

Can we really know God exists, or is it just a matter of faith?

Romans 1:16–23



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16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “He who through faith is righteous shall live.”

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

20 Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse;

21 for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles.”

How Can We Say We Believe?

- ✓ Divine Revelation
- ✓ God's Nature
- ✓ The Divinity of Jesus Christ





Faith & Reason

- Faith is an act of the intelligence moved by the will
- Faith is not a blind leap but a reasonable assent
- Human reason can come to certainty about God's existence



What arguments help us know God exists?

- **The Unmoved Mover:** Everything that is changing or moving is moved by something else. Nothing can cause its own motion. This chain of movers cannot go on infinitely. There would be no First Mover to initiate the chain.
- **The Uncaused Cause:** Everything that begins has a cause. The universe began; therefore, it has a First Cause that is uncaused—God
- **The Argument from Design (Teleological):** The order and beauty of creation suggest an intelligent Designer (CCC 32).

How does science relate to these arguments?

- Science supports, rather than contradicts, belief in God. The **Big Bang theory** suggests a beginning to the universe, which aligns with the philosophical argument that what begins must have a cause.
- The fine-tuning of the universe suggests purpose, not accident.

Faith and reason are allies, not enemies.



What if someone says, “I only believe in what I can see”?

We believe many things without seeing—such as atoms, love, or the trustworthiness of history. God’s existence is known through reason applied to the evidence of creation.



Is faith still necessary if reason can prove God exists?



- Yes. Reason can show that God is real, but only Revelation tells us who He is, that He loves us, and His plan for salvation (CCC 50–53).
- The *preambles of faith*: truths about God and the moral order that human reason, by its own natural powers, can discover without the aid of supernatural revelation.
- Examples: the existence of God, the existence of the soul, the natural law written on the heart.
- The *articles of faith* are supernatural truths revealed by God that **cannot** be discovered or fully grasped by human reason alone but must be accepted on God's authority.
- Examples: the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the forgiveness of sins.

What is Divine Revelation?

Revelation is God's self-disclosure. He reveals Himself so we can enter a loving relationship with Him. CCC 51: "It pleased God, in His goodness and wisdom, to reveal Himself and to make known the mystery of His will."





How is Revelation transmitted to us?

- Through **Sacred Scripture** and **Sacred Tradition**, guarded and authentically interpreted by the **Magisterium** (the teaching office of the Church). Together they form one sacred deposit of faith (CCC 80–83).



Why should I trust Revelation?

Revelation is confirmed by signs:

- **Miracles** (e.g., healings, the Resurrection).
- **Prophecies fulfilled** in Christ.
- The **endurance of the Church** through history

Once we know God exists, what can we say about His nature?

- **Eternal** (without beginning or end).
- **Immutable** (unchanging perfection).
- **Omnipotent** (all-powerful).
- **Omniscient** (all-knowing).
- **Omnipresent** (present everywhere).
- **All-good and all-loving** (CCC 218–221).





How does God relate to the world?

- God is transcendent (above creation) yet immanent (present and active within creation).
- He sustains all things in existence (CCC 300).
- Without God's continual support, the universe would vanish.
- Providence



If God is good, why does He allow evil?

- God permits evil to bring about a greater good—such growth in virtue, Christ's victory over sin.
- The greatest example is the Cross, where God brought salvation out of suffering (CCC 309–314).

Did Jesus claim to be God?

John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, I AM."

John 10:30: "I and the Father are one."

Mark 2:5–7: He forgives sins, which only God can do.





What evidence supports Jesus' divinity?

- **Miracles**—signs of divine authority.
- **Fulfilled prophecies** (e.g., Isaiah 53 on the Suffering Servant).
- **The Resurrection**—the central proof, attested by eyewitnesses (1 Cor 15:3–8)



What is the Incarnation?

- The eternal Son of God assumed human nature while remaining fully divine (John 1:14).
- Jesus is one divine Person with two natures—human and divine (CCC 464–469).



Why did God become man?

CCC 457–460 gives four reasons:

- To save us from sin.
- To reveal God's love.
- To be our model of holiness.
- To make us “partakers of the divine nature.”

Only God could redeem humanity, but only as man could He represent us.



How does Jesus save us?

- Through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection (CCC 606–618).
- His divine nature gave infinite value to His sacrifice
- His human nature allowed Him to represent us.

What is the Trinity?



- One God in three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC 232–267).
- Each Person is fully God, yet distinct.
- This is the central mystery of our faith.

What if someone says, “Truth is relative”?

If truth were relative, the statement “truth is relative” would itself be meaningless.

Christianity affirms objective truth revealed by God in Christ.



Sources

- ✓ Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ✓ “The Faith Explained”, by Leo Trese



Small Group Discussion Questions



- When you think back on your own life, what experiences or moments have most strengthened your belief in God's existence—or challenged it?
- What role has Divine Revelation (Scripture, Tradition, or Church teaching) played in helping you know God more personally, beyond what human reason alone could tell you?
- Which attribute of God (eternal, all-loving, faithful, all-powerful, etc.) brings you the most comfort or hope in your daily life, and why?
- How do you wrestle with the problem of evil and suffering in your own faith—have there been times you've seen God bring good out of a difficult situation?
- In what ways has Jesus' divinity—especially His Resurrection—made a difference in how you live or see your relationship with Him today?
- If someone asked you why you believe in Jesus as God, how would you answer, not just with arguments, but from your personal experience of faith?