Both scientists and non-scientists use experiments to prove or disprove things. For instance, suppose you wanted to know why your bicycle tire keeps going flat. You might hold it under water to see if any air bubbles trickled up, or you might put your ear close to it to listen for the pssshhh sound of an air leak. Whatever method you choose, one of your five senses is involved—sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell. In fact, all science experiments depend upon the five senses. Without those senses, science has no way to find answers.

But some things in this world cannot be tested by using the five senses. For instance, things like love cannot be touched, seen, smelled, tasted, or heard. Do you love someone? Of course you do. Is there any way you can perform an experiment on that love by using your five senses? Can you weigh love? No. Can you see what color it is? No, again. Can you put it in a bucket and feel if it is hot or cold? Certainly not! There are some things in this life that cannot be proved or disproved by using the five senses.

The same is true of God. We will not be able to prove that He exists by seeing, touching, tasting, smelling, or hearing Him. But, don’t be fooled when people say that we cannot prove God exists because we cannot use our five senses on Him. Many things (like love and God) cannot be discovered by experiments, yet we still know for certain that they exist. Suppose you were walking on the beach and saw a trail of human footprints in the sand, but no one else was around. Even though you couldn’t see anyone, you still would know that someone had been there because you could see the tracks. In a similar way, even though we can’t see God, we can see His “footprints” in the Universe, and we can know for certain that He does exist.

This issue of Discovery is devoted to showing you some of the evidence for the existence of God, such as design in the Universe, the law of cause and effect, and mankind’s morality. We hope that this evidence will help you have the courage to stand up for God.
What does it take to get water flowing through a water fountain on the 102nd floor of the Empire State Building? Water can’t just hop on an elevator like you and I can. So, how does clean water get up that high? Did working water fountains just arrive there by chance? No! It took men who engineered, designed, and built water pumps, storage reservoirs, and pipelines. Some of these same intricate “waterworks” designs can be observed in prickly cacti living in the desert. A cactus is able to store and distribute water even during dry, hot summer days—and yet it is covered with thorns so that desert animals can’t easily get to that reserved water. Are cacti examples of good design, or do you think they “just happened”? All of the design we see in nature is a clear indicator that there is a designer—God.

Consider for just a moment the location of that hot Sun that beats down on those cacti? The Sun, which is 93 million miles from the Earth, has an external temperature of approximately 12 million degrees Fahrenheit. Any closer, and all the plants and animals would burn up; any farther away, and we all would freeze to death. The precise distance of the Sun from the Earth is perfect for us to live and grow food to eat. Additionally, the orbit of the Earth around the Sun is so precise that every night we can watch our local weatherman and know the exact time of the sunrise and sunset. In Genesis 1:14-19, we learn that God organized the day and the night, the seasons and the years. Is it by chance that we have cold snowy weather during the winter and warm days during the summer, or is the placement and orbit of the Earth around the Sun a product of an intelligent designer?

Nature is full of examples that demonstrate design. For instance, fish were specially designed to live in water, while humans were not. Ducks have specially designed feet, which allow them to swim through the water, while chickens do not. Or consider the complexity of the human body. The complex design of the circulatory, respiratory, and nervous systems indicates that there is a designer. No wonder the psalmist wrote: “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). Just like the Empire State Building wasn’t created without a designer, neither was the Universe. Hebrews 3:4 tells us that “every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.” Men may be able to put water fountains on the top floor of the Empire State Building, but only God can design human beings and place them on a planet that can support life.
We know the Universe exists and is real, otherwise we wouldn't be here on Earth and you wouldn't be reading this article. But how did the Universe get here? What caused it?

As far as science knows, natural laws have no exceptions. This definitely is true of the law of cause and effect, which is the most universal and most certain of all laws. Simply put, the law of cause and effect states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that comes before the effect. You know that a brand new Mercedes is not the effect of a tornado sweeping through a junkyard. Likewise, your little brother didn't fall to the ground in pain because he tripped over a grain of sand. He may have fallen because he stumbled over a chair, but not because a small piece of sand was in his way! These are not adequate causes. Likewise, the Universe is the effect of an adequate cause.

But what was that "cause?" Did the Universe and everything in it create itself out of nothing, or is it a product of a "cause?" The fact is, material effects without adequate causes do not exist. Also, causes never occur after the effect, and the effect is never greater than the cause. That is why scientists say that every material effect must have an adequate cause.

One thing is for sure—the Universe did not create itself. Matter cannot create matter. For example, if a scientist takes a rock that weighs 1 pound and does 10,000 experiments on it without adding more matter, he never will be able to produce more than 1 pound of rock. So, whatever caused the Universe could not have been material. Some people believe the Universe was created from nothing. However, if there ever had been a time when absolutely nothing existed, then there would be nothing now, because it always is true that nothing produces nothing. If something exists now, then something always has existed!

The Bible tells us what caused the Universe. Exodus 20:11 states: "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them." When preaching to unbelievers in Athens, the apostle Paul said that: "God...made the world and everything in it" (Acts 17:24). God is undoubtedly an adequate cause, since He is all-powerful (Genesis 17:1) and has existed "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2). The first verse in the Bible sums it all up for us: the Universe is here because "In the beginning, God created...."
WHO SAID IT WAS RIGHT OR WRONG?

ERIC LYONS

It doesn’t take a genius to understand that some things are universally right, some things are universally wrong, and some things are neither. We all know that it is not generally wrong in the United States to wear shoes in someone’s house. In some countries, however, people might be very offended if you don’t take off your shoes upon entering their home. In America, it is commonly accepted that belching at the dinner table is rude, but in a few countries it is polite to burp after finishing a meal. These are examples of traditions that are not universally accepted.

At times, people do not agree on the exact way to decide whether something is right or wrong. But it is undeniable that some things are right and other things are wrong, regardless of the country or state in which you live. For example, the average human understands that it is wrong to kill another human being for no reason. If a man walked into your house and murdered your whole family just because he “felt like it,” he would be punished severely because what he did was wrong. But why? Who said it was “wrong”? And why is it that humans feel obligated to help a two-year-old child that has been hit by a car? Who says this is the “right” thing to do?

The atheist has only one way of explaining why certain things are wrong and other things are right—“this ability (somehow) originated within man.” However, since atheists view man as having evolved from animals during a long process of evolution, this becomes a problem. A lion does not feel any guilt after killing a gazelle for its dinner, and a dog does not feel any shame after stealing a bone from another dog. Yet man, who supposedly evolved just like the lion and the dog, feels both guilt and shame when he commits certain acts that violate accepted standards of right and wrong. How could this be if man is nothing more than a “naked ape?” The simple fact that we are writing about morals proves that morality—which is found only in humans—must have been given to humans by God.

The reason why people throughout the world believe that murder and stealing (among other things) are wrong is because God created mankind with a sense of morality (which helps us know what is right and wrong). He also gave us rules to follow from the very beginning of time (read Genesis 4 and 9:6). We must carefully study these rules, which are found in the Bible, so that we can know what is “right” and what is “wrong.”

DOES GOD HAVE A CAUSE?

KYLE BUTT

Hold on just a minute! If we argue that every material effect must have a cause, and we say that only God could have caused the Universe, then doesn’t the law of cause and effect apply to God, too? Or, to put it another way—what caused God?

There is a single word in the law of cause and effect that helps provide the answer to this question—the word material. Every material effect must have an adequate cause that comes before it. Scientists formulated the law of cause and effect based upon what they have observed while studying this Universe, which is made out of matter. No science experiment in the world can be performed on God, because He is an eternal spirit, not matter (John 4:24). Science is far from learning everything about this material world, and it is even farther from understanding the eternal nature of God. There had to be a first Cause, and God was (and is) the only One suitable for the job.
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

Down
1. We cannot perform these on God.
2. He built all things (Hebrews 3:4).
4. Morals are found only in _________.
5. Every ________ effect must have an adequate cause that comes before it.
7. An effect demands this.
8. This person doesn’t believe in God and doesn’t want others to either.
10. According to John 4:24, God is this.

Across
3. Design demands this.
6. This means that God is all-powerful.
9. Says it is impossible to know if God exists.

Match the following causes and effects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Cause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. _____ The car quit running</td>
<td>A. A piece of glass punctured it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. _____ A teacher gave me detention</td>
<td>B. It was 100° outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. _____ Your brother skinned his knee</td>
<td>C. God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. _____ The Universe</td>
<td>D. It was struck by lightning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. _____ My dog was taken to the veterinarian</td>
<td>E. He fell down on the concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. _____ The television quit working</td>
<td>F. He ate rat poison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. _____ The tire went flat</td>
<td>G. It ran out of gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. _____ I began to sweat</td>
<td>H. I misbehaved in class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOD'S SPECIAL QUALITIES

People are known for doing different things. There may be a boy in your class who is known for being the fastest runner, or there might be one girl in your class who is known for making the best grades. Each person has some traits that separate him or her from all other people. God is like that, too. He has many special qualities that separate Him from every other being in the Universe. Here is a challenging list of just a few of those traits. Learning the traits of God can help us build a closer relationship with Him. (Note that the prefix “omni” means “all.”)

- God is omniscient (OM-NISH-ENT), or all knowing (1 John 3:20).
- God is omnipotent (OM-NIP-UH-TENT), or all powerful (Genesis 17:1).
- God is omnipresent (OM-NEE-PREZ-ENT), or all present, meaning that He is everywhere at the same time (Psalm 139:7-10).
- God is omnibenevolent (OM-NEE-BE-NEV-UH-LENT), or all loving (1 John 4:8,16).
- God is just and righteous (Psalm 99:4).
- God is merciful (Exodus 34:6).

Match the following designs and designers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Designer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Blueprint of a skyscraper</td>
<td>A. Doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Painting</td>
<td>B. Preacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A piece of furniture</td>
<td>C. School teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Medicine</td>
<td>D. God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Poem</td>
<td>E. Architect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sermon</td>
<td>F. Painter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The Universe</td>
<td>G. Poet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Lesson plan</td>
<td>H. Carpenter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hey Kids,

Digger Doug is running low on pictures about the Bible and creation. Can you help by drawing one and sending it to him? The sleuth will pick the best ones and put them in Discovery. Mail your artwork in a big enough envelope so you don’t have to fold it. And remember to include your name, address, and age (please don’t write these on your pictures). Most of all, do a good job, and have fun! Send your work to:

Digger Doug
Apologetics Press
230 Landmark Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

PS Digger Doug can’t return everything he receives, so keep a copy for yourself.

www.DiscoveryMagazine.com

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WHY DO SOME PEOPLE NOT BELIEVE IN GOD?

Bert Thompson

Have you ever met someone who doesn’t believe in God? If you haven’t, one day you probably will. And if you have, then you already know that there really are people who don’t believe in God. That’s hard to understand, isn’t it? There is so much evidence for God’s existence—like design in nature (which demands a Designer), Jesus’ resurrection, or biblical prophecy—that we sometimes wonder how anyone could not believe in God. Who are these people? And why don’t they believe in God?

An atheist firmly believes that God does not exist. An agnostic says it is impossible to know whether God exists. A skeptic doubts that God exists. An infidel doesn’t believe in God, and doesn’t want anyone else to believe in God either.

But why do some people not believe in God? First, a person may have grown up with parents who didn’t believe in God. They never went to Sunday school or worship, never read the Bible, and never taught their children to do these things. Therefore, the child—like the parents—doesn’t believe in God.

Second, a person may have gone to college and was taught that evolution is true and that God isn’t needed since “nature” can account for everything. When this happens, belief in evolution takes the place of belief in God.

Third, some people are too stubborn or have too much pride. They don’t want to obey God, but instead want to “do their own thing.” If they believe in God, they can’t do that anymore. So they simply decide not to believe in God.

Fourth, some people want to live a sinful life. They want to “do drugs,” smoke, drink, or engage in sex before marriage. And they don’t want God telling them they shouldn’t. Therefore, they choose not to believe in God so they can do certain things without feeling guilty.

Fifth, some people see evil, pain, and suffering in the world. They think that if God existed, He wouldn’t permit such things to occur. In their minds, since bad things do happen, God must not exist.

There are other reasons why people don’t believe in God. But if you’ve been reading Discovery for very long, you know that in past issues we’ve shown why none of these excuses is a good reason not to believe in God. We never should get “too smart” for our own good so that we think we can live our lives however we want. God does exist, and one day even those who have refused to believe in Him will have to admit that they were wrong (read Romans 14:11).

Dr. Carl Sagan was a very famous atheist. (Photo by Michael Okoniewski, Copyright © 1994. Used by permission.)

ANSWERS

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