

Conclusion: The universal cause of man's belief in God, a god or gods must be God.

d. Criticisms of the Ethnological Argument

(1) Agnosticism and Atheism

These views, if genuine, challenge the very first premise of step 1 of the argument.

(2) Common Denominator of Religions

Although it is true that there is no contemporary culture devoid of religion; and although it is true that one of the major criteria used by cultural anthropologists in determining whether fossil remains are genuinely human is evidence of some form of religion, yet it is also true that all attempts to reduce the religions of the world to some common denominator have failed.

(3) Universal Consent

The argument from universal consent is simply not a sound test for truth. If all men believed the earth was flat, would such a belief make the earth flat? If all men believed that the sun revolves around a fixed earth, would that belief make it so? In addition, one may raise the question whether there has ever been, since the Fall, a concept on which all mankind has agreed. If not, then does this argument not amount to consent by majority? And would the majority not shift from age to age?

(4) True God from False Religions

Note the second step of the argument. Do false religious beliefs come from God, or from sinful men? And by what logic does one jump from belief in a god or gods to belief in the existence of the one true and living God?

B. COLLECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE RATIONAL ARGUMENTS

- Each of the five arguments in their classical or traditional form claims that the conclusion must follow, i.e., that the argument has deductive force. Yet there are logical fallacies or problems with the premises in each of these.
- Some who employ the arguments claim that they are cumulative. That is, they admit that each argument taken by itself is weak, and inadequate, but they claim that the five arguments taken together are strong, compelling, and sufficient to bind the conscience. But we must ask, "How can five weak arguments add up to a strong case?" Further, since these arguments build upon each other to some extent, one should not try to illustrate the strength of the five arguments by the concept of a five-stranded cord -- each strand being