

If we believe God exists, then our view of the universe gives us a basis for believing that cognitive faculties work, since God could make us able to form true beliefs and knowledge. If we believe in God, then the Big Bang is not mysterious, nor the fine-tuning of the universe, nor the regularities of nature. All the things that we see make perfect sense. Also, if God exists our intuitions about the meaningfulness of beauty and love are to be expected.

If you don't believe in God, not only are all these things profoundly inexplicable, but your view—that there is no God—would lead you not to expect them. Though you have little reason to believe your rational faculties work, you go on using them. You have no basis for believing that nature will go on regularly, but you continue to use inductive reasoning and language. You have no good reason to trust your senses that love and beauty matter, but you keep on doing it.

Tim Keller, *The Reason For God*, 2008

## Further reading for more detailed thoughts:

- C.S Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 1952
- Lee Strobel, *The Case For A Creator*, 2004
- Tim Keller, *The Reason For God*, 2008
- Andrew Wilson, *If God Then What*, 2012
- David J Randall, *Why I Am Not An Atheist*, 2013
- Tim Keller, *Making Sense of God*, 2016
- Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, [rzim.org](http://rzim.org)  
(the source of much of the material used in this course)



But  
What  
If?

## Is Anyone Out There?

### A worldview asks 4 questions about reality:

- Origin** – Where did I come from? What does it mean to be human?  
**Meaning** – Is there a purpose to life? Is it all just random? Why am I here?  
**Morality** – How should I live? Is there an objective right and wrong?  
**Destiny** – Where, ultimately, am I headed? What happens when I die?

### 3 tests of a good worldview:

1. **Logical consistency** - Is it consistent within itself?
2. **Empirical adequacy** - Does it correspond to reality?
3. **Experiential relevance** - Is it liveable?

### However, 2 dangers to avoid:

1. An unhealthy fixation on unattainable certainty
2. Equally unhealthy scepticism that asserts if I can't know everything perhaps I can't know anything

The only way to doubt Christianity rightly and fairly is to discern the alternative belief under each of your doubts and then to ask yourself what reasons you have for believing it. How do you know your belief is true? It would be inconsistent to require more justification for Christian belief than you do for your own, but that is frequently what happens. In fairness you must doubt your doubts. My thesis is that if you come to recognise the beliefs on which your doubts about Christianity are based, and if you seek as much proof for those beliefs as you seek from Christians for their—you will discover that your doubts are not as solid as they first appeared.

**Tim Keller, The Reason For God, 2008**

## 2 world views compared:

### Origin (Cause & Intent)

Atheism	Christianity
Universe created itself from nothing	Cosmological argument
Gradual purposeless evolution	Purpose and sequence in creation – grand design
Multiverse theory	Finely tuned universe

### Meaning

Atheism	Christianity
Purposelessness to life – meaning is invented	Purpose and value given by your humanity
Meaning is subjective	There is a meaning to life
Beauty and love are illusions created by chemical impulses	The desire for beauty, truth and love is part of our humanity

In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference... DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.

**Richard Dawkins, River Out of Eden, 1995**

### Morality

Atheism	Christianity
No consistent morality – all is subjective	Internal moral law given by a moral law-giver (God)
Conscience is a process of evolution	Conscience given by God
There is neither good nor evil	Evil exists alongside God

### Destiny

Atheism	Christianity
Death is the end	Life continues after death
No judgement after death	Heaven / hell
Atoms and particles re-join the earth, till it eventually dies itself	Promise of a recreated world of perfection with the Creator

Christianity claims to give an account of the facts – to tell you what the real universe is like. Its account of the universe may be true, or it may not, and once the question is before you, then your natural inquisitiveness must make you want to know the answer. If Christianity is untrue, then no honest man will want to believe it, however helpful it might be; if it is true, every honest man will want to believe it, even if it give him no help at all.

**C.S Lewis, God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics, 1970**