

Are you good without God?

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Moral Argument:

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values & duties do not exist.
2. Objective moral values & duties do exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

3 Great Things about this Argument:

1. Morality is a very personal and existentially significant issue
 - Everybody confronts it every day- it's hard to ignore

3 Great Things about this Argument:

2. Almost everybody already believes BOTH premises
 - They've just never put them together to reach the conclusion.

3. It ties in very naturally with the gospel, with our message

- We all neglect our moral duties & transgress moral prohibitions
- Therefore, we are objectively guilty before God
- Therefore, we need forgiveness

Distinction:

Objective

VS

Subjective

A moral value or duty is objective if it is still true and binding

... even if nobody believes it's true or binding.

It is independent of people's opinions

Moral values or duties are subjective if they exist only in the minds of people (subjects)

Subjective things are dependent on people's opinions.

To say the Holocaust was objectively wrong means it would still be wrong...

... even if everybody believed it was right.

Distinction:

Values (Good / evil)

VS

Duties (Right / wrong)

$$\text{Fair value} = \frac{D}{r} + \frac{CF_1}{r(1+r)} + \frac{CF_2}{r(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{CF_T}{r(1+r)^T} + \frac{V_T}{r(1+r)^T}$$

**Values have to do with
Goodness & Badness**

Duties have to do with
obligations & prohibitions

Distinction:

Moral "Epistemology"

VS

Moral "Ontology"

"Epistemology"

Has to do with KNOWING.

How we KNOW things,

what we KNOW.

Moral Epistemology:

Believers & non-believers are both able to KNOW good / bad & right/wrong.

God has given all people a conscience.

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

(Rom 2:14-15)

Entity = "Ontology"

Has to do with the reality of
things, the nature of things'
existence

Moral Ontology:

This argument is based upon whether or not Objective Good & Evil actually EXIST, and whether Objective Duties & Prohibitions actually EXIST.

Moral Ontology:

Objective good & evil, right & wrong, if it exists, is grounded in God.

There isn't any other plausible foundation or basis for objective morality actually existing.

Moral Ontology:

What could Objective Good consist of,
except the qualities of a transcendent
PERSON?

Who or what could impose an objective
moral DUTY or PROHIBITION upon us,
besides God?

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Moral Ontology:

Objective good has traditionally been thought of as grounded in God's essence.

Everything about God is good- he is the final standard of good.

The goodness or badness of a thing depends on how accurately it reflects God's character.

Moral Ontology:

God is the "Greatest Good"
(the "Summum Bonum")

He is the moral plumb line against which
everything else is measured.

Moral Ontology:

Objective duties / prohibitions have been traditionally thought of as God's commands, such as the Ten Commandments.

He commands people made in his image to act in ways that are consistent with His character.

Moral Ontology:

Moral value has traditionally been thought of
as being located in persons
because they are created in the image of God.

Reflection:

God can be defined as

"The Greatest Conceivable Being"

If anything were greater than God, THAT
would be God.

*The Greatest Conceivable
Being*

... would have moral perfection as one
of its qualities.

The Greatest Conceivable Being

Is there anything about God that YOU think could be better / greater?

If so, then you have an inadequate concept of God.

That better / greater thing is really God.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Is premise #1 true?

Apart from God, it is very hard to imagine
what would be the basis of the existence of
objective moral values & duties.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Most people who say there's no God are
Naturalists / Materialists.

- According to this view, all that exists is matter in motion.
- Humans are just relatively evolved animals.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



According to this view, our morals are simply evolutionary adaptations like arms, eyes & teeth for perpetuating the species.

- Just the product of socio-biological evolution
- Even baboons exhibit self sacrificing behavior.
- There is nothing objectively good or bad about our moral content itself.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



*"There is at bottom no design, no purpose, no
evil, no good, nothing but pointless indifference*

...

We are machines for propagating DNA ...

It is every living object's sole reason for being"

~ Richard Dawkins

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



*"The position of the modern evolutionist...
is that humans have an awareness of
morality...
because such an awareness has biological
worth..."*

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



*"Morality is just an aid to survival and
reproduction, ...
and any deeper meaning is illusory."*

~ Michael Ruse

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Stubborn humanists will often insist that objective moral values & duties do exist, simply because it is so obvious that they do exist.

**If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.**

**Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.**

Therefore, God exists.



(This exemplifies the confusion between
Epistemology & Ontology)

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



It is true that it is obvious that they do exist, but that is premise #2 of our argument.

The question is, on Atheism, what basis do objective morals have for existing?

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



We're not disputing that believers & non-believers
alike perceive that they exist.

The point is that if Atheism is true, they can't exist
objectively; they are just products of our
conditioning.

To think humans are special is "species – ism"

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



On Atheism, what is so special about humans
that they have moral value?

Why are humans more special than pigs or
chimps?

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Humanists often claim that whatever promotes human flourishing is good, & they stop there.

We might agree with the definition.

But why, on atheism, are humans special or valuable in the first place?

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Atheistic Moral Platonism?

(Moral values exist abstractly)

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Atheistic Moral Platonism?

- What does it even mean for a moral value to exist apart from a person ???
- The moral value itself would not have that moral quality
 - Abstract Mercy is not merciful, only persons can be merciful

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Atheistic Moral Platonism?

- How could an abstract moral value impose a duty upon us?
- Why are we obligated to emulate the virtues instead of the vices?
 - Why would we obligated to be kind instead of cruel?
 - Loving as opposed to hateful?

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



We have shown that there is no basis
or foundation for the existence of
objective moral values & duties if
God does not exist.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

Everybody knows
this is simply true.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

Even if we don't live up to our own
standards, we all will insist that
certain things that other people do
are objectively wrong.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

"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

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

We have no more cause to doubt the
objectivity of the moral values & duties
which we perceive...

... than we do the objectivity of the
physical world which we perceive.

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

Some people are morally impaired, but that shouldn't cause us to doubt the existence of the objective morals we perceive.

No more than a blind person would cause us to doubt the objective existence of the physical world.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

It is true that moral theories change over time &
moral progress can be made.

But how could progress be made unless a standard
of perfection existed?

And what form of existence could this standard
take besides God?

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

If somebody tries to deny that objective morals exist, press them about something you know they care about:

- "Would it be objectively wrong to round up all the homosexuals and put them in concentration camps?"

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



- "Is the Indian practice of Suttee objectively wrong?"
- What about binding infant Chinese girls' feet so they resemble lotus flowers?
- "Would it be objectively wrong to force all science teachers to only teach 6 day creationism?"

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

Objection:

"Morals are developed through
(naturalistic) evolutionary processes of
biological selection and socio-cultural
conditioning"

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Answer:

1. It begs the question to say that they are developed through naturalistic processes (ASSUMES there is no God)
2. This commits the genetic fallacy.

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.



Genetic Fallacy:

- You can't invalidate a belief by explaining how that belief came to be held by a certain person.
- You have to address the content of the belief itself

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

- So even if morals were discovered through evolutionary processes, it would not mean they don't correspond to objectively existing morals.

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.



Even if objective morals are gradually DISCOVERED (not invented) over time, that is more plausibly coordinated by God than explained by naturalistic processes.

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.



Euthyphro Dilemma:

- Does God will something because it is good?
- Or is something good because God wills it?

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.

Therefore, God exists.



If God wills things because they are good, it
means the good CAN exist outside God

(and it also means God is subservient to the
good)

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

If things are good because God wills them,
that seems to make the good arbitrary.

(God could have willed torturing babies, and
that would be good)

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values & Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

Euthyphro Dilemma is NOT a dilemma; there is a third option:

- God wills what He does because HE is good; he wills what is consistent with his NATURE.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

So the good does not exist outside God,

AND a question like:

"If God willed that we eat our children, would that be good?"

is simply an incoherent question, like

"Does a circular square have 4 right angles?"

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.



Objective Moral Values &
Duties DO Exist.



Therefore, God exists.

So, we have shown:
Objective Moral Values &
Duties Do Exist.

If no God, Then No Objective
Moral Values or Duties.

Objective moral values &
duties **DO** exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Since objective moral values & duties do exist,
and they cannot exist apart from God,
God must Exist.

If no God, Then No Objective Moral Values or Duties.

Objective moral values & duties DO exist.

Therefore, God exists.



Practical motivation to believe the conclusion:

- Lack of accountability decreases moral motivation
- Final accountability has a morally bracing effect

Moral Argument:



If God does not exist, then objective moral values & duties do not exist.



2.

Objective moral values & duties do exist.



3.

Therefore, God exists.

The best explanation of:

- The empty tomb
- Jesus' post-mortem appearances
- The disciples' belief in Jesus' resurrection

Is the hypothesis:

"God raised Jesus from the dead".