



Theology Q1

Is atheism implausible?

Recommended Readings

Historical Resources

John Locke Works

1. "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (1689)

Locke discusses our knowledge of God's existence through reason

In Book IV, Chapter X ("Of our Knowledge of the Existence of a God"), Locke argues that God's existence can be known with certainty through reason

Explores the idea that atheism contradicts our natural intuitions about causation

2. "The Reasonableness of Christianity" (1695)

Examines the compatibility of reason and Christian faith

Argues that Christianity is the most reasonable religious system

Suggests rational grounds for religious belief

3. "A Letter Concerning Toleration" (1689)

While primarily about religious tolerance, it discusses the social implications of atheism

Locke controversially excludes atheists from toleration, arguing that their denial of God undermines social contracts and morality

Other Historical Works

1. "Natural Theology" by William Paley (1802)

Presents the watchmaker analogy for intelligent design

Argues that the complexity of nature implies a creator, making atheism implausible

2. "Pensées" by Blaise Pascal (1670)



Theology Category - Recommended Readings

Contains Pascal's Wager, which argues that believing in God is the rational choice

Suggests pragmatic reasons to reject atheism even under uncertainty

3. "The Existence of God" by Richard Swinburne (1979)

Uses probability theory to argue for God's existence

Presents a cumulative case that theism is more probable than atheism

Contemporary Resources

1. "The God Delusion" by Richard Dawkins (2006)

Presents a comprehensive case for atheism

Argues that supernatural claims are implausible given scientific understanding

Criticizes theological arguments and religious faith

2. "Atheism: The Case Against God" by George H. Smith (1979)

Systematic defense of atheism from a logical perspective

Examines the burden of proof in theological debates

3. "God and the Burden of Proof" by Keith Parsons (1989)

Explores epistemological issues in theism vs. atheism debates

Addresses who bears the burden of proof in religious discussions

4. "The Miracle of Theism" by J.L. Mackie (1982)

Critiques various arguments for God's existence

Presents arguments that atheism is more plausible than theism

5. "Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism" by Alvin Plantinga (2011)

Argues that naturalism (associated with atheism) is self-defeating

Suggests the compatibility of science and theism



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6. "Reasonable Faith" by William Lane Craig (2008)

Presents contemporary arguments for theism

Argues that atheism fails to account for key aspects of human experience

7. "Theism and Explanation" by Gregory Dawes (2009)

Examines whether theistic explanations can be good explanations

Evaluates the explanatory power of theism versus atheism

8. "The Cambridge Companion to Atheism" edited by Michael Martin (2007)

Collection of essays on the philosophical foundations of atheism

Explores various arguments for and against atheism's plausibility