



SURVEY OF THEOLOGY PROPER

What is God Like?

Grace Institute - Pastor Jim C. Davis

Lecture Eight: The Existence of God

1A. Who is God?

God is spirit. He is a living and active divine person who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism, question #4)

2A. General Revelation – provides evidences for the existence of God. Special revelation presupposed His existence.

3A. Naturalistic Arguments for the existence of God.

1B. Through Creation

1C. The Cosmological Argument (through Creation). Every effect has a cause.

2C. The universe is the effect which demands an adequate “first cause.” The “first cause” must have enough power to bring the present world into existence.

Cosmos origin: (effect)	Eternal origin: (cause)
From nothing	Cosmos itself
From something	Chance as an eternal principle
	Eternal God

3C. Scripture: Psalm 19; Rom. 1:18-32.

2B. Through Design

1C. The Teleological Argument (through organization/design). Design calls for a Designer.

2C. Because of the obvious order and design of the universe, there was not only a “first cause,” about the “first cause” was intelligent beyond description and comparison.

3C. Scripture: Acts 14:15-18.

3B. Through Mankind

1C. The Anthropological Argument (man, specifically his nature is created in image of God). Man in God’s image.

2C. An intelligent personal being must have an intelligent personal Creator.

3C. Scripture: Acts 17:28-29; Psalm 94:9

- 4B. Through Being
 - 1C. The Ontological Argument (God- consciousness).
 - 2C. Most men, if not all men, possess the idea of a most perfect being in their minds; therefore, some perfect being must have planted this idea in all men.

- 4A. Biblical concept of the existence of God
 - 1B. The Bible assumes the existence of God. (Heb. 11; Gen. 1; Rom. 1)

 - 2B. The Son came to reveal God to men (John 1; Heb. 1)

- 5A. Non-Christian conceptions of God
 - 1B. Atheism – those who deny the Existence of God

 - 2B. Agnosticism – those who believe that you cannot know if there is a God.

 - 3B. Polytheism – those who believe there is more than one God.

 - 4B. Pantheism – those who believe everything (the universe) is God

 - 5B. Panentheism – those who believe that the universe is God although God is more than the universe.

 - 6B. Dualism – those who believe there are two hostile forces or beings (good/evil) in the world

 - 7B. Deism – those who believe God is transcendent but not immanent.

 - 8B. Monotheism – those who believe there is one God who is a person Creator, and judge of all.

- 6A. Comparative concepts of God