it is who you have faith in.
2. Some will say that they do not believe in God because He cannot be proven scientifically. Most use science as an excuse, not a problem. Others claim that He cannot be defined and therefore does not exist.
3. Many people come to a conclusion without ever examining the evidence. These usually believe in one or more of four basic presuppositions.
 - We live in a closed system where every single event has to have a natural explanation.
 - There is no God.
 - There is nothing supernatural, no supernatural person.
 - Miracles are not possible.
4. These conclusions did not come from studying history. They found it out philosophically. Many will admit to coming to conclusions based on their world view, not because of evidence.
5. You must be careful when using the word "history." It is a word many people cannot define.
6. The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. His being is assumed throughout Scripture. It is merely presented as a statement of fact that needs no proof. ***In the beginning God...*** (Genesis 1:1). It also assumes that to deny His existence is to be called a fool (Psalm 14:1).

Arguments

1. **Teleological** - A design implies a designer.
2. **Ontological** - The fact that man can conceive of God in terms of character reveals that He does exist.
3. **Volitional** - Since man can express his will, there must be an infinite will somewhere.
4. **Moral** - Man knowing there is right and wrong suggests that there must be an absolute standard of such. God is the Judge of all moral thinking and actions.
5. **Cosmological** - Cause and effect. The world exists and therefore there must be a cause - a Creator, not happenstance.