

The Existence of God – Fact or Intuition?

In the literature of modern Christian apologetics the first issues addressed fall in the area of metaphysics, the consideration of origin and ultimate causes. For believers these things are explained in God. In discussions among believers about how to present the case for God's existence, we tend to fall into two categories, 1) those who examine the physical evidence and 2) those who appeal to intuition. Those who respond with intuitive notions have little patience with the presentation of physical evidence and quickly become bored. Those, on the other hand, who are impressed with the logical inductions and deductions from the physical world are exasperated by the lack of interest in those who rely on their instincts. The one group says, "How can you not be impressed with this array of scientific evidence and logical implications? It is such powerful proof." The second group replies, "Oh, Hum! Most people are not interested in all that scientific gobbledygook. The experience of life is enough to demonstrate that God is a reality" Interestingly both are appealing to reason.

Both sides of the issue have something to offer to the argument. The scientist looks at the tree and sees God in the profoundly complex design of its components which gives it life and the ability to reproduce itself. He sees a master designer behind that which could not possibly have organized itself into life. The poet looks at the tree and sees God in the majestic beauty of one of His masterpieces, understanding that the tree arose at the hands of a great tree maker, just like a painting comes into being at the hands of a painter. The first comes to his understanding by logical observation, the latter more by intuition. The first tries to "nail down" God, as far as he can, with a body of evidence that produces an irrefutable prima facie case. The latter arrives at his conclusion by a more philosophical route. He recognizes that there are simply certain things about existence that we universally sense are true. Both points of view have their place in the argument. Both will aid us in our acceptance of God's existence.

As we proceed with our discussions we recognize that our readers are as varied as the arguers. We therefore must attempt to address as many of the issues relating to the evidence as we can. In the course of the next several months, as we present the case for the existence of God, some will be interested in some portion of the material and not in others. Those who are already believers may become impatient with the messages, thinking that the existence of God is obvious and let's get on with what we are to do with that fact. Others may think that we went too fast and something more needs to be said. We encourage all of you to call, write, contact our website, visit our assemblies, or send an e-mail. Throughout the process we ask you to deeply consider all the information, for all of it will aid us in our journey to God.