

# APOLOGETICS – THE MORAL ARGUMENT

## WHAT IS THE MORAL ARGUMENT?

Framework:

1. There are objective moral facts.
2. God provides the best explanation of the existence of objective moral facts.
3. Therefore, God (probably) exists

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

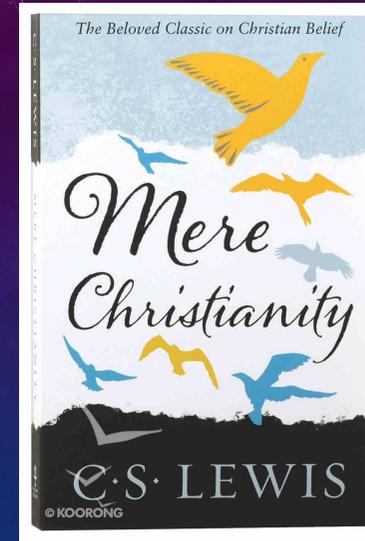
## 1 PETER 3:15

- “But in your hearts set Christ apart as Holy (and acknowledge Him) as Lord. **Always be ready to give a logical defense** to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.



COSMOLOGICAL + FINE-TUNING + MORAL + RESURRECTION + MIRACLES

GOD



## MORAL VALUES

- Honesty
- Justice
- Charity
- Bravery
- Fidelity
- Modesty
- Sincerity
- Kindness

## COMMON EXAMPLES

- How'd you like it if I did the same to you?
- That's my seat, I was there first!
- Leave him alone, he isn't doing you any harm.
- Give me a bit of your orange, I gave you a bit of mine!
- Come on, you promised!

## LAWS OF NATURE

- Biological, Gravitational = Obey
- Law of Human Nature = Choose to obey or disobey. “Ought” to obey

• *“Each man is at every moment subjected to several different sets of law but there is only one of these which he is free to disobey. As a body, he is subjected to gravitation and cannot disobey it; if you leave him unsupported in mid-air, he has no more choice about falling than a stone has. As an organism, he is subjected to various biological laws which he cannot disobey any more than an animal can. That is, he cannot disobey those laws which he shares with other things; but the law which is peculiar to his human nature, the law he does not share with animals or vegetables or inorganic things, is the one he can disobey if he chooses.”*

- Law of Human Nature – laws and duties distinctly Human values. Man alone has moral values – principals that are a part of him.

*“This law was called the Law of Nature because people thought that everyone knew it by nature and did not need to be taught it. And I believe they were right. If they were not, then all the things we said about the war were nonsense. What was the sense in saying the enemy were in the wrong unless Right is a real thing which the Nazis at bottom knew as well as we did and ought to have practised?” – C.S Lewis, Mere Christianity*

*“But the most remarkable thing is this. Whenever you find a man who says he does not believe in a real Right and Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later. He may break his promise to you, but if you try breaking one to him he will be complaining “It's not fair” before you can say Jack Robinson.”*

*- C.S Lewis, Mere Christianity*

## SUBJECTIVE VALUES

- Vegemite or Marmite?
- Whittakers or Cadbury?
- “You have your truth, I have mine.”
- “Who are you to judge?”

If no set of moral values were truer or better than any other, there would be no sense in preferring civilized morality to savage morality – or, Christian morality to Nazi morality.

*“The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, you are, in fact, measuring them both by a standard, saying that one of them conforms to that standard more nearly than the other. But the standard that measures two things is something different from either. You are, in fact, comparing them both with some Real Morality”*  
– C.S Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

*“A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line”*



C.S Lewis

The theist must defend the reality of morality against subjectivist and nihilistic critics.

- Subjectivism = **X**
- What about Nihilism?

## MICHAEL RUSE

- “I think ultimately there is nothing—moral nihilism, if you wish.”
- “The man who says that it is morally acceptable to rape little children is just as mistaken as the man who says,  $2+2=5$ .” – Michael Ruse, *Darwin Defended*

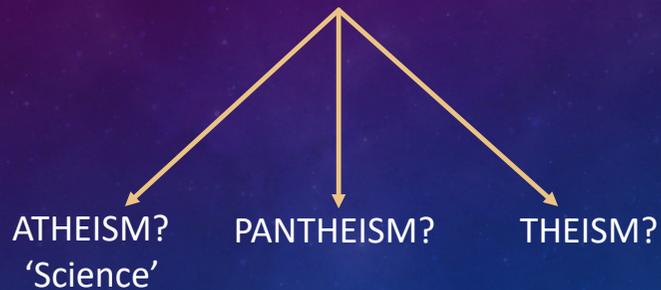


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## MORALITY – WHERE FROM?

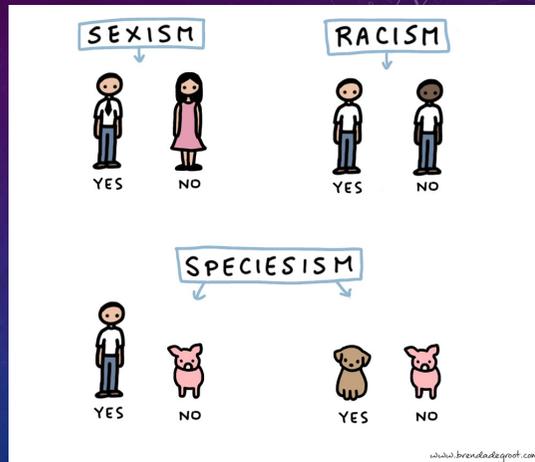


## ATHIESM

- Big Bang
- 4.5 Billion years ago, life begins from ‘primordial soup’
- No design, no purpose.
- Darwinian Natural Selection.
- “We are but a piece of meat hurtling through space on a tiny and insignificant rock”

## SPECIESISM

- “Speciesism is the differing treatment or moral consideration of individuals based on their species membership. This involves treating members of one species as morally more important than members of other species in the context of their similar interests.”



*“In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won’t find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference ... DNA just is, and we dance to it’s music.”*

– Richard Dawkins, *River out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*



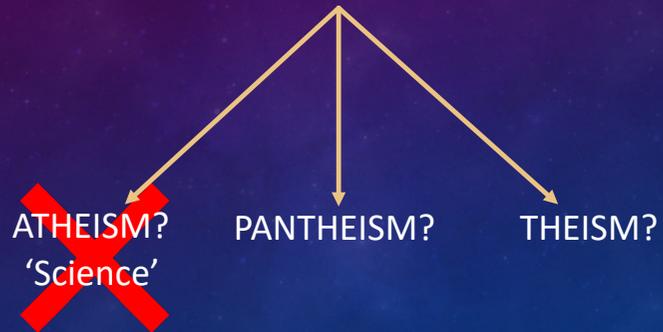
**Belief** in God is not essential for the existence of morality, but the **Existence** of God is.

- We cannot get the ‘ought’ from the ‘is’ – Hume
- “You are right in speaking of the moral foundations of science, but you cannot turn around and speak of the scientific foundations of morality.” – Einstein

- Morality **cannot** be found in science.



## MORALITY – WHERE FROM?



## PANTHEISM

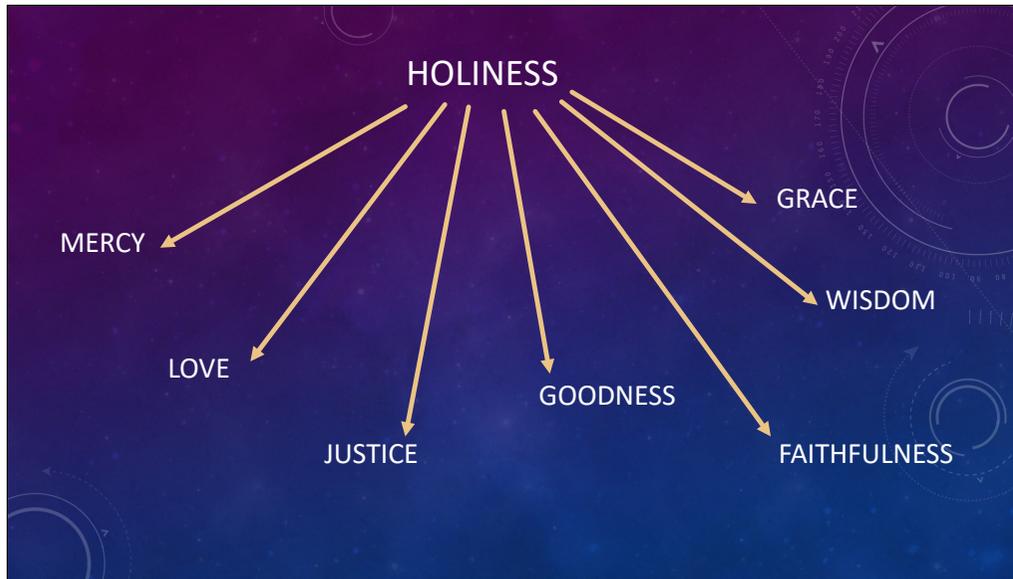
- Pan (all) , Theos (God)
- Eastern mysticism, Hinduism.
- Everything is God. YOU are God.
- Eerily similar to the serpent's lie.

## MORALITY – WHERE FROM?



## THEISM

- The Bible speaks of a God who is Holy.
- God's character is the standard that all other actions are judged by.
- All attributes of the Moral Law can be measured against the yardstick of God's character.
- Genesis 1:26 – We have a moral conscience because God has made us in His image.



Romans 2:13-15:

*13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)*

Perhaps the greatest testament to how God values humans can be summed up in this; God *became* one.

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## MORALITY – WHERE FROM?



*"Universalistic egalitarianism, from which sprang the ideals of freedom and a collective life in solidarity, the autonomous conduct of life and emancipation, the individual morality of conscience, human rights and democracy, is the direct legacy of the Judaic ethic of justice and the Christian ethic of love. This legacy, substantially unchanged, has been the object of continual critical appropriation and reinterpretation. To this day, there is no alternative to it. And in light of the current challenges of a postnational constellation, we continue to draw on the substance of this heritage. Everything else is just idle postmodern talk."*

*Jürgen Habermas - "Time of Transitions", Polity Press, 2006, pp. 150-151, translation of an interview from 1999).*