

Does It Really Matter Whether God Exists?

Introduction

1. In our day, we can no longer take for granted that the average person believes in God. Doubt, and even denial, that God exists is widespread.
 - A. I have even met those in the Lord's church that have questioned whether or not there really is a God. It is no wonder that if this feeling is alive among a few Christians then that would explain their lack of dedication to Christ and His will.
 - B. Therefore, an unprejudiced, sincere search for truth is always good.
2. Let's not forget that convictions have consequences, and so it is helpful to define a basic issue and ask: **what is at stake here?**
3. After examining the two alternatives in the lesson today, with their theoretical and practical consequences, we need to decide the issue and accept wholeheartedly, in thought and action, the **results** of our decision.
 - A. We must prepare to go wherever the truth leads us.
 - B. The quest for knowledge ought to be a quest for correct action.
4. Defining God as our personal and transcendent Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer of the universe, there are only two options: either God exists, or He does not exist.

ATHEISM: God Does Not Exist

- 1. Theoretical implications.** (Actually, if God did not exist, neither would we - John 1:3; Col 1:16-17. The closest we can come to imagining a world **without** God is to imagine a world where God is not **acknowledged**.)

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

A. The universe and human life are without purpose.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

B. Nothing distinguishes man from other forms of animal life.

- 1) If man is merely a complex biological machine, his existence is finite, temporary.**

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

C. Man is autonomous, subordinate to no higher authority.

Romans 1:18-32

D. Man has no objective, absolute standard by which to calibrate his conduct.

- 1) Sin and guilt are insignificant terms, ethics and morality are subjective, relative.**

Romans 4:15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

1 John 3:4

E. Religion is a delusion.

- 1) **The consciousness of a personal Creator, held by billions since the dawn of history, has been a dream.**
- 2) **Augustine said, "Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in Thee." If there actually is no God, such a statement is pitiful.**

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

2. Practical consequences.**A. Creature-worship, worship of self, pride. (humanism)**

Romans 1:18-32 (previously read)

B. Amoral conduct, characterized by hedonism, sexual promiscuity, deceit, greed.

1 Corinthians 15:32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

C. Anarchy, violence, fear.

Genesis 6:5, 11-12

D. Repudiation of the Bible, eradication of religion (communism).**E. Despair** (**Psalm 22:1**)

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

F. Suicide (nothing to really live for).

THEISM: God Does Exist

1. Theoretical implications.

A. Man, the creature, is subordinate to the authority of God, the Creator.

1) Violations of the Creator's law constitutes actual sin, involves real guilt, and is punishable by the Creator (Genesis 2:16-17; Isaiah 59:1-2; John 8:24)

Romans 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2) Ethics and morality are objectively grounded Romans 12:1-2

B. Obtaining and maintaining a correct relationship with the Creator is the most important consideration in life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

C. Any revelation of the Creator's will concerning man's purpose, what constitutes acceptable conduct, and the conditions of fellowship with the Creator is vitally significant.

Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:1-4

1. Practical consequences.

- A. Voluntary and loving submission to the Creator, reverence.**
- B. Repentance.**
- C. Virtue, morality.**

2 Peter 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

- D. Pious devotion to religious exercises, such as prayer and worship.**
- E. Ernest propagation of the knowledge of God, "evangelism."
2 Corinthians 5:10-11, 20**
- F. Hope, optimism, courage, trust.**

Conclusion

1. **Consideration of God's existence has momentous practical consequences!**
2. **Both the atheist and the theist needs to courageously face the radical implications of their convictions.**
3. **Brethren and friends ----- A Decision is Called For.**

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

- A. **Is man prepared to accept the consequences of believing that we are no more than "dust in the wind"?**
- B. **What are your true convictions?**
- C. **Have you wholeheartedly embraced the consequences of your convictions?**
 - 1) **Remember – "Actions speak much louder than words!"**

**Your talk talks,
and your walk talks,
but your walk talks,
more than your talk talks**

