

## Do you really believe in God?

A true Christian's whole way of life is dependent upon a belief in God. The Bible claims that God created all things (Genesis 1:1). If this is true, then His expectations should dictate how we live our lives. However, no one can *prove* the existence or absence of God. With that admitted, we believe that the evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of God.

First, we look at the incredible and unavoidable intricate design of nature. If one were to find a computer it would be logical to conclude that someone designed and made it because it is too complex to have "just happened." Likewise, from the DNA strand which holds and transfers information more efficiently than our best computers, to intricate and delicate ecological systems, to a vast and uncharted universe, the most logical assumption is that it was all designed by someone or something. Simple living things rely on complex living things to survive, and *visa versa*. When Darwin charted similarities between organisms from simple to complex, it didn't prove an evolutionary process or the absence of a creator. It simply demonstrated what we already knew; that there are simple and complex living things. With 8.7 million identified species in nature, it becomes difficult for us to logically justify the absence of a Designer. Bottom line; the odds that even one piece of nature was the result of an unplanned, chance series of events is so small that to believe everything came from nothing seems like a fairy tale; like a computer with no designer.

Second, and perhaps more convincing are the laws of nature. Scientific study is based on accepted truths. One of these truths is that everything that happens has a cause. There are no examples in nature of things that happened without something causing them to happen. If we trace causes back to an original cause we are faced with only two choices. 1) Either there was no original cause (nothing started everything in the first place). In this case the entire universe has always existed and has been acting upon itself for eternity. That doesn't even make sense. 2) Or there was an original cause outside of nature. The human word for a cause outside the laws of the universe is *God*. To believe there was no original cause would mean that the laws of nature are not true; that everything in nature *does not* have a cause. Believing that there *is* a God, allows nature (and science) to keep its laws intact; everything in nature *does* have a cause – but God is not bound by the laws of nature. He made them.

Third, in the absence of convincing scientific evidence disproving the existence of God, atheists (believers in no God) turn to what many call the problem of evil/pain. Simply stated, "If God is *all powerful* and *all loving* then He would not allow evil/pain to exist. So, either He is *not loving*, or He is *not powerful* enough to do anything about the evil/pain in the world." Interestingly, the notion of a loving and powerful God comes from the Bible. Yet those who decide to be atheists based on the problem of evil/pain refuse to look into the Bible for rest of the story. They assume that an all-powerful, all-loving God *would* keep evil/pain from existing. However, the nature of God as presented in the Bible does not limit God to only these two attributes (powerful and loving). He is also *Holy, Eternal, Purposeful, Light, Sovereign*, etc. If God is all these things, it would seem prideful for us (who do not carry such attributes) to assume to know what he *would* do, or even why he would do it.

The problem of evil/pain does not present evidence against the existence of God. For us, it presents another question; "How can we be saved from evil and pain?" Fortunately, for this question we can turn to the Bible and find the answers that God provides. God, who created and designed the universe and set nature in motion had a purpose for doing so. Rather than excluding us from that purpose, He calls us through His Word to become a part of it; a part of the solution...

Discussion on the existence of God covers libraries of work. The debate will not cease until the end of time. If you doubt the existence of God please search out the answer to this important question. At the bottom of our Resources page is a section on "Questioning Faith." There you will find links to some websites that can provide you with more information. Also, please feel free to contact us and we would love to sit with you and pursue this discussion further.