

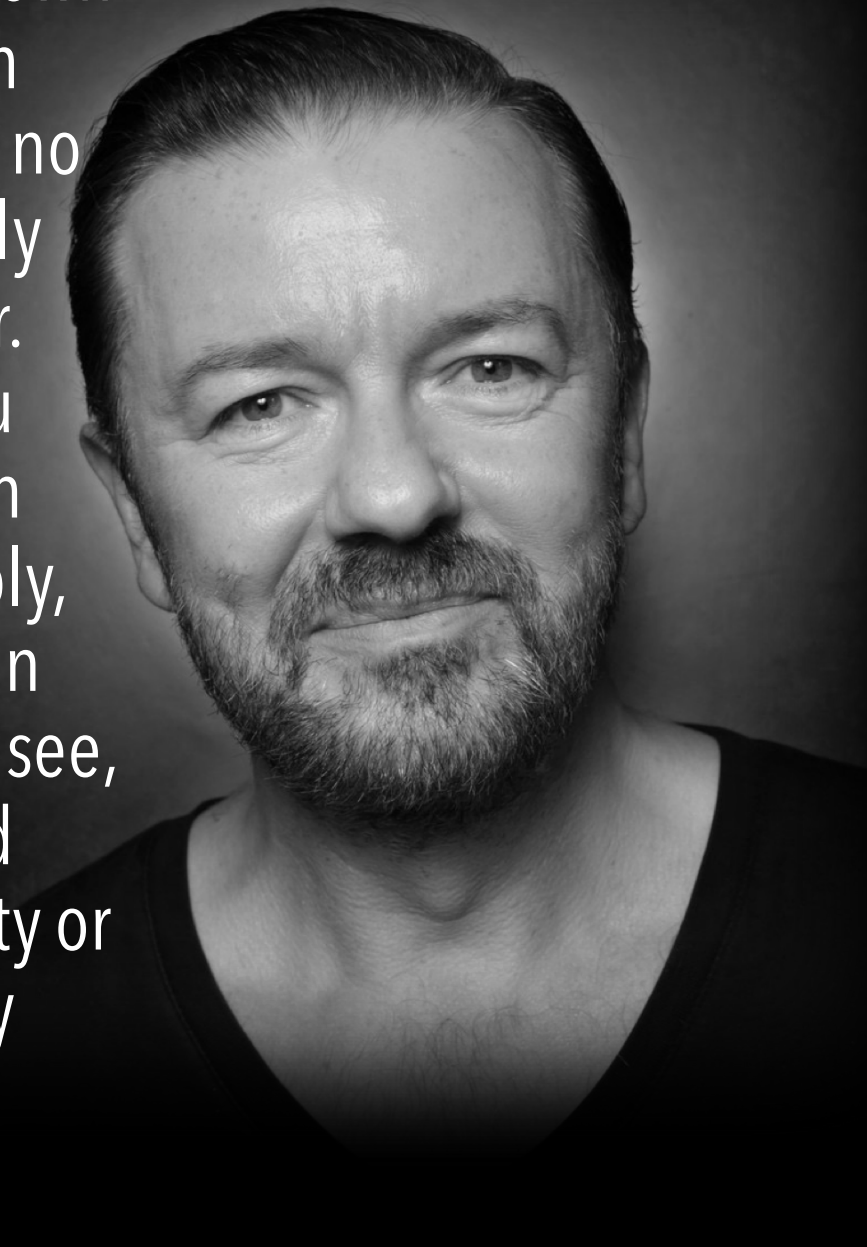
QUESTIONS FROM AN  
**ATHEIST**

# JUST SOME INITIAL **OBSERVATIONS**

- Absurdly-simplified internet memes are not the same as reasonable arguments. Demand more from them.
- It's okay to go on the offensive. Question their worldview and how they arrived at it.
- Don't feel bad if you need time to study something.
- Don't answer a fool according to his folly (Prov. 26:4).
- Avail yourself of resources, such as [reasonablefaith.org](http://reasonablefaith.org), [apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org), or the numerous debates online by great theists like Dr. W.L. Craig, Dr. Frank Turek, Dr. John Lennox, or the works of C.S. Lewis like *Mere Christianity*.



"The existence of God is not subjective. He either exists or he doesn't. It's not a matter of opinion. You can have your own opinions. But you can't have your own facts. Why don't I believe in God? No, no no, why do YOU believe in God? Surely the burden of proof is on the believer. You started all this. If I came up to you and said, "Why don't you believe I can fly?" You'd say, "Why would I?" I'd reply, "Because it's a matter of faith." If I then said, "Prove I can't fly. Prove I can't fly see, see, you can't prove it can you?" You'd probably either walk away, call security or throw me out of the window..." -Ricky Gervais



# WHERE'S THE LOGICAL FALLACY?

- First, the question of whether we can fly or not is immaterial. Nobody is asking this, which makes any statement on the matter nothing but a claim.
- Ironically, even most atheists acknowledge that there can be only two answers to the question, "Does God exist?" We did not bring it up. We did not invent the question. It is an essential inquiry that everybody must ask because we are curious beings with an innate sense of our own spirituality. Dismissing the question altogether (or comparing it to a pointless pursuit) is lazy and smug.



# THE BURDEN OF PROOF?

- Besides, is the burden of proof really on the Christian? This is typically called presumption atheism, and is actually quite problematic for the atheist. First, because the statement "there is no god" requires AS MUCH proof as the statement "there is a god." In forensics, it is said, "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." So atheism is self-defeating if it cannot prove God's non-existence.
- Second, it is incumbent on the atheist to prove that if God existed, He would have provided MORE evidence than what He has. That is to say, it must be proven that we cannot logically come to believe in God based on the evidence we already have – an unenviable task given the witness of the creation itself (Romans 1:20).



CAN WE ARRIVE AT BELIEF

**REASONABLY?**



A person wearing a dark blue jacket over a white t-shirt is sitting at a table, reading an open book. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a library or study area with bookshelves.

# FIVE PROOFS

- The cosmological argument from contingency
- The *Kalam* cosmological argument
- The moral argument based on values and duties
- The teleological argument from fine-tuning
- The resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth

# GOD IS THE ONLY **LOGICAL ANSWER**

- Logic dictates that whatever was the "first cause" must exist outside the boundaries of the universe. Otherwise, it is not, in fact, the first cause. It must be infinite and eternal, so powerful that it could be the engine of initiation for all the power in the universe, non-physical, morally perfect by nature, and must possess a personal will.
- The Christian concept of God, and how He presents Himself in the Bible, fits this description – far better than any other concept of God, by the way. While it might be clever to point out how many other "gods" there are in the world, only one possesses all of the above necessary qualities.





# OCCAM'S RAZOR

(AKA OKHAM'S RAZOR)

If one immediately eliminates God from the equation, what is he left with? Sadly, many atheists become attached to increasingly difficult, unreasonable, or ridiculous theories in order to avoid the simplest, most obvious answer: that an omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, non-physical, personal being is both initiator and sustainer of the universe.

# OBJECTIONS

- "If you can call the first cause "god" then why can't I call it by some other naturalistic name, such as Darwinism, or some effect from another dimension?"
- "How is it fair for "god" to give me, essentially, no choice in believing in him? I can either believe and go to heaven, or not believe and go to hell."
- "God is just too complex, and the more complex something is, the less probable it is."
- "If your god is truly all-good, then where did evil come from? This is proof that either your god does not exist, or he is not what he claims to be in the Bible (all-good and all-powerful)."