

# Week 4 Philosophical Apologetics for the Existence of God

## 1. Overview

This lecture explores major philosophical arguments for God's existence and examines the relationship between human reason and divine revelation.

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## 2. Learning Objectives

- 1) Understand key philosophical arguments for God's existence
  - 2) Analyze their strengths and limitations
  - 3) Establish a Pauline perspective on apologetics
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## 3. Core Content

### 1) Necessity of Philosophical Apologetics

- (1) Humans can perceive God (Romans 1:19–20)
  - (2) Sin distorts human reason
  - (3) Apologetics defends faith, not creates it
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### 2) Major Philosophical Arguments

#### (1) Cosmological Argument

- ① Every effect has a cause
- ② The universe had a beginning

Conclusion: God as the First Cause

- ① Strength: Logical clarity
  - ② Limitation: Does not prove a personal God
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#### (2) Teleological Argument

- ① Order and design imply a designer
  - ② Conclusion: Intelligent Designer = God  
Example: Laws of nature, complexity of life  
Limitation: Evolutionary objections
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#### (3) Ontological Argument

- ① God = the greatest conceivable being
- ② Existence is a perfection  
Conclusion: God must exist  
Strength: Purely rational  
Limitation: Abstract and debated

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#### (4) Moral Argument

- ① Universal moral law exists
- ② Moral law requires a lawgiver

Conclusion: God exists

Strength: Based on human experience

Limitation: Moral relativism

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#### 3) Limitations of Philosophy

- (1) Reason alone cannot fully know God
  - (2) Saving faith comes through revelation
  - (3) Philosophy points the way but cannot give life
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#### 4) Pauline Perspective

- (1) Knowledge of God is already evident (Romans 1)
  - (2) The issue is not lack of evidence, but rejection
  - (3) True apologetics is centered on the cross
  - (4) Key Point: "We proclaim the Gospel, not merely arguments"
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#### 4. Discussion Questions

- 1) Can philosophical arguments fully prove God's existence?
  - 2) Why do people reject God despite evidence?
  - 3) What did Paul emphasize instead of philosophy?
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#### 5. Application

- 1) Use philosophical arguments as tools in evangelism
  - 2) Keep the Gospel central
  - 3) Maintain balance between reason and revelation
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#### 6. Assignment

- 1) Critically analyze one argument
- 2) Identify passages in Paul's letters about knowledge of God