

Talk 3: Faith Seeking Understanding

- “But in your hearts revere 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.” (1 Peter 3:15)
 - Apologetics is a good starting point
 - Strengthens one’s faith and confidence in God
 - Can convince people on the fence to believe in God
 - Philosophy isn’t everything
- A cumulative case: all these arguments work together towards the truth of the Christian message
- Different Types of Atheism
- Cosmological Argument
 - There are many different types of cosmological arguments
 - Kalam Cosmological Argument:
 - P1: Everything that begins to exist has a cause
 - P2: The universe began to exist
 - C1: The universe has a cause
 - This cause is
 - Immaterial
 - Timeless
 - Cannot be within the universe
 - Interview with Dr Andrew Loke (Philosophy for All)
- Design/ Fine-tuning Argument
 - Fine-tuning Argument
 - The universe is finely-tuned for life
 - If anything was any different, the world would not be habitable
 - The Intricate Design of the Universe
 - If you came across a watch on the beach, you would assume that there was a creator
 - Things work together well and are not the result of random chance
 - The Designer is:
 - Personal
 - Cares for order and humanity
 - Interview with Robin Collins and Luke Barnes (Philosophy for All)
- Moral Argument
 - P1: If there is no God, there are no objective morals and values
 - P2: There are objective morals and values
 - C1: There is a God
- Resurrection Argument
 - 1. Jesus believed that he was the Messiah in a unique fashion
 - 2. Jesus was crucified and died
 - 3. Jesus was buried.
 - 4. Jesus was seen numerous times after his death.
 - Scholarly work of William Lane Craig and Andrew Loke

Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways in which people could challenge Christian faith? Have you ever experienced such challenges?
- How have you responded to these questions? Do you believe that your responses were convincing or helpful to the atheist?
- What are some of the reasons for why people become Christians? What are some reasons why people are atheists?
- What are some of the short-comings of apologetics in evangelism and Christianity?