

How I Know There Is a God

1. I CONSIDER MY FATHER TO BE AN HONEST MAN.

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7a: “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children....” I would like to take the argument that is often given by those who do not adhere to belief in God or Christianity and turn it on its head. The argument is often given that one only believes what he or she believes because that is the culture in which he or she was reared.

Like most kids reared in or out of church, we have had our doubts. Why do we believe what we believe? I am going to readily admit, one reason I believe what I believe is because my dad believed what I believe, and he taught it to me. It has been said that we only get to know well just a handful of people in life. It has been estimated in any one’s life, the number of people we know well never exceeds sixty people. If that is so, of the sixty people that I have known well, my dad would easily be in the top bracket. I knew my dad to be a man thirsty for education and impeccable Christian character. Dad was not a perfect man. That distinction only belongs to our Lord and Savior. But he was incredibly transparent and with all his human frailties, he attempted to live as Robert Murray McCheyene prayed, “Lord, make me as holy as it is possible for a sinner saved by grace to be.” Dad possessed an insatiable quest for knowledge. In his youth, “for fun” he would read the English dictionary. I cannot remember a day in my life with Dad, that somewhere in the course of the day he did not have a book or periodical in his hand. He read from eclectic sources. In his lifetime of learning, coupled with his desire for truth, had he seen “holes” in the belief system or if the Christianity he was embracing seemed unreliable, the content of his character would have opted for abdication. Not only did Dad see the empirical proof for himself, he saw the benefit and blessing of teaching this to his children for the benefit in time and eternity.

Everyone will believe something, even if it is unbelief. And as John Donne said, “No man is an island entire of itself.” We are all influenced by others. And since we are all influenced by others, why not be influenced by one you perceive to be a person who is honest and lives a wholesome life? Like the song, The Old-time Religion says, “It was good for our fathers, and it’s good enough for me.” I know it may sound juvenile to say, but sobeit - my dad wouldn’t lie to me. Dad was not attempting to make a robot out of his kids; he challenged us to think and allowed us to ask questions. I like what the apologist, Josh McDowell said to his son, Sean McDowell, who is now quite a respected apologist himself. Josh said to Sean, “You guard your heart with your mind. You do not guard your mind with your heart.”

2. IT WOULD TAKE MORE FAITH TO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD THAN TO BELIEVE IN GOD.

Norman Geisler and Frank Turek wrote the book entitled, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. In the book, they give many arguments. My favorite argument was the argument that anyone could view the unmistakable faces on Mount Rushmore of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and T. Roosevelt and observe they are there from intelligent design. To believe that they arrived there by mere chance is ludicrous. I Corinthians 14:40: "Let all things be done decently and in order." Creation is very decent and very orderly.

Before I give you a quote, allow me to define a picosecond. A picosecond is one trillionth of a second. That's how long it takes the speed of something moving at the speed of light to traverse the breadth of a single strain of hair. Former professor of quantum physics at Cambridge University, Dr. John Polkinghorne, said in a lecture, "If you look at the early picoseconds of this universe and analyze just one contingent, the expansion and relation to the contraction, do you know how precise that had to be?" He said, "It would be like taking aim at a one-square-inch object at the other end of the universe twenty billion light years away and hitting it bull's eye." Dr. Polkinghorne is eliminating creation as an accident. Genesis 1:3b: "And God said, Let there be...." Hebrews 11:3: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

3. ATHEISM IS INDEFENSIBLE

In examining the word "atheist" the etymological breakdown is "theist" which is the belief in God. The prefix "a" meaning "no." Therefore an atheist is one who says, "there is no God." This belief is untenable and actually unscientific. Here's why. There is a Pickles Gap, Arkansas. You might say, no there isn't. If I ask you why, you may say, "I have never been there and I have never seen it on a map or GPS. Also, I have never met anyone from there. Therefore, it cannot possibly exist." I can tell you that I have been to Pickles Gap, Arkansas. As a matter of fact, I preached a series of meetings there. And I have met and visited with a man there by the name of Roy Mac.

What if I ask you do you know Kim Snyder? Would it be intelligent to say, "I don't know Kim Snyder. I have never heard of Kim Snyder. I don't even know anyone who knows Kim Snyder. Therefore, Kim Snyder cannot possibly exist." I can emphatically tell you, Kim Snyder does exist. Kim Snyder lives in Brashear, Texas and is married to Bruce Snyder. Furthermore, Kim is my cousin and I talked to her yesterday.

Do you know everything there is possible to know? It is estimated there are over seven thousand languages in the world. Do you know them all? There are polyglots who can fluently speak up to 6 languages, but not many in the world can exceed that number. Do you know the answer to every mathematical problem in the world? Every algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus problem? Do you know the history of the entire world? Everything there is to know about American, European, African and Asian history? I gleaned from one source that there is no one that has ever lived that has even approached to knowing even close to one percent of all knowledge. I will tell you something very

interesting: Christopher Michael Langan is said to possess the highest IQ of any man, woman, boy or girl alive today. Langan says that he can prove mathematically there is an afterlife, there is a soul and there is a God. And I am not saying he is an Evangelical Bible-believer, but you've got to admit, that's interesting.

If you say, "I am an atheist," you are not really able with any proof to back that statement up. Because you are saying, "There is no God." That is foolish to say. But don't take my word for it. God says in Psalm 14:1a; 53:1a, "The fool hath said in his heart, There *is* no God...." Because you don't know everything there is to know, you must admit, there are some things you do not know. Therefore, you cannot possibly say with any empirical proof there is no God. The very closest you can get to it is to say you are agnostic. In other words, you don't know there is a God.

You cannot say there is no God. I can say with dogmatism, there is a God. I have met Him and I talked with Him today. We have over seven billion people who live on planet earth. Approximately 1.3 billion of this population are professing Christians. Out of the 1.3 billion professing Christians, 630 million are Evangelical Christians. This is the group that professes having a personal relationship with God through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Okay, let's say all who claim to have a personal relationship do not have that personal encounter. Let's say of that 630 million, only one million really do have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And that is an extremely low figure. We are easily able to say there are at least one million people who say, God is real. He is real to me. And I talk to Him every day.

-Pastor Pope-