

An atheist on Christianity – “One of the most annoying arguments I've ever heard from believers is that actually, deep inside, everyone really does believe in God. And so, backatcha: No one really ‘can’ believe it. Deep in your heart, you know it's false.”

The philosopher Soren Kierkegaard asserted that Christianity was the best religion because it was the craziest religion. "The eternal God has appeared in time and died." It's not that that's unlikely, as Kierkegaard pointed out. It simply cannot be true. It's an absolute paradox. So the only way you're going to believe it is to let go of your experience of the world and your rationality utterly and simply leap into the abyss.

“I can respect that position, because it at least acknowledges the basic bizarreness of the belief system. What I can't get a hold of is the idea that this stuff makes sense. Maybe, just maybe, a dose of skepticism would be helpful to a world in which the clash of belief systems is a continual killing.

The world just doesn't eyeball to me like the creation of an all-powerful and perfectly good being, who saves ministers from suicide and condemns family men to utter despair and self-destruction and their children to live through it.”

How can anyone possibly believe in God?

By Crispin Sartwell

Originally published January 3, 2002

Does everyone really believe in God?

No, but everyone does wonder how it all began!
Your government is spending billions of dollars to
find out if there is life anywhere else. Or are we all
alone?

They're not searching for God, they just want to
know how it all began.

You see, there must be a beginning.

"The eternal God has appeared in time and died." -
Kierkegaard

If that were true, then Christianity would be the
craziest religion.

Let's look at the Bible.

Hugh Ross quotes 18 renowned astronomers who believe in intelligent design.

Why? Because of the overwhelming evidence.

Intelligent design requires an intelligent designer.

Why so many Astronomers?

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. (2) Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. (3) There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. (4) Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, (5) which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

The anthropic principle states that “the universe appears ‘designed’ for human life.” Thirty-eight cosmic characteristics are recognized as fine tuned (the value must be precisely to within 1 part in 10^{40}) for life.

A stable planetary system, one with the right chemical and physical conditions for life.

For one who studies the stars, the evidence is overwhelming – from the “beginning” which some doubted and its echoes (magnetic waves) which still move through the universe – to its immensity (13.5 billion light years to the farthest point of which we know and can measure) – and to think that the earth appears to be perfectly suited for human life.

Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

We want to notice that God - the son Christ Jesus -
took the form – being found in appearance as a
man – humbled Himself (our God Jesus Christ) by
being put to death.

Who died? – the man!

It is not possible for the eternal God to die! Jesus
Christ is eternal!

Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

2 Pet 3:8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Ps 89:3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations. "Selah.

Ps 90:1 Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. 3 Thou dost turn man back into dust, and dost say, "Return, O children of men." 4 For a thousand years in Thy sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night.

Both Jesus and God the Father are said to be first
and last –

Isa 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and
his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and
I am the last, and there is no God besides me.

Both Jesus and God the Father are said to be first and last

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Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Both Jesus and God the Father are said to be
unchanging –

Mal 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore
you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today, yes and forever.

Both Jesus Christ and God the Father are said to be
creator of all

Isa 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the
one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am
the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by
myself, and spreading out the earth all alone,

Col 1:15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the
first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were
created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and
invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or
authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for
Him.

It is not possible for the eternal God to die! Jesus
Christ is eternal!

Both Jesus and God the Father are said to be first
and last –

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Then who died?

The man – not the God form but the man form! God is an eternal Spirit. Man returns to dust.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Eccl 12:6 Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed; 7 then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

God does not expect us to let go of our experience in the world and leave our rationality utterly and simply leap into the abyss.

Sartwell respects this view which says religion makes no sense at all because he has never taken the time to view the evidence!

“The world just doesn't eyeball to me like the creation of an all-powerful and perfectly good being,”

Astronomers have now identified 150 finely tuned characteristics in the solar system for human life, whereas, in the 1960's there were only a few finely tuned characteristics.

In the 1960's scientists and astronomers thought the odds that life could exist on any planet in the universe were only one in 10,000 but they have now grown by one estimate to be 1 in 10^{170} .

I am reminded of my physical chemistry professor at Texas A&M who said, “There is a finite calculable probability that every molecule of air in this room will suddenly rush to that corner and we can calculate that number.

However, it is so vanishingly small that we all agree that its probability is 0 and we do not worry about it.”

I acknowledge the existence of God on the exact same basis. The fact that God does not control us like puppets and restrain us from harm simply means that He has given us free will. We have a choice.

Josh 24:15 "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua told the Israelites to choose – and they did.

God does not want anyone to live in “utter despair.”

Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Whom do you chose this day?