

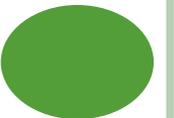
# DOES GOD EXIST?

## THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”

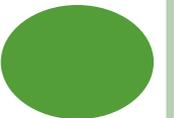
# MIND VS. MATTER

- Our mind consists of our sensations, emotions, desires, beliefs, and free choices that make us alive and aware of our existence.
- Philosopher René Descartes says, “I think, therefore, I am.”
- Where does that thinking come from? Are our minds the same thing as our brain?
  - If our minds are the same as our brain, then we are only made up of physical particles.
  - If our minds are different than our brains, then the existence of our minds must be explained somehow.



# DUALISM VS. PHYSICALISM

- The debate on the existence of our mind is summarized by two opposing theories:
  1. Dualism: We are both mind and brain.
  2. Physicalism: The brain is matter only
- Which model better predicts the world we observe?



# CONSEQUENCES OF PHYSICALISM

- If physicalism were true:

1. Consciousness wouldn't really exist

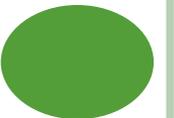
- Everything would only be described from a third-person point of view.
  - However we DO describe things from a first person point of view.

2. There would be no free will

- We would have no ability to rise above a physical response to environmental stimuli.
  - However, we ARE capable of persisting beyond just the way our chemistry and biology dictate.

3. The brain would have all the same characteristics as the mind

- The brain can not be in a state of “true” or “false.”
  - However, our thoughts CAN be in a state of “true” or “false.”



# CONSEQUENCES OF PHYSICALISM

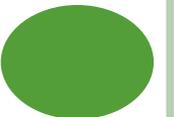
- If physicalism were true:

- 4. Scientists could study the mind directly

- Everything about a patient could be revealed by mapping the brain to see the synapses firing and lobes lighting up.
    - However, brain mapping images DO NOT reveal our desires, our religious beliefs, our preferences, and our dreams.

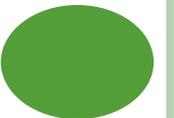
- 5. We could not trust any theoretical thinking

- Our minds would only output the random assembling of particles so that theoretical thinking could not be trusted.
    - However, we DO trust theoretical thinking, such as debating whether the mind is different from the brain.



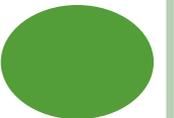
# CONSEQUENCES OF PHYSICALISM

- If physicalism were true, then we would live in a very different world than what we live in.
  - We would have no free will, no consciousness, and no theoretical thinking.
  - Therefore, physicalism is not a valid model to explain the existence of the mind.
- Furthermore, if the mind and the brain were the same thing, we could eventually dissect a person until we could discover their thoughts and opinions.



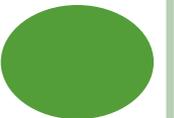
# WHERE DID THE MIND COME FROM?

- Since the brain and the mind are two different entities, then where did the mind come from?
- There is either:
  - In the beginning was a particle...
  - In the beginning was the *Logos* (or Divine Mind)
- If we start with only matter, we will only get a continual rearrangement of particles but nothing different than matter.
  - You will never get to a mind or consciousness.
- If we start with the infinite Mind, then we can explain how minds and particles, spirit and body, could both come into existence.



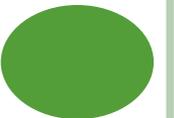
# IN THE BEGINNING...GOD

- With God as the beginning point, we can deduce that God is:
  - Rational, intelligent, creative, and aware – because we are rational, intelligent, creative and aware
  - Invisible – because the essence of who we are, our spirit, is invisible.
    - We aren't able to “see” God in the same way we can't “see” one another.
  - Omnipresent – because our souls occupy and fill up our entire body.
    - We don't lost half of who we are if we have something removed. In the same way, God occupies all of space. You wouldn't lose half of God if you were to cut space in half.



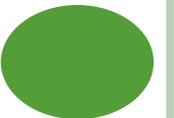
# I THINK, THEREFORE, GOD IS

- You *are* a soul, and you *have* a body.
  - You think, therefore, God is.



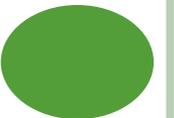
# ANTHROPOLOGY

- Anthropology deals with the study of humanity, including morality and ethics.
  - Everything we do on a daily basis has an ethical component to it.
- We use the terms “ought to” and “ought not” and “unfair”
- These terms illustrate that we have in mind some kind of rule or law of behavior for playing fair and decent behavior.
  1. Human beings have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way
  2. Human beings do not behave in that way



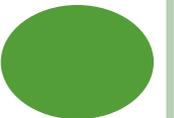
# MORAL LAW

- This inherent Moral Law compels us to behave in a certain way.
  - Something tells us that honesty, loyalty, and unselfishness are traits that are to be admired.
  - Meanwhile lying, theft, and treason are traits that are to be avoided.
- How did mankind acquire this standard of behavior?



# HOW DID WE GET THIS MORAL LAW?

- To benefit society?
- To prevent harm to others?
- From instinct?
  - Hearing a cry for help, there are two instincts:
    - Herding instinct
    - Self-preservation
  - Which one do you choose? Which one *should* you choose?
- Something we're taught?



# HOW DID WE GET THIS MORAL LAW?

- From the mind of man?
  - We end up with as many moral and ethical systems as we have people, yet all would have to be equally valid.
  - There would be no objective morality.



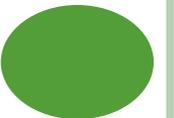
# HOW DID WE GET THIS MORAL LAW?

## ○ From nature?

- Morals can't be observed through nature since humankind is the only creature with morals.
- There is no evolutionary advantage to morality. Evolution would declare anything that progressed the species as “morally good.”

“If men were reared under precisely the same conditions as hive-bees, there can hardly be a doubt that our unmarried females would, like the worker-bees, think it a sacred duty to kill their brothers, and mothers would strive to kill their fertile daughters; and no one would think of interfering.”

– Charles Darwin



# HOW DID WE GET THIS MORAL LAW?

- From God.
  - This Moral Law clearly exists and did not come from any natural means. Therefore, something outside of nature imparted this Moral Law onto mankind alone.
- There is a Moral Law Giver.

Moral Law exists (it is interested in doing good and fair play)

↳ Moral Law Giver must exist (and be interested in doing good and fair play)

↳ Moral Law Giver must be good (therefore must hate evil)

↳ Moral Law Giver must hate most of what we do

What are we to do about that?

