

The argument from Presupposition

A- I don't believe in God.

C- If I can show you that your view of reality isn't true, would you stop believing it?

A- how can you show me that? There's nothing wrong with my view of reality.

C- Well tell me, how do you find out what is true in your worldview?

A- Through the use of logic (evidence, reason, etc)

C- So you believe that you come to find truth through the use of logic?

A- Yes.

C- And how do you know *that*? You see, if you tell me that you used logic to figure it out, you are engaging in circular reasoning, which logic itself says you are not allowed to do, and your view of reality does not work. But if you tell me that you used *some other way* to figure it out, then you defeat your own argument- that **logic** is the way to find truth. Either way, your worldview does not work.

A- No, that's not true. Everybody uses logic to figure stuff out. What choice do we have?

C- I don't doubt that we all use logic, what I am telling you is that in your worldview it doesn't make sense to use it. You have no way of explaining why you use it, or why it should work, or how you came to know it works in the first place. If I told you that I believe in the Bible because the Bible told me it was God's word, would you say that's ok?

A- No! You need other evidence besides the bible, otherwise it's just a circular argument.

C- and when you tell me that you use logic because logic tells you to use it *you are doing the same exact thing*. Why is it ok for you to do it, but not for me?

A- Well we have no choice, we **have** to use logic. **How else could we find stuff out?**

The argument against Autonomy

C- You see, you are committed to finding stuff out **on your own**.

A- There is no other way.

C- Christianity teaches that **there is another way**. And that you use that other way all the time, and that this other way is the only explanation for how you know what you know. Let me tell you something- the Christian God claims that He is the ultimate authority in everything and that nothing judges Him, but that He judges everything. But what you do is you set yourself up as the ultimate authority and judge, and then you go and try and see if God is there. That doesn't work. If you set yourself and your use of logic up as the ultimate standard, and then you go and try and find the ultimate standard, I don't think you are going to have much success! You **already have** an ultimate standard! You are at the outset ruling God out.

A- Well if I don't use logic to find him how can he be found?

C- I am not saying that you won't use logic.

What I am talking about is what ultimate authority you submit to in your life. Consider this- if there is an immaterial God, and you are looking for material evidence, you will never find Him. If there is an immaterial God and **you only have the ability** to see material evidence then there is **only one way** to find Him- if He **reveals Himself** to you. And that is exactly what Christianity says He has done.

A- I don't believe that.

C- again, you are saying that autonomously, setting yourself up as the judge. Why should I think your arguments against God have any weight when, if He truly is there, you couldn't see Him to begin with? And why should you trust your own arguments? What evidence do you have that you are the ultimate judge in these matters? Any evidence you provide that you are the ultimate standard will be what **you** have provided, and will just be circular in your reasoning. You are your own god, and that is why you can't find the real God who is there.

A- Are you asking me to believe without any evidence that God exists?

C- No, I am telling you that the evidence that God exists is **the impossibility of the contrary, but you will not believe this evidence as long as you set yourself up as the ultimate authority and refuse to submit to God. The truth is you already live and act like God exists.**

A- **How do I do that?**