

# View Christian Philosophy Concerning the existence of God

*by* Samuel Bartolo

---

**Submission date:** 18-Jun-2024 09:45PM (UTC-0500)

**Submission ID:** 2405105977

**File name:** IJCEP\_-\_Vol.\_1,\_No.\_3\_JULY\_2024\_hal\_08-13.docx (41.48K)

**Word count:** 2577

**Character count:** 13401



---

## View Christian Philosophy Concerning the existence of God

Samuel Bartolo <sup>1</sup>, Mozes Lawalata <sup>2</sup>

Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Injili Arastamar (SETIA) Jakarta

[samuell.bartolo@gmail.com#mozeslawalata86@gmail.com](mailto:samuell.bartolo@gmail.com#mozeslawalata86@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** This article explores Christian philosophical views regarding the existence of God through an analysis of various main arguments that have been developed by Christian philosophers. Focusing on **5** ontological, cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments, this article explores how each argument attempts to prove the existence of God through rational and empirical approaches. Ontological arguments, such as those proposed by Anselm of Canterbury, use conceptual reflection to conclude that God must exist. The cosmological argument, popularized by Thomas Aquinas, combines observations of the universe with the logic of causality to demonstrate the existence of a transcendent first cause. The teleological argument, with a major contribution from William Paley, suggests that the complexity and order in the universe indicates the existence of an intelligent designer. Apart from that, this article also highlights the importance of religious experience as subjective evidence of the existence of God. Through a combination of rational argument and spiritual experience, Christian philosophy offers a comprehensive and insightful view of God's existence, making it relevant in contemporary theological and philosophical discussions.

**Keywords:** Existence of God, Philosophical Views

### INTRODUCTION

Hearing the word philosophy, generally people will directly think with things that are assessed very abstract and form activity theoretical ones only less people do work. There is an illustrative anecdote that learns philosophy. That is not easy. "In something studying philosophy a professor will start his lecture with his statement as follows: "Brothers student, in this semester you will through material studying knowledge philosophy that at the time study and follow it, perhaps you will experience difficulty. That something it's a natural thing, because learn philosophy can equalized with look for something really small in color same room the place. is at or is lost". Assumption the wrong. Because with learn philosophy We invited For think in a way critical, driven For think in a way rational. Thinking creatures That is man. A philosopher is a expert think. Every man Certain think. But No all man called philosopher. | "Cow is animal". But if statement: this behind becomes: "Animal is cow", is clearly wrong. Because this statement consider that the only one mentioned animal is cow. Whereas Still Lots other creatures (kinds) mentioned animal. For example, cats, horses, chickens, rabbits, goats and pigs are also called animals. Correct from statement second is: "Animals are one of them is cow", so not "animal is sap!". Likewise the statement, "a person philosopher is expert think. Every man Certain think", no means every man That "called philosopher or everyone who thinks called philosopher. Of course philosophize that's basically it is think,

---

Received: May 30, 2024; Accepted: June 19, 2024; Published: July 31, 2024

\* Samuel Bartolo, [samuell.bartolo@gmail.com](mailto:samuell.bartolo@gmail.com)

but think No always philosophize . If So , who is it called? a philosopher ? Think what called philosophize ? Philosophy don't have room scope . Therefore must There is limitation . Limitations this is what drives it birth discipline diverse knowledge variety . Christian philosophy is part from philosophy general . With exists Christian philosophy , philosophy general directed For believe the existence of God.

Learn philosophy means try understand something substance or essence deepest existence . Arrangement material arranged in a way compound or plural in accordance with function ( from the main to the most important ). The substance in question is not quite enough answer deepest its existence . Example : clothes – function from clothes is For cover body from nudity . The order covers body , modesty , beauty . So every existence own their respective missions . With practice philosophy , we tried give people morals. " ownership " has meaning here until limit specific , depending on location and applicable regulations . A moral person seen as expert philosophy , expert in life and at the same time wise . Philosophy guide us to understanding , and understanding to more practice wise .

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

Study This use method qualitative with approach analysis literature . Sources used covers works classic Christian philosopher , article journals , books , and sources theological . Data is collected through studies library and analyzed in a way critical For explore arguments main proposed in Christian philosophy regarding the existence of God. Approach historically also used For understand development and context from arguments the.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Argument Ontological**

Argument ontological is one of the argument the most famous and controversial philosophical For prove the existence of God. Filed first time by Anselm from Canterbury in the 11th century , ar This base the proof is in the definition draft God and logic deductive pure , without need refers to observation empirical . Anselm define Lord as “ something that is not there 's more big can thought .” In other words, God is the most perfect entity that could be imagined . Argument Anselm is that existence in reality more big than existence only in thought . According to Anselm , if Lord only There is in thought us and not in reality , then We Can imagine something more big — i.e God exists in reality . However , this will contradictory with definition Lord as something that doesn't there 's more big can thought . Therefore that , God must There is in reality and not only in thought .

Immanuel Kant, a philosopher famous, give critics important to argument ontological This . Kant argued that existence it's not characteristic or predicate that can add perfection something entity . According to him , said that Lord There is No add characteristic new to the concept Lord . Kant's criticism shows that although argument ontological Can Logical , that is No prove existence in reality concrete .

Although I see , argument ontological still become Interesting topic and updated by several modern philosophers such as Alvin Plantinga. Plantinga uses modal logic for strengthen argument ontological . He argued that If Possible that There is something great creature big and majestic perfect ( God ), then Lord That must exists in all possible worlds , including the real world We . With use modal logic , Plantinga attempted show that existence Lord more Possible than imagined previously .

By overall , argument ontological is example from How philosophy can use logic and analysis conceptual For answer questions big about existence . Although No all philosopher agree with validity argument This is an ongoing debate about argument ontological show richness and depth thinking philosophical about existence Lord . Argument This invite We For consider return what is the meaning of existence and how We Can know something through reason and reflection deep .

Argument This is one of the the most famous argument in Christian philosophy for prove the existence of God. First proposed by Anselm from Canterbury in the 11th century , ar This based on concepts that God is " something that is not there 's more big can think about it ." Anselm argued that existence in reality more big than existence in thought just . Therefore that is , if Allah only There is in mind , then something more big can thought , that is, God exists in reality . With so , according to Anselm , God must There is in reality .

## **2. Argument Cosmologist**

Argument cosmological based on principles causality and effort For explain existence natural universe . Thomas Aquinas is one figure main developer argument This . He argued that every effect must own causes , and no Possible There is chain backward cause without limit . Therefore it should There is reason the first one that doesn't caused by anything , which is reason main from all something that exists . Reason First this , according to Aquinas, is God. Argument cosmological This try show that existence natural universe need exists no cause infinite and infinite power . Argument cosmological is one of the argument main in Christian philosophy for prove the existence of God, which is based on principles causality . Argument This opinion that all something that exists in nature universe own causes , and no Possible

There is chain backward cause without limit . Therefore it should There is something reason the first one that doesn't caused by anything , and causes First this is what is believed as God. One of the most famous version from argument This developed by Thomas Aquinas in his book *Summa Theologica* . Aquinas proposed five paths ( *quinque viae* ) for prove the existence of Allah, of which there are three is variation from argument cosmological . Aquinas began with observation that all something that moves must moved by something else. However , chain motion This No Can taking place not finite , so must There is mover the first one that doesn't moved by whatever , it calls as God. Besides that , Aquinas also argued from causation , where every effect own cause , but No Possible There is chain no cause and effect ended . So , you have to There is reason the first one that doesn't caused , namely Allah. Argument This depend on principle that No Anyone can become reason for himself yourself and therefore need reason The outside started it chain causality

### **3. Argument Teleological**

Argument teleological , or argument from design , observe order and purpose in natural universe as proof exists designer smart . William Paley, a famous Christian philosopher , argued that complexity and order in natural universe show exists designer smart . In the analogy about watches , Paley argued that If somebody found the watch on the ground , he will assume that watch the made by someone designer intelligent Because the complexity . Likewise , existence natural an orderly and complex universe show exists designer intelligent , namely Allah. One of argument main in Christian philosophy is used For prove the existence of God. Argument This based on observations about order , purpose , and complexity in natural visible universe like results from design smart . One of exponent famous from argument This was William Paley, who in the 18th century proposed analogy famous about watches . Paley argued that If somebody found the watch on the ground , he will assume that watch the made by someone designer intelligent Because its complexity and order . Likewise , when We observe natural full universe with order and complexity , we should conclude that natural universe This own designer intelligent , namely Allah.

### **4. Moral Arguments**

The moral argument states that existence objective moral law need transcendent moral source . CS Lewis, a famous Christian philosopher and writer , argued that all man have a basic sense of morality about right and wrong. This moral law No Can explained by evolution or culture course , but need explanation from the existence of God as source objective moral law

. This moral argument show that without God, no There is strong foundation For moral laws that apply universally.

### **5. Experience Religious**

Besides arguments philosophical , experiential religious is also considered as proof the existence of God within Christian philosophy . Experience religious personal , like feeling proximity with God, answered prayers , and other spiritual experiences , giving proof strong subjective for individual . Although nature subjective , experience religious This often becomes base strong belief for many Christians about existence Allah. Experience This show the personal dimension of connection with God who does not can fully explained by arguments rational .

### **CONCLUSION**

Christian philosophy offers various strong and varied arguments For support confidence will the existence of God. Argument ontological , cosmological , teleological , and moral provide base strong rational , temporary experience religious give proof subjective reinforcement confidence This . Through combination reason and faith , Christian philosophy continues explore and explain the existence of God within fulfilling way need human intellectual and spiritual . Study This show that confidence of God within Christian philosophy is not only based on trust blind , but also supported by arguments comprehensive rationale and experience deep personal . View Christian philosophy regarding God's existence is based on various argument rational who has develop during centuries . Christian philosophers such as Anselm of Canterbury, Thomas Aquinas, and William Paley have develop purposeful arguments For prove the existence of God through logic and observation . Arguments This covers argument ontological , cosmological , teleological , and moral, each offers unique perspective about How We can understand and prove the existence of God. Argument ontological , first proposed by Anselm , states that concept of God as “ something that is not there 's more big can think about it " in a way logical require His existence is deep reality . Argument This interesting Because No need observation empirical , but rather pure deductive . Although has get criticism , esp from Immanuel Kant, argument This still become part important from discussion philosophical about existence God and show strength reflection conceptual in theology . Argument cosmological , popularized by Thomas Aquinas, focuses on principles causality . Aquinas argued that chain causes in nature universe must ends at something reason the first one that doesn't caused by anything , namely Allah. Argument This

combine observation about natural universe with logic deductive For conclude existence reason transcendent principal . Argument cosmological give strong foundation for confidence that There is something that is outside natural universe physically responsible answer on its existence . Argument teleological , or argument from design , observe order and purpose in natural universe as proof exists designer smart . William Paley developed analogy about watches For explain How complexity and order in natural universe show exists designer smart . In modern context , argument This strengthened by discoveries in biology and cosmology that shows that condition For life very precise and complex . Argument teleological offer an intuitive and empirical perspective about the existence of God as designer natural universe . Besides arguments philosophical Christian philosophy also emphasizes this experience religious as proof the existence of God. Spiritual experiences , answered prayers , and relationships personal with Lord give proof strong subjective for Lots individual . Although experience This nature subjective and not always can verified in a way scientific , they play role important in life religious and personal beliefs . In conclusion , Christian philosophy offers combination argument rational and experiential personal For support confidence will the existence of Allah, makes him rich and varied views in discussion theological and philosophical .

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Anselm from Canterbury. (2001). *Proslogion* , translated and introduced by Thomas Williams. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company.

4 Aquinas, T. (1947). *Summa Theologica* , Volume I, translated by the Fathers of the English Dominican Province. New York: Benziger Brothers.

3 Craig, W. L. (2008). *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* (3rd ed.). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Philosophy In **The Light of the Christian Faith**. (2021). ( np ): PBM ANDI.

7 Lewis, C.S. (2001). *Mere Christianity* . New York: HarperCollins.

Paley, W. (1802). *Natural Theology* . London: R. Faulder .

1 Plantinga, A. (1967). *God and Other Minds* . Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Swinburne, R. (2004). *The Existence of God* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

# View Christian Philosophy Concerning the existence of God

## ORIGINALITY REPORT

4%

SIMILARITY INDEX

3%

INTERNET SOURCES

4%

PUBLICATIONS

2%

STUDENT PAPERS

## PRIMARY SOURCES

1	Submitted to University of Canterbury Student Paper	1%
2	"Dictionary Entries A-Z", Wiley, 2006 Publication	1%
3	vdoc.pub Internet Source	1%
4	ebin.pub Internet Source	1%
5	Vaughn, Lewis. "Living Philosophy", Living Philosophy, 2023 Publication	1%
6	www.e-journal.stajember.ac.id Internet Source	<1%
7	www.st-marys-centre.org.uk Internet Source	<1%

Exclude quotes Off

Exclude matches Off

Exclude bibliography Off

