

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW APOLOGETICS – Lessons 5

ATHEISM / AGNOSTICISM / MATERIALISM / DARWINISM ETERNAL GOD VS ETERNAL MATTER VERSUS CHRISTIAN, BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

All definitions for the following terms are taken from prominent online resources (i.e., Merriam-Webster, Dictionary.com, Wikipedia, etc.)

Atheism (def.)

Atheism (traditional definition)

The doctrine that there is no God; denial of the existence of God or gods. The term “A – theism” means non-theism ... i.e. “no god”

(New Definition)

A lack of belief or a strong disbelief in the existence of a god or any gods.

(New definition example)

Atheists. org - "Atheism is not an affirmative belief that there is no god nor does it answer any other question about what a person believes. It is simply a rejection of the assertion that there are gods. Atheism is too often defined incorrectly as a belief system. To be clear: Atheism is not a disbelief in gods or a denial of gods; it is a lack of belief in gods."

Agnosticism (def.)

"The belief that the existence or nonexistence of a deity or deities cannot be known with certainty."

"Agnosticism is the view that the existence of God, the divine, or the supernatural is not certainly known. It is a confidence level parameter, and should not be confused with the terms theism and atheism."

Materialism (def.)

"Materialism is a form of philosophical monism that holds that matter is the fundamental substance in nature, and that all things, including mental states and consciousness, are results of material interactions."

"A theory that physical matter is the only or fundamental reality and that all being and processes and phenomena can be explained as manifestations or results of matter."

Darwinism (def.)

"Darwinism is a theory of biological evolution developed by the English naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) and others, stating that all species of organisms arise and develop through the natural selection of small, inherited variations that increase the individual's ability to compete, survive, and reproduce."

"A theory of the origin and perpetuation of new species of animals and plants that offspring of a given organism vary, that natural selection favors the survival of some of these variations over

others, that new species have arisen and may continue to arise by these processes, and that widely divergent groups of plants and animals have arisen from the same ancestors."

Humanism (def.)

"Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good. Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion."

-- **The definitions of the concepts above are meant to show they are all inter-related.** They all work together to help form a framework for a naturalistic-materialistic-atheistic-worldview (one that tries to explain the origins and definitions of the cosmos, all living things, knowledge and ethics/morality without any reference whatsoever to God).

Atheist Quote: Greek philosopher Protagoras (c. 481 – 411 B.C.) - *"Man is the measure of all things, of those that are, of those that are not that they are not."* Regarding this statement, agnostic and skeptic Bertrand Russell said, *"This is interpreted as meaning that each man is the measure of all things, and that, when men differ, there is no objective truth in virtue of which one is right and the other wrong."*

-- **The "new definition" of atheism** above seeks to remove a strong burden of proof from atheists to rationally justify and defend atheism. (Explain)

-- **Any comparison of worldviews contrasts the worldviews in question.** ALL worldviews must try and answer the EXACT SAME QUESTIONS about Knowledge, Reality, Ethics, Meaning, etc., in order to compare them.

Point #1) Atheistic view:

Atheist Quote: *'We no longer feel ourselves to be guests in someone else's home and therefore obliged to make our behavior conform with a set of pre-existing cosmic rules. It is our creation now. We make the rules. We establish the parameters of reality. We create the world, and because we do, we no longer feel beholden to outside forces. We no longer have to justify our behavior, for we are now the architects of the universe. We are responsible to nothing outside ourselves, for we are the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.'* - Jeremy Rifkin

Atheist Quote: *"The universe we observe has ... no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. ... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music."* - Richard Dawkins

-- **Human beings are unintended creatures, accidentally evolved from plants / animals.**

Human beings are now one kind of mammal. *"A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They're all mammals."* - Ingrid Newkirk, president of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

-- Human beings are one particular herd of evolved creatures that happen to be at the top of the food chain because of their evolved abilities.

-- Individuals act in accordance with, and subject to, the "laws of nature." Humans are ultimately controlled by (subject to) the laws of nature that are at work within their own DNA and the larger cosmos.

-- Human consciousness and mind is a natural byproduct of the working of our organic physical brains.

-- What human beings refer to as "logic" is simply the result of natural, individual organic brain functions.

-- Human thinking and "logic" can simultaneously be equated with organic brain activity because there is no way to explain the difference. In other words, ORGANIC BRAIN FUNCTION = ORGANIC BRAIN ACTIVITY / THINKING.

-- In spite of the fact that human thought is a result of one's individual brain function and personal DNA, all human beings somehow have a "natural ability" to think and reason and acquire / possess knowledge.

-- Objective truth can be obtained and known by human beings thru empirical (i.e., scientific) methodology, or direct, personal experience in harmony with empirical methodology (empiricism) ... or pure, unaided human reason (rationalism).

-- Human beings (beginning with/from themselves) can theoretically posit universal scientific truths about the cosmos thru the scientific inquiry of finite human beings.

-- Human beings are somehow able to meaningfully communicate and share their own personal beliefs, knowledge and theories with other human beings (even though our personal thoughts are the result of the working of our own individual DNA and individual brain function).

Point #1) Christian critique of the atheistic view:

-- **There is no basis to define or engage in human reasoning.** The atheistic view has no foundational understanding for how human beings possess consciousness or think / reason (apply the laws of logic and engage in one's own personal thinking, communicating [to others] or receiving [from others] rational thoughts), or acquire knowledge. Nor is there a basis for, or arrival at, universal truth (about anything).

-- **Within the atheistic worldview, there is absolutely no testable, or even workable theory of, scientific basis for how human beings became conscious, sentient, thinking creatures.**

Naturalistic atheists generally believe in a naturalistic fairy tale "molecules to man" story.

The unscientific, implausible, unverifiable, naturalistic theory: Inorganic matter & chemicals ... to chemicals with potential life force ... to complex molecules ... that eventually became simple, organic life forms ... that eventually became organic, living plants ... that eventually became

more complex plants ... that became unthinking, non-instinctual low-level animal life forms ... that eventually became higher life forms / creatures with controlling “instincts” ... that eventually became sentient, self-conscious creatures ... that eventually developed into more complex instinctual creatures with higher conscious ... that eventually developed into highly evolved creatures with a capacity for low-level reasoning ... that eventually developed into human beings with a high level of ability to think and reason.

Nowhere do we human beings witness this, nor does any type of science demonstrate this.

This is nothing more than a completely fictional, atheistic storyline ... an expression of carefully scripted atheistic beliefs.

-- **The typical, atheistic view, which is built upon the controlling (presuppositional) beliefs of naturalism, not only fail to account for human beings to know anything individually, but there is no way (upon an atheistic, naturalistic worldview) for human beings to be able to communicate or share knowledge with fellow human beings because individual human brains actually control the thoughts and thinking processes of every individual human beings.**

-- **This atheistic view renders the idea of “truth” itself to be absurd** because objective truth cannot be known by human beings. Every person thinks in the same way their heart beats ... under the control of their physical brain.

We might ask the atheist the following types of questions:

“How did bio-chemicals (natural physical components of this earth) eventually acquire self-consciousness ... and eventually develop into intelligent human mind (i.e., come to exercise rational thought ... exercise laws of logic ... generate ideas? What experiments have scientists done in order to replicate or demonstrate this process?”

“In your atheistic view:

... what is the human mind?

... what is logic / reasoning?

How do you define them?

Do you equate the human mind with “brain activity? If so, how can your thoughts be FREE, as in free-thinking? Doesn’t your worldview imply that your thoughts are CONTROLLED by your brain? If human thoughts are controlled by our physical brains, then isn’t “freedom of thought” just an illusion?

Do laws of logic exist? If so, then where do laws of logic reside in the universe? Do they exist as part of the human brain, or do they reside somewhere else in the universe? And if somewhere else, then how do our minds access and refer to these unseen, universal laws of logic? Perhaps they do not exist? If so, then logic itself cannot be said to exist, can it?”

“Where do laws of logic reside in the cosmos? Are they inside individual human brains ... or someplace universally accessible to our human brains / minds? Both? How can it be both ... how can our physical brain access unseen laws of logic that exist separate from our physical body?”

“Where do human thoughts reside? Within just our own minds? Or is there an intangible realm or spiritual component to human thought that allows us to share and communicate our thoughts with one another?”

“How is it that the thoughts and ideas within one, individual human brain can be communicated to another person’s brain / mind ... and visa versa?”

“Can rational thought exist without universal, unchanging laws of logic that all healthy human beings use each and every day? And if not, then where do these universal, unchanging laws of logic exist? How can they exist apart from the Triune God, who created the first man and woman, as taught in Genesis?”

“If our brains = mind then isn’t so-called Freedom of Thought just an illusion? After all, are we not simply ‘thinking’ what our brains are telling us to think?”

“What is your best opinion as to how the human mind, including human consciousness itself, came into being?”

“If human thought is essentially neurons firing in your brain, then how are your thoughts “free”? How are your thoughts not completely controlled by the way your individual brain is firing at any given moment?”

“If human beings think (and ultimately act) according to what their individual brains make them think (similarly to how our hearts beat; the beating of our hearts is an involuntary result of controlling bio-chemical functions) then are we not just biological-chemical robots, each one of us determined to act out the programming of our individual DNA?”

“If human beings think (and ultimately act) according to what their individual brains make them think, then how are human beings morally responsible, or even personally accountable, for their own personal choices or actions?”

“Do you really believe non-living, inorganic matter somehow turned into living creatures that eventually became “sentient” (thinking, self-conscious & self-aware) human beings?”

“Do you really believe our ‘mind’ somehow arose, by pure random chance, from inorganic matter, or ‘non-mind? Has science ever demonstrated this? If not, then how can this be known by those who profess to believe it? Is this not pure, speculative, blind faith ... disconnected from any logical-rational or empirical justification?”

“Should all human beings be valued the same? Do they all possess the same inherent worth? If so, based upon what? Who says? After all, are not human beings going to answer in relation to what their particular DNA determines their opinion(s) is/are going to be?”