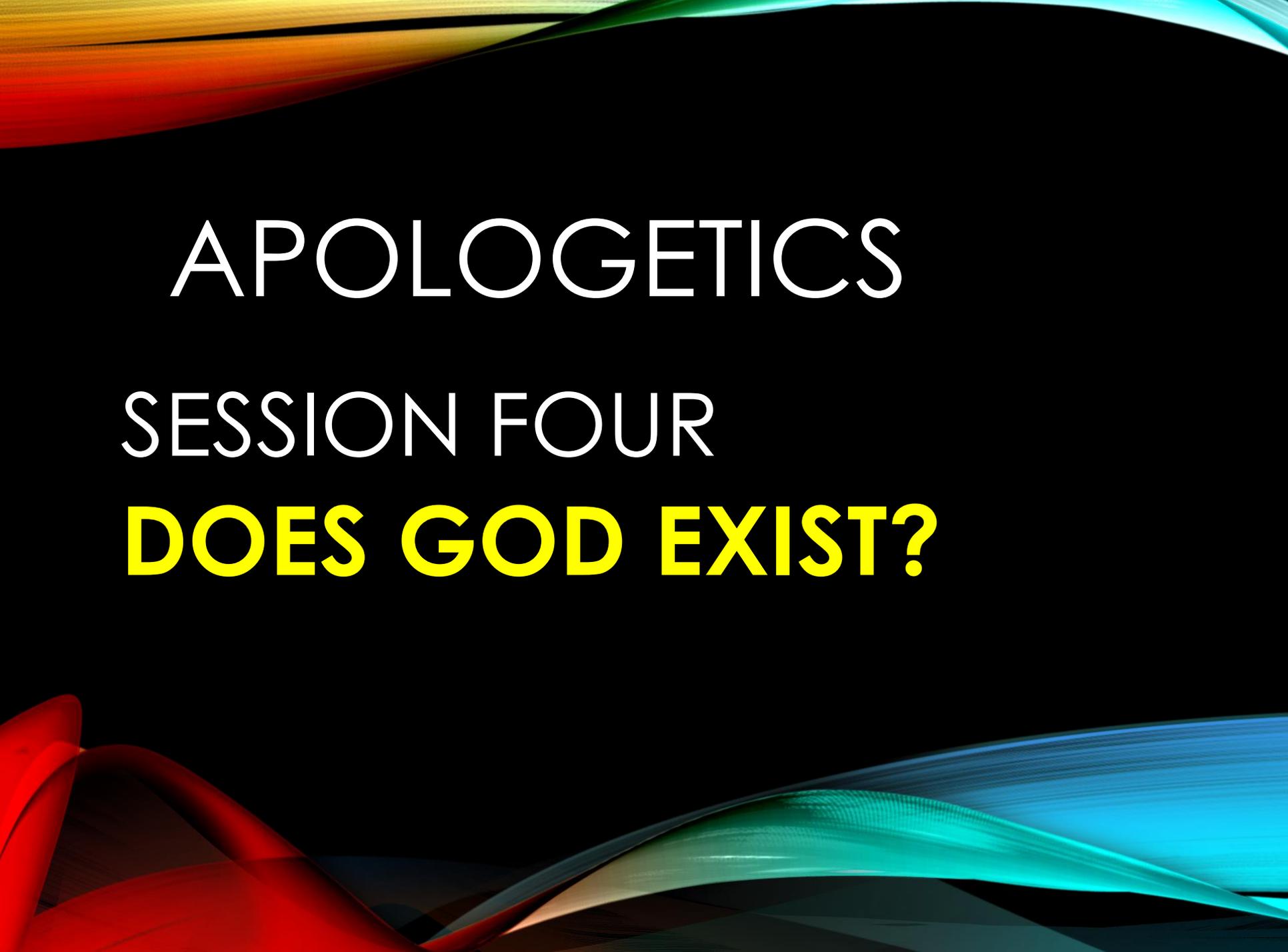


THE FIREPLACE

“The place where Wisdom
is transacted”





APOLOGETICS

SESSION FOUR

DOES GOD EXIST?



ASK

**Who are those who
object to the Existence
of God?**

ATHEISM:

Position: A disbelief in the existence of deity *and* the doctrine and propagation that there is no deity (God or gods).

Example: Richard Dawkins “The God Delusion” :
“Any creative intelligence, of sufficient complexity to design anything, comes into existence only as the end product of an extended process of gradual evolution therefore God is a delusion.”

Christopher Hitchens: Steadfastly affirms atheism and decries religion as “a reflection of residual superstitions that no longer square with our contemporary lives.” Book “God is Not Great”

ENTRY IS FREE!



Call [redacted] for details

byob!

THE ATHEISTS PARTY

Gravity Lounge - Kimathi Street, Nairobi, Kenya

WITHOUT GOD!

*30th, April
2016*

www [redacted]

A
ATHEISTS
IN KENYA

5.00 PM

The Agnostics:

Position:

1. A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena; a person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God.
2. His claim is "We cannot know and we do not know"

Example: Aldous Huxley, Franz Kafka

NIHILISM

Meaning: German *Nihilismus*, from Latin *nihil* nothing.

The rejection of all religious and moral principles, often in the belief that life is meaningless. A viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless

Example: Freidrich Nieztche: ***The Gay Science***

“Have you not heard of the mad man who lit a lamp in broad daylight and ran up and down the market place shouting incessantly: ‘I’m looking for God! I’m looking for God!’ But because many of the people who were standing by did not believe in God, he aroused a great deal of mirth...But the madman thrust in between them and fixed them with his eyes. Where is God? Where is God? He shouted, “I’ll tell you! We have killed Him – you and I! We are all his murderers! But how have we done it?

FREIDRICH NIETZCHE (Cont.)

“How could we drink the sea dry? Who gave us the sponge to wipe away the horizon? What did we do when we uncoupled the earth from its sun? Where is the Earth moving now? Where are we moving to? Away from all suns? Are we not running incessantly? Backwards, sideways and forwards in all directions? Is there still an above and a below? Are we not wondering through an infinite nothing? Is not the void yawning ahead of us? Is it not becoming colder? Is it not more and more night? Do the lamps not have to be lit during the day? Do we hear nothing of the decomposition of God? God is dead! And we have killed him!...”



G. K. Chesterton:

“When God is dead,
people do not believe in
nothing they believe in
anything.”

Secular Humanism:

Position:

1. The belief that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God. Some of their beliefs stated out in the *Humanist Manifesto I & II*.
2. Humanity do not need to believe in God to reach self-actualization. We can do it ourselves.

Example: David Hume, Charles Swinburne:
"Glory to man"

SKEPTICISM

Position:

1. An attitude of doubt or a disposition to incredulity either in general or toward a particular object
2. The doctrine that true knowledge or knowledge in a particular area is uncertain
3. The method of suspended judgment, systematic doubt, or criticism

Pluralism:

1. A situation in which people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., are together in a society but continue to have their different traditions and interests
2. The belief that people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., should live together in a society
3. It opposes the exclusivism of Christianity but embraces any inclusivity

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

1. Is it rational in this secular age to believe in an omnipotent, omniscient, wholly good Creator of the world?
2. The Enlightenment charge to dispel superstition and credulity by right reason has led some to contend that religious belief has reached its demise.

Werner von Braun, the father of space science:

“The vast mysteries of the universe should only confirm our belief in the certainty of its creator. I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science”

1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV

“15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

“I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.”

The earliest written version of the creed is perhaps the *Interrogatory Creed of Hippolytus* (ca. A.D. 215).

When the person being baptized goes down into the water, he who baptizes him, putting his hand on him, shall say: **"Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?"** And the person being baptized shall say: "I believe." Then holding his hand on his head, he shall baptize him once.

Heb 11:3NIV

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Heb 11:6NIV

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Heb 1:10NASB

"Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the works of Thy hands;

Col 1:15-18

15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.



Ps 14:1 NIV

14 The fool says in his heart,
"There is no God."

A PRIORI ARGUMENT:

1. God exists
2. He is not to be reasoned or argued into existence. Reasoning about him does not change the fact that he exists even if an individual seems to win an argument on the contrary.
3. Even if poll is conducted and the majority vote on the contrary , He still exists.
4. He is prior to everything else.
5. God is.
6. Os Guinness, Francis Schaeffer, Tertullian, Blaise Pascal.

Tertullian:

“What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?”

If faith is a function of the emotive, intuitive part of us more than the intellectual, rational part, is not the whole of apologetics an exercise in futility?

Blaise Pascal:

“Le Dieu define est le Dieu fini!”

**“Define God and you have lost
Him”**

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

- 1. The Ontological Argument: None-Greater Being**
- 2. The Cosmological Argument: Cause and Effect**
- 3. The Teleological Argument: Intelligent Designer**
- 4. Moral and Anthropological Argument: A oral Law-giver**
- 5. The Finitude of Human Beings Argument: (Massive amounts of information outside their realm of Knowing)**
- 6. Shifting the Burden of Proof: Why do they think God does not exist?**

THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), in his *Proslogium* was the originator of this view:

1. By definition, God is a being than which none greater can be imagined.
2. A being that *necessarily* exists in reality is greater than a being that does not *necessarily* exist.
3. Thus, by definition, if God exists as an idea in the mind but does not necessarily exist in reality, then we can imagine something that is greater than God.

ONTOLOGICAL (CONT.)

4. But we cannot imagine something that is greater than God.

5. Thus, if God exists in the mind as an idea, then God necessarily exists in reality.

6. God exists in the mind as an idea.

7. Therefore, God necessarily exists in reality.

ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT SUMMARY.

- 1. God is a being non greater
can be conceived**
- 2. A being which non greater
can be conceived must exist**
- 3. Therefore, God exists.**

THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Causal form:

1. The world is the effect - what is the cause?
2. If there is no initial uncaused cause then we get into infinite regression which is absurd.
3. There must be uncaused cause and it is God

COSMOLOGICAL (CONT.) CONTINGENCY FORM.

- 1. Everything true must have a sufficient cause why it is the case and not another.**
- 2. It is true that the universe exists**
- 3. Therefore there must be a time when nothing in the universe existed.**
- 4. Must be a cause that is external and non-contingent to bring the world into existence.**
- 5. God is that sufficient cause.**