

Does God Exist?

† **It is a *de fide* (infallible) teaching of the Church that man can know God exists.**

- ⇒ Man can know this through Faith and through reason (when they are used correctly).
 - Most people accept this truth on Faith and/or 'common sense' (a subset of reason).
 - Consider the testimony of Sacred Scripture in Romans 1:18-25.
 - However, man can also employ a more rigorous use of right reason to demonstrate this truth.

▮ **Let us also clarify reasons why people deny God's existence:**

- [1] Society - This error is all around us today.
- [2] Laziness - Man does not exert sufficient effort to know this truth.
- [3] Uncritical - Man does not use reason correctly.
- [4] Intellectual - Man develops an abstract argument against God's existence.
- [5] CHOICE - Man chooses to believe God does not exist so as to live as he pleases.

Note: These are not mutually exclusive. One who denies God usually suffers from more than one.

† **We believe in God the Father Almighty, CREATOR of Heaven and earth.**

- ⇒ Creation clearly reveals that God exists.
- ⇒ Ultimately, there are only two options regarding this universe we inhabit:
 - (1) It has always existed and was not created. The universe is eternal.
 - (2) At some moment (in the beginning) this universe came into being (was created).

Note: We speak here of both space and time as the created universe we inhabit.

▮ **ORDER and DISORDER**

- ⇒ In laymen's terms the Law of Entropy¹ states that things naturally tend towards a more disordered state. All things are naturally in a process of 'decay'. Thus, they require energy (effort, intelligence, power) to be sustained.
- ⇒ This universal law (which is common sense) demonstrates that the great order in creation can not come from chaotic, random, or spontaneous natural processes.
- ⇒ Thus, there must be a Being – greater than the universe itself, than time and space – with purpose and with sufficient intelligence and power to create and sustain the universe in existence. This Being all men call God.

¹ The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that the total *entropy* of an isolated system (e.g., our universe) can never decrease over time, and is constant if and only if all processes are reversible. Isolated systems spontaneously evolve towards thermodynamic equilibrium, i.e., the state with maximum entropy. Entropy is the amount of molecular disorder or randomness.

▮ CAUSE and EFFECT

- ⇒ We observe that 'cause and effect' applies to all processes, material and immaterial.
 - This, in and of itself, is an indication of a particular kind of order in the universe. After all, we can ask why is there such a thing as "cause and effect."
- ⇒ The cause must be greater than the effect, that is, within itself it must necessarily have the power to 'cause' the particular 'effect.' (Example of an oak tree and an acorn.)
 - Recall the hierarchy of Creation.
 - Non-existence is not able to generate existence.
 - Immaterial matter (rocks and elements) can't manipulate or generate plants, plants don't exercise control over animals, and animals are unable to generate or have man's reason.
 - Spirit is of a higher order than matter, so it can manipulate matter. But matter is unable to generate that which is of the spirit.
- ⇒ Something (Being) must have caused all things, even caused the order of "cause and effect" and it must have the power to cause all things while Itself not being caused by another. This Uncaused Cause is the Being all men call God.

Proofs of God's Existence from Reason Are Plentiful. *Here are a few:*

- ⇒ **Argument from Order** - entropy and second law of thermodynamics.
- ⇒ **Argument from Intelligent Design**
So many conditions have to be 'just right,' in perfect balance, and at the same time, for life on this planet to exist and be maintained; only possible by a supremely intelligent and powerful Being.
- ⇒ **Argument from Cause and Effect** - there must be an ultimate Uncaused Cause.
- ⇒ **Argument from Motion** (or Change) - there must be an Unmoved Mover that is changeless.
- ⇒ **Argument from Contingent Existence**
If all things which exist are contingent, all things would slip back into nothingness. Yet they do not. All we see is contingent, but there must be a self-existent Being. God reveals Himself thus as "I Am Who Am" (Ex 3:14). Existence is His essence.
- ⇒ **Argument from Conscience** - Man knows good is to be rewarded and evil is to be punished. He has concept of justice and a moral conscience.
- ⇒ **Argument from Universality**
All men, in every time and every place, regardless of culture, have known that God exists. It takes an advanced level of reconditioning and brainwashing (often under the erroneous guise of 'higher learning') to deny this common sense which is ingrained in every man.
- ⇒ **Argument from the Transcendentals**
All men desire truth, beauty, goodness, and unity. Man's infinite capacity for them is insatiable in this life. It can only be fulfilled hereafter by an infinite, perfect and spiritual Being who possesses all these qualities and places in man the desire for them (for Himself).