

Does God Really Exist – 17th January 2016

Introduction

Since we are pretty much all Christians here this could be the shortest sermon in history. The easy and obvious answer of course is 'Yes', God does exist!

If you were to ask "How do we know that God exists", the answer would be a little more complex. We might begin by sharing testimony of how we have encountered God, experienced His presence and His love. We might share how He has transformed us, and what He has done for us in answer to earnest prayer. We might also share as part of that answer what we now do in response to His great love.

So we can say that we believe God exists because of:

- Our Experience of and with Jesus
- Our Testimony of Jesus
- The Scriptures bear witness to Jesus

But what about science as a means to prove or disprove God?

There are many scientists both Christian and Atheist/Agnostic that argue back and forth over this. However, this in my opinion is futile. Why would I say that?

Science tries to explain how things work, and deals predominantly to test hypotheses using experiments with controlled conditions to test hypotheses and try to explain cause and effect. Science can only draw conclusions based upon what it can find, not on what it cannot find!

God is in no way shape or form measureable, nor can you experiment on Him or His workings in controlled conditions. Science has working hypotheses for many things but still cannot measure the origin of all things. The One who is all in all!

Friends, ultimately we must refer to **Hebrews 11: 1-3**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible

Faith itself IS the evidence we need to believe that God really exists. We know this, for when we take that step of faith and make Jesus Christ Lord of our lives, we encounter Jesus, and Jesus is the way the truth and the life. More than that though, He then promises that He will make His abode in us

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

If you know Jesus and walk with Him you can not only tell people that God exists, but you can tell them where He lives! ☺

We are the evidence of whether God exists, both for and against!

A better question

Perhaps a better question for us as Christians would be “Do we live as though God exists?”

I think this is the most pertinent question of all, for the answer we give will define how we live our day-to-day lives, how we relate to and treat one another, and how we relate to and treat the world.

Are we those that hear the word and do it? Or are we those who are hearers only

James 1:22 – 25 says

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Are we those who having been with Jesus, reflect as in a mirror His nature and values?

Values that we see in the life and teaching of Jesus.

- sanctity of all life,
- radical inclusion (eating with the tax collectors and sinners)
- radical forgiveness (not judgement)
- self-giving love (including love of enemies)
- non-retaliation/non-violence (putting away the sword)
 - turning of the tables was a prophetic act in which Jesus subverts the principle of sacrifice and does away with it by driving out the animals used in sacrifice. It is also prophetic in that it prophetically warns of the destruction of the temple. Jesus never harmed another person.
- going the extra mile
- Being a peacemaker (instead of a warmonger)

or do we forget those values and still hold on to our offenses, grudges, selfishness, exclusion and judgement of others?

If we are being honest our lives are often so busy and so demanding that we often live out our Christian walk from meeting to meeting or crisis to crisis instead of day by day and moment by moment with Jesus. It is as if we have a Heavenly Father whom we love and worship on a Sunday but the rest of the week we act as if we are Spiritual Orphans. We act as if we are all alone with no Heavenly Father, paying too little attention to our relationship with Him or to His leading or guiding.

I encourage you strongly, don't be like that. Don't be a once a week or crisis to crisis Christian. If you are, God may indeed intervene in your crisis because He loves you, but rest assured nothing will change in your heart. You won't know the blessedness and fulfilment of walking with Him and hearing His heart in communion, that steady drip feed of life that nourishes and satisfies your soul.

You'll still USE God as some kind of divine prayer answering machine and the equivalent of a “get out of jail free” card.

If you want to find out your divine purpose. If you want to know why you are on this planet, then Jesus has to be Lord. Not Lord for 2 hours on a Sunday, but Lord of all your life. The journey we are on as Christians should be a journey where day by day and week by week we are learning to give Him

access and control to more and more parts of our lives. This is not a once and it's done decision. It happens many times over the course of a lifetime and your decision will be tested. You will have an opportunity to once again wrestle back control when you are afraid. But fear not, He who asks you for your life is faithful to keep it to eternal life. He is trustworthy in a way no one else can be.

Walking with God is all about learning to trust God with your life. Entrust Him with your career, entrust Him with your family, entrust Him in your search for a spouse, entrust Him in your youth, in your middle age, in your old age. Entrust Him in the hospital, in the school, in the factory or even by the pool!

Romans 12: 1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God

Because God is Love, Love defined in 1 Cor 13 (AMP) as:

Love endures with patience *and* serenity, love is kind *and* thoughtful, and is not jealous *or* envious; love does not brag and is not proud *or* arrogant. ⁵It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong *endured*. ⁶It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail].⁷ Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening].

⁸Love never fails [it never fades nor ends]

Psalm 100:5

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

And because God is good, Good defined as:

morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; pious:

of high quality; excellent.

right; proper; honourable:

kind, beneficent, or friendly:

You can have confidence in surrendering your life to Him and leaving fear behind.

The English word surrender carries the implication of putting one's full weight on someone or something. It involves letting go—a release of effort, tension and fear. And it involves trust. One cannot let go of self-dependence and transfer dependence to someone else without trust (David Benner, Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality,

I believe that Jesus, not Scripture, is our final authority for faith and practice, but that the Scriptures are an inspired testimony to this very claim. I believe in the infallible, inerrant Word of God ... and he had a beard. Any Scripture that claims to reveal God must bow to the living God when he came to fully disclose Himself in the flesh.