

# **Apologetics (CM4)**

## **The Existence of God II**

February 20, 2015

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# Apologetics (CM4)

Jan. 30 – Introduction to Apologetics

Feb. 6 – Reliability of Witnesses

Feb. 13 – The Existence of God

Feb. 20 – The Existence of God 2

Feb. 27 – **No Class**

Mar. 6 – Creation, Prophecy, Miracles, the  
Risen Christ

Mar. 13 – Responding to the New Atheists

Mar. 20 – Applying the Principles; Final Exam

# Philosophical Apologetics & the Existence of God

**Philosophical apologetics** – concerns itself primarily with arguments for the existence of God.

- ▶ **Ontological argument**
- ▶ **Cosmological argument**
- ▶ **Kalam Cosmological argument**
- ▶ **Teleological argument**
- ▶ **Fine-Tuning Teleological Argument**
- ▶ **Moral argument**
- ▶ **Transcendental argument**
- ▶ **Presuppositional arguments**
- ▶ **Reformed Epistemology's argument that belief in God is properly basic**

# Twenty Arguments For The Existence Of God – Peter Kreeft

1. The Argument from Change
2. The Argument from Efficient Causality (Cosmological)
3. The Argument from Time and Contingency
4. The Argument from Degrees of Perfection
5. The Teleological (Design) Argument
6. The Kalam Cosmological Argument
7. The Argument from Contingency
8. The Argument from the World as an Interacting Whole
9. The Argument from Miracles
10. The Argument from Consciousness
11. The Argument from Truth
12. The Argument from the Origin of the Idea of God
13. The Ontological Argument
14. The Moral Argument
15. The Argument from Conscience
16. The Argument from Desire
17. The Argument from Aesthetic Experience
18. The Argument from Religious Experience
19. The Common Consent Argument
20. Pascal's Wager

# Philosophical Apologetics & the Existence of God

## ➤ **Presuppositional Arguments**

- Argues that the basic beliefs of theists and nontheists require God as a necessary precondition.
- The argument goes like this:
  - 1. All people have certain presuppositions on which they base their perceptions, understanding and communication.
  - 2. Persons who insist they do not believe in God still hold - and act upon - presuppositions that demand the existence of God (inherent order, freedom, morality, reason, objective existence, etc.).
  - 3. This inconsistency is indefensible – unless there really is a God that has established order and underpins all things.
  - 4. Therefore, there must be a God.

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## ➤ **Argument from Freedom**

- People insist they are free to choose their own destinies. Yet determinate naturalism provides no basis or option for such freedom. Personal freedom is only consistent with belief in an eternally free and sovereign creator God who has made us in his image, including having the freedom to choose.
- The argument goes like this:
  - People insist that we are being who are free to choose our destinies, rather than victims of determination.
  - Belief in personal freedom is only consistent with theism, never with determinate naturalism.
  - Therefore, God exists.

# Philosophical Apologetics & the Existence of God

## ➤ **The Moral Argument**

- Argues that if there are any real objectively valid moral values, then there must be an absolute from which they are derived.
- The argument goes like this:
  - A human experience of morality is observed and is common to all people (or, *moral obligation is a fact of human existence*).
  - God is the best or only explanation for this universal moral experience.
  - Therefore, God exists.

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## ➤ **The Transcendental Argument**

- Argues that all our abilities to think and reason require the existence of God.
- The argument goes like this:
  - If there is no god (most often the entity God, defined as the God of the Bible, Yahweh), then knowledge (especially as related to absolute statements of logic) is not possible.
  - Knowledge is possible (or some other statement pertaining to logic or morality).
  - Therefore a god exists.



# Philosophical Apologetics & the Existence of God

## ➤ **Argument from Religious Experience**

- Suggests that the existence of God is effectively demonstrated by the almost universal fact of religious experience.
- The argument goes like this:
  - Many people of different eras and of widely different cultures claim to have had an experience of the "divine."
  - It is inconceivable that so many people could have been so utterly wrong about the nature and content of their own experience.
  - Therefore, there exists a "divine" reality which many people of different eras and of widely different cultures have experienced.

## Do we even need rational arguments for God's existence?

- Many modern philosophers and scientists maintain the principle of ***evidentialism*** – the view that *no belief should be held unless one has sufficient evidence for it*.
- There is strong logical evidence for the existence of God – but ***why should belief in God require evidence at all?***
- Why can't belief in God be seen as properly basic to our existence – that all people have a “*sense of the divine*” (as Calvin put it), in the same way that we have visual, auditory and other senses that require no further evidential support?
- **Reformed epistemology** proposes exactly that – insisting that belief in God is *properly basic* to humanity, and that those who do not have such belief are broken and blinded (by sin).
- **While we *have* good arguments for the existence of God, such arguments are not necessary for rational belief in God.**