

## Who is God?

Thousands of books have been written debating the existence of God. There are numerous ways to come at the question.

But I know of few people who have come to belief in God from sorting through all the philosophical arguments.

The Bible assumes God's existence. But it does give hints about evidence.

**Psalm 14:1** - "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good."

**Hebrews 11:6** - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Paul addresses this discussing idols:

**1 Corinthians 8:5-6** - "If after all there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we live, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we live."

The Psalms say that all of nature reveals God's role as designer.

**Psalm 19:1** - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."

Paul explains that unbelievers have no excuse for denying God's existence:

**Romans 1:19-20** - "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

## Witnesses

But most believers came to faith after they heard a friend or family member talk about their own personal experience with God or Jesus. Or maybe they heard a preacher talk about his own experience. In either case, they heard testimony from a witness they trusted.

What we find in the scriptures are stories about people leading others to Jesus.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, Andrew followed Jesus, then brought his brother Peter. Later Philip was called as a disciple by Jesus, and Philip brought his friend Nathaniel and told him, "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the

prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (**John 1:45**)

There were exceptions of course. Saul/Paul was knocked off his horse by a blinding light and a personal appearance from the ascended Christ.

At other times and places, people were struck when they witnessed the courage of persecuted martyrs facing death, and sought out believers to explain this faith to them.

It was person-to-person relationships for the most part that grew the church.

But we do find early church fathers like Justin Martyr and Tertullian arguing in writing with both Jewish and pagan opponents of Christianity, touching on philosophy, myth and reason in defending the new faith.

Since the 19th century, science has provided issues to question the concept of God as creator and the existence of the supernatural and miracles. But science also keeps upending previous scientific theories. In areas like quantum physics it has pushed the scientific view of reality closer to the religious realm. Human consciousness had become even harder to understand under the scientific microscope. Time itself doesn't fit into current theories. The cosmos seems too defy the standard model that has governed our understanding for a century. String theory and the multiverse have arisen as untestable theories to explain this.

There are ample resources for exploring arguments for the existence of God and other arenas of what is called "apologetics" on the Internet.

Peter said, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (**1 Peter 3:15**).

But there is no more powerful argument than someone confessing, "I was in total despair, but when I looked to Jesus as my savior, I was forgiven, my guilt is gone, my burdens were lifted and I am at peace! And you can be too! Just take your troubled life and leave it at the cross."

There's a promise attached to this:

**Matthew 7:7-8** - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

### **What About the Trinity?**

How can Christians claim to be monotheists (believers in one god) and yet talk about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as a Trinity?

Although the term "trinity" is not in the scriptures, the different terms of Father, Son and

Spirit are mentioned often.

All three appear together at Jesus' baptism:

**Matthew 3:16-17** - "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Much blood and ink has been spilled over the centuries arguing about this issue.

The creeds of different denominations explain this in different ways. Are they different aspects of the same person? Different persons of the same godhead?

It may be a cop-out, but I don't think our limited human brains can adequately grasp how God is put together, or how his inner workings are designed and operate.

All we need to know is that He is there. All we have to go on is what is revealed to us in the scriptures. Many of the descriptions of the Trinity in early church history were written to counter some obvious heresy - an error extrapolated from interpreting the scriptures in a twisted or convoluted way.

St. Patrick (389-461 A.D.) had a famous analogy - the Trinity was like a common three-leaf shamrock clover - a single plant with three leaves is analogous to the one Triune God with three separate and distinct Persons.

That works for me.