

WORLD RELIGIONS: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN THEISM (Part A):

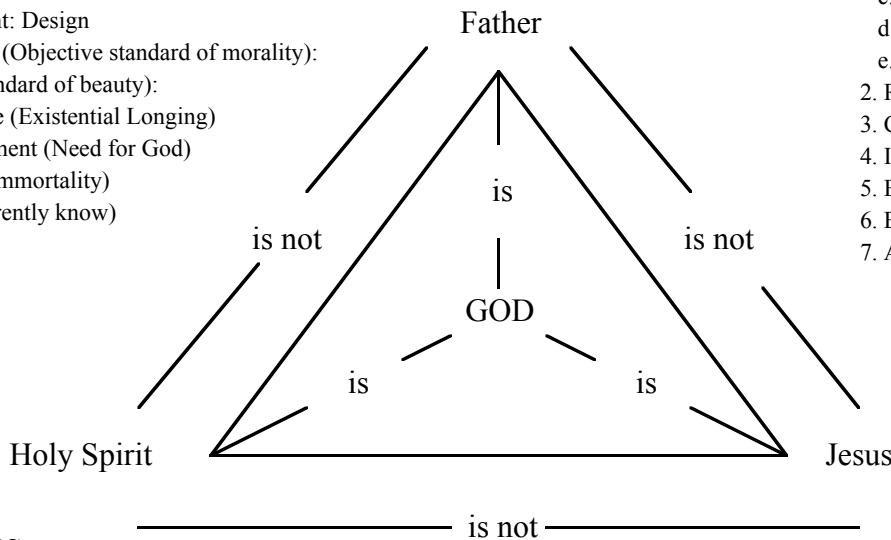
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ARGUMENTS:

1. Cosmological Argument: Cause & Effect (motion)
2. Kalam Cosmological Argument: Finiteness of Time
3. Ontological Argument: Definition
4. Teleological Argument: Design
5. Moral Law Argument (Objective standard of morality):
6. Beauty (Objective standard of beauty):
7. Argument from Desire (Existential Longing)
8. Religious Need Argument (Need for God)
9. Argument from Joy (immortality)
10. Innate Idea (We inherently know)
11. Evil (as a standard)

EXPERIENCES:

1. Five Witnesses of General Revelation:
 - a. Witness of Creation
 - b. Witness of Human Design
 - c. Witness of Godward Longings
 - d. Witness of Conscience
 - e. Witness of Consequences
2. Religious Experiences with God
3. Changed Lives
4. Internal Peace
5. Enduring meaning & significance found
6. Bonafide Miracles
7. Answered Prayers

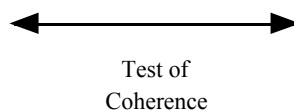


EVIDENCES:

1. Big Bang for Cosmological:
2. Kalam: Time (now)
3. Ontological: Use of God
4. Teleological:
 - a. Anthropic Principle
 - b. Specified Complexity
 - c. Irreducible Complexity
5. Objective Moral Law: Values, Duties, & Accountability
 - a. Undeniability of moral law
 - b. By personal reactions
 - c. Basis of human rights
 - d. Defines real differences between moral positions
 - e. Standard of rightness
 - f. Grounds for political & social dissent
 - g. Excuses made for breaking it.
6. Objective Beauty (standard)
7. The Reality of Evil
8. Cognitive True Beliefs

EXISTENTIAL:

- A. Fulfillment of Godward Longings:
 1. Authentic Love: to love & be loved in return.
 2. Beauty
 3. Destiny/Adventure worthwhile
 4. Identity
 5. Lasting fulfillment
 6. Goodness
 7. Someone to believe in
 8. Forgiveness for wrong-doings
 9. Atonement or redemption
 10. Immortality
 11. Justice
 12. Meaning & Purpose of our lives
 13. Peace & Contentment
 14. Purpose/Relevance
 15. Restoration
 16. Significance & Value
 17. Sublime Experiences
 18. True & Lasting Pleasures
 19. Ultimate Intelligibility
 20. Wholeness
- B. Cross-Cultural Awareness



COMPARATIVE WORLDVIEW KEY:

Atheism: God does not exist
 Agnosticism: Two types:
 (1) Soft: God may or may not exist
 (2) Hard: God can't exist
 Deism: Infinite god is beyond the universe but not in it
 Theism: Infinite and Personal God who is beyond and in the universe
 Finite Godism: Finite god is both beyond and in the universe
 Polytheism: Multiple & independent gods who are both beyond & in the universe
 Pantheism: God is the universe
 Panentheism: God is in the universe.
 Dualism: Two Eternal "Principles": "Light" & "Darkness."

ULTIMATE QUESTIONS:

- Origin:
 1. Where did we come from?
 Identity:
 2. What are we? Where did we come from?
 Meaning:
 3. Why are we here?
 Morality:
 4. How should we live?
 Destiny:
 5. Where are we going?
 Evil:
 6. What's gone with the world?
 Hope:
 7. What can be done to fix the problems of the world?

7-FOLD CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING TRUTH-CLAIMS

1. Logical Coherence
2. Empirical Adequacy
3. Existential Relevance
4. Workability
5. Viability
6. Explanatory Power
7. Ethical & Aesthetic Excellence