

RCIA HO class 2 - Three questions

Class 1. BIG Question I: Does God exist?

Science can't prove or disprove. Reason, and some science, suggests the possibility/probability of God's existence.

1. Argument from Motion

- Anything in motion has been set in motion by something else. Nothing moves itself/nothing brings itself into existence (says science)
- There can be no infinite regression of movers, i.e. I came from my parents, who came from their parents, who came from their parents, etc. Must be a starting place.
- We call that starting place the First (Prime) Mover, or GOD.
- Example = pool table. The balls will not move by themselves. Someone or something has to start the motion.

2. The argument from design

- The universe is well designed.
 - Everything well designed has a designer.
 - We call that designer GOD. (Not Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...yet).
 - Example = wedding dress. If I throw cloth, buttons, zippers, lace, needle, scissors and thread into the street and wait for an accident to make them into a wedding dress, how long will I have to wait? If the earth is an accident (forget the rest of the universe) it is infinitely more complicated than a wedding dress. And where did the needle, thread, cloth, etc. come from? Science tells us that nothing brings itself into existence = nothing causes itself. If the universe is an accident without a designer, where did the stuff come from?
 - Carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen =CHON. These are the building blocks of all organic compounds (Life). Some theories argue that if there is no God, these atoms/elements accidentally came together to start the first living cell. This living cell evolved into all the other life forms on the earth. Science (the fossil record) does not indicate that this is what happened.
3. **Evolution.** Do you believe? 2 types. See handout from Fr. Baker.
- Microevolution (intraspecies) vs. macroevolution (interspecies). There is no evidence for interspecies evolution, i.e. fish evolving into dinosaurs.

BIG Question II. Is Jesus Christ God? (See three questions supplement 2)

- Jesus' Miracles: Did they really happen? Did he really rise from the dead? We can't prove it.
- Liar, Lunatic, Lord: (supplement 2)
- Goose Story: A farmer saw a flock of geese lost in a snowstorm. He tried to coax them into his barn, but they would not come. He thought to himself, if I could only become a goose I could fly up to the flock and lead them to the safety of the barn.
- Why did God become man? To lead us to the spiritual safety of the Church and Heaven.

BIG Question III. Did Jesus Christ establish a Church?

- The New Testament tells us that Jesus established his Church on Peter (MT 16:16). History tells us that that same Church has been led by 267 popes since Peter.
- In 1517 Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation and started the Lutheran Church. He did not believe that there were seven sacraments, but only two. Is it reasonable to think that Martin Luther, or any of his followers was correct, and that the Lord God allowed **His Church** to be wrong about some very important things (like the Priesthood, Eucharist, and Confession) for 1,517 years until Martin Luther figured it all out? That does not seem reasonable.
- See the pope chart.

Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here?