

The Existence of God

Foundations

Who is God?

- **Exodus 5:1** Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’”

Exodus 5:2 But Pharaoh said, “**Who is the Lord**, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”

Three Arguments for God's Existence

1. Cosmological Argument
2. Teleological Argument
3. Moral Argument

Cosmological Argument

- Cosmological derives from the Greek word, “cosmos” and refers to everything that exists – the universe and everything in it.
- Cosmological Argument states that for every effect there must be a cause (if there was a beginning, there must be a Beginner).
- Additionally, the cause must be adequate to cause the effect e.g., a fly cannot knock over an elephant.

Cosmological Argument

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause
 2. The Universe began to exist
 3. Therefore, the Universe had a cause
- Only one of the options below can be correct
 - The Universe is eternal
 - The Universe created itself from nothing
 - The Universe was created by something or someone eternal (not by chance)

Cosmological Argument (Biblical Support)

- **Psalms 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Cosmological Argument (Biblical Support)

- **Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 1:19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

- **Romans 1:20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.** So they are without excuse.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How can I be sure that God exists?
- 2. No one can see God right now. How can we say He exists when we cannot see Him.
- 3. One reason why you know God exists is _____.

Cosmological Argument

- Hebrews 3:4 (For every house is built by someone, but the **builder of all things is God.**)
- The house owes its existence to a builder. Without the builder, the house would/could not exist.
- Likewise, the builder owes his existence to his parents. Additionally, his parents owe their existence to their parents.
- This reasoning continues until we get to God (who is self-existent) – who made the first man.

Cosmological Argument

- The cause of the universe must be outside of and not a part of the universe.
- There must be a first cause. The first cause is God.

Zero Times Zero

- Zero time zero for a thousand year – or for a million years or a for billion years will ALWAYS equal Zero.
- Point: You cannot get SOMETHING from NOTHING.

First Law of Thermodynamics

- Matter nor energy can be created nor destroyed (it can only be transferred or changed from one form to another).

Second Law of Thermodynamics

- Everything is running down—entropy (disorder).

Spontaneous Generation

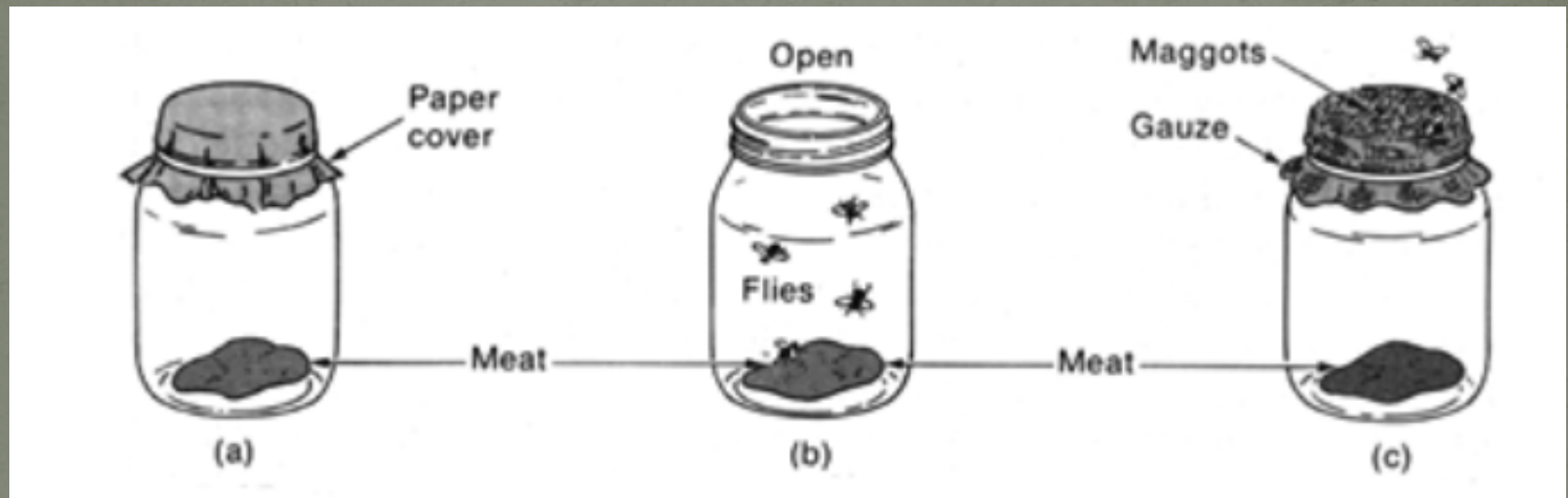
- The hypothetical process by which living organisms develop from nonliving matter.
- However, life does not spontaneously arise from non-life.
- Life only comes from life (Biogenesis).

Spontaneous Generation

- Ancient Greeks believed that some small animals came into existence by itself. For example, they believed that maggots just appeared out of nowhere.

Francesco Redi

- Spontaneous Generation Test



After his kind (Biogenesis)

- **Genesis 1:21** So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, **according to their kinds**, and every winged bird **according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good.
- **Genesis 1:24** And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures **according to their kinds**—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth **according to their kinds**.” And it was so.

Dr. George Wald of Harvard University (Nobelist)

- “However improbable we regard this event [the accidental origin of life], or any of the steps which it involves, given enough time it will almost certainly happen Time is in fact the hero of the plot . . . Given so much time, the ‘impossible’ becomes possible, the possible becomes probable, and the probable virtually certain. **One has only to wait: time itself performs the miracles**

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- When we consider the spontaneous origin of a living organism, this is not an event that need happen again and again. It is perhaps enough for it to happen once. The probability with which we are concerned is of a special kind; it is the probability that an event occur at least once. To this type of probability a fundamentally important thing happens as one increases the number of trials. However improbable the event in a single trial, it becomes increasingly probable as the trials are multiplied. Eventually the event becomes virtually inevitable.

Dr. George Wald of Harvard University (Nobelist)

- The important point is that since the origin of life belongs in the category of at-least-once phenomena, time is on its side. However improbable we regard this event, or any of the steps which it involves, given enough time it will almost certainly happen at least once. And for life as we know it, with its capacity for growth and reproduction, once may be enough.

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- Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two [sic] billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the “impossible” becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait; time itself performs the miracles.

Dr. George Wald of Harvard University (Nobelist)

- "There are only two possibilities as to how life arose. One is spontaneous generation arising to evolution; the other is a supernatural creative act of God. There is no third possibility. Spontaneous generation, that life arose from non-living matter was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others. That leaves us with the only possible conclusion that life arose as a supernatural creative act of God. I will not accept that philosophically because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible; spontaneous generation arising to evolution." (Wald, George, "Innovation and Biology," *Scientific American*, Vol. 199, Sept. 1958, p. 100)

Time Cannot Create

- Time cannot create anything.
- Zero times zero for a billion years will never equal anything but zero!

Teleological Argument

- If there is order or design, there must be a Designer
- There is order and complexity in:
 - The Design of the Universe
 - The Design of the Human Body (Information in the DNA or mind origination)
- Which came first: a baby or a human woman?

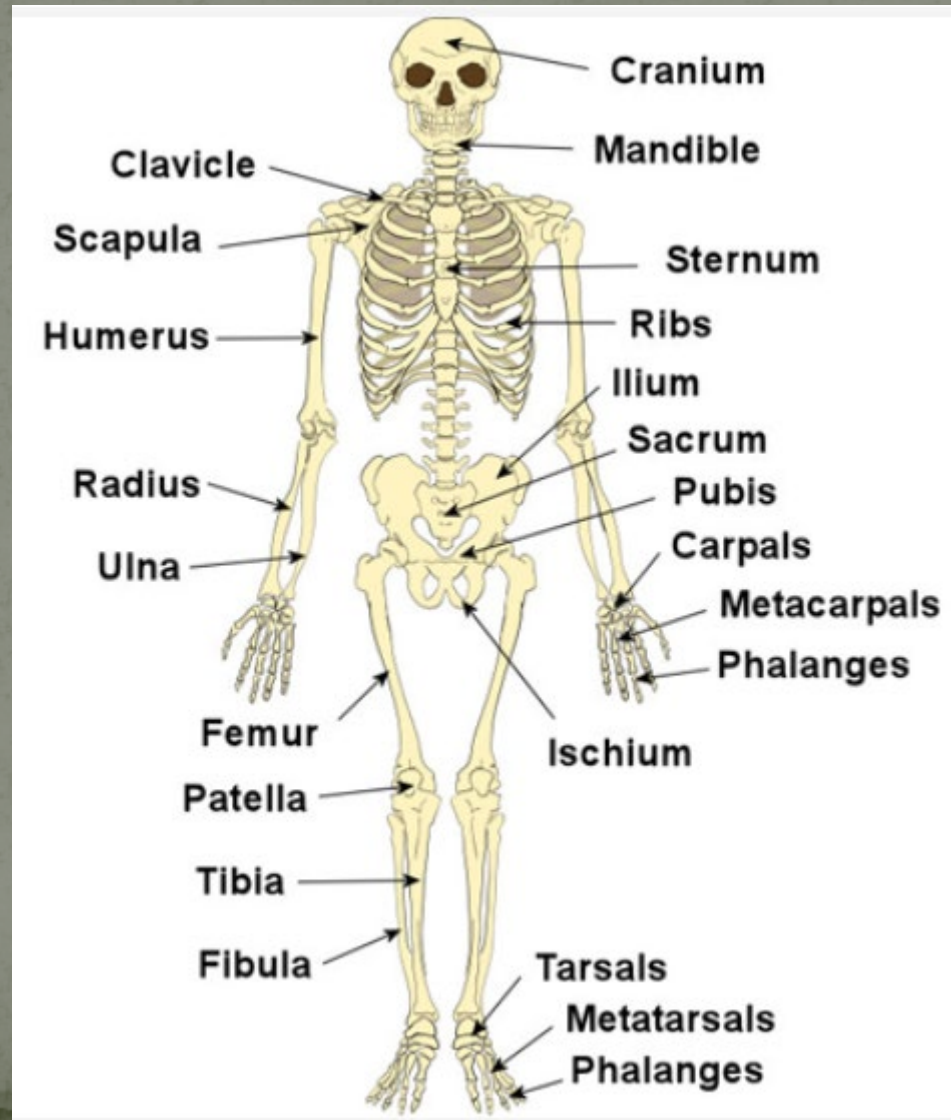
Teleological Argument

- The complexity of the universe and the human body cries design.
- The complexity of the respiratory system, nervous system, circulatory system, digestive system, skeletal system reproductive system cry purpose and design.
- **Proverbs 20:12** The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.
- God made the ear to hear and the eye to hear!

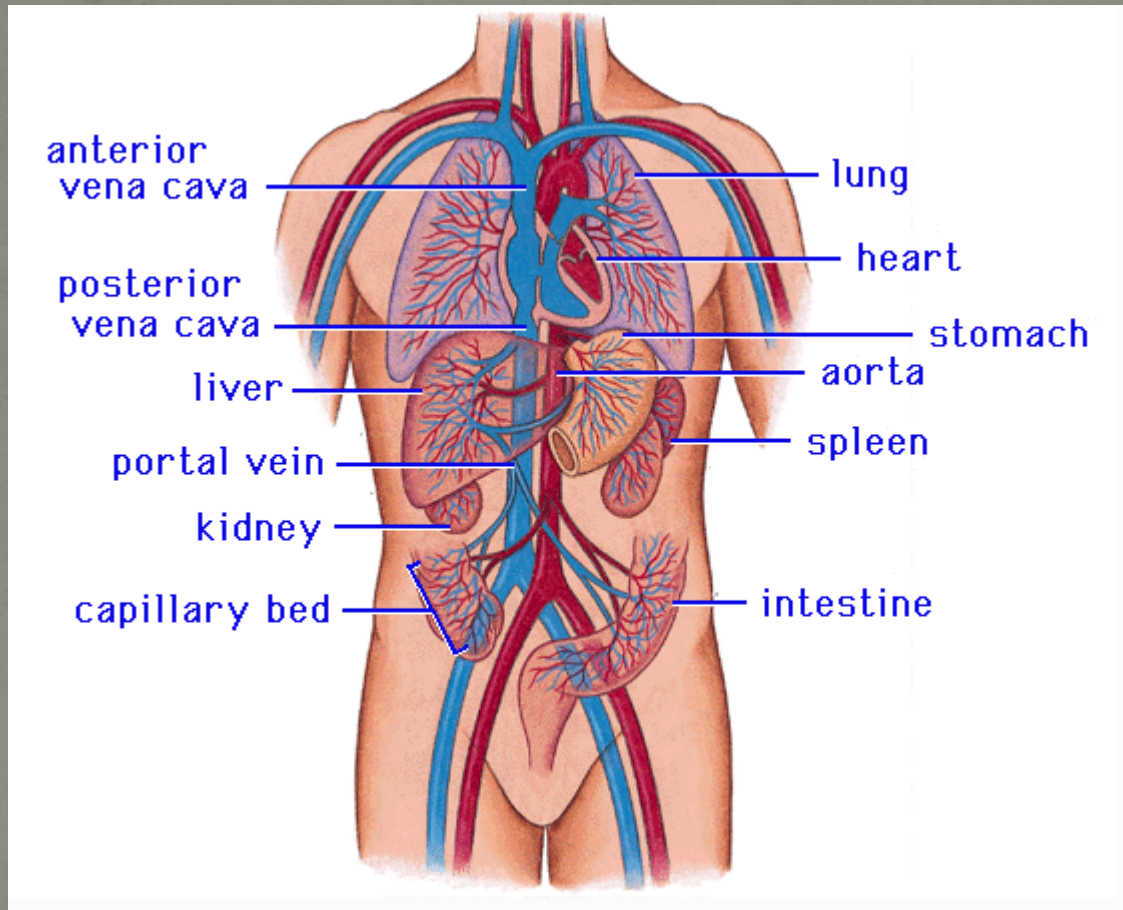
Awesomely Made

- **Psalms 139:14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

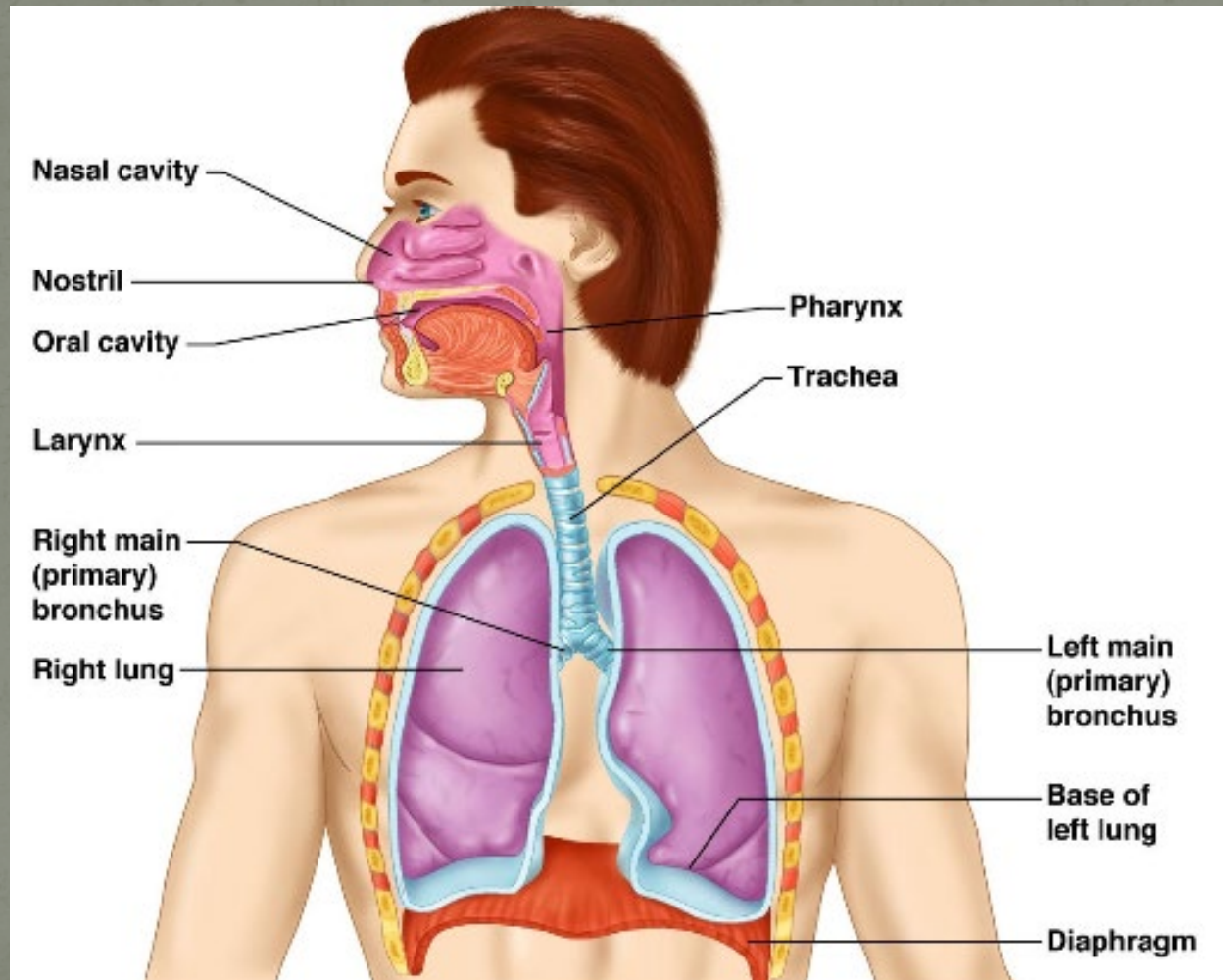
Skeletal System



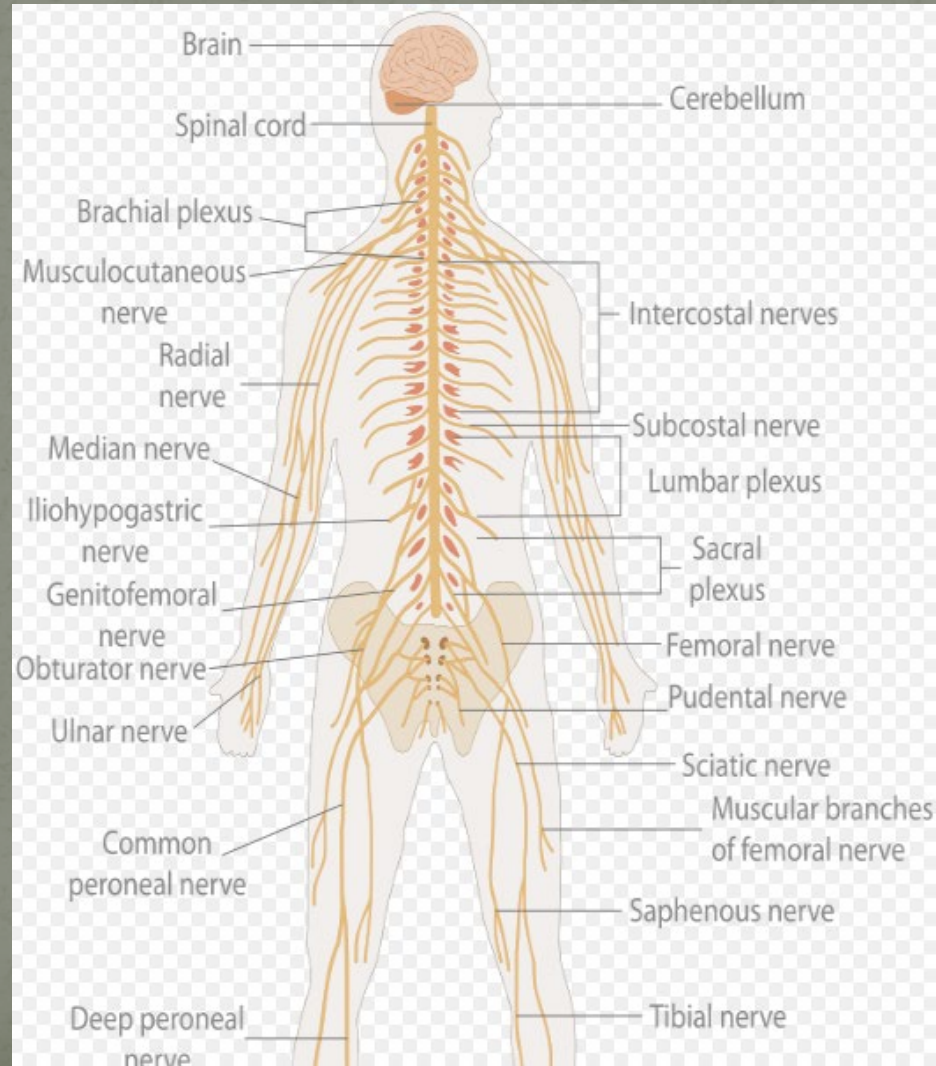
Circulatory System



Respiratory System



Nervous System



Teleological Argument

1. The world shows intelligent design.
2. There must be an Intelligent Designer
3. Therefore, God exist and is that Intelligent Designer.

Fine Tuning of the Universe



The Universe

- There are billions of galaxies in the Universe.
- There are “1” with 24 zeros after it stars in the Universe.
- Psalm 147:4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

The Sun and the Earth

- The Earth exactly the correct distance (93 million miles) from the Sun so that life can be sustained on the Earth.
- If the Earth were a little closer or a little farther from the Sun – life could not be sustained on the Earth.

The Moon

- The Moon's distance from the Earth helps support ocean life.
- The Moon's tides are needed to sustain life in the oceans and these tides are based on the Moon's distance from the Earth.
- The Moon is the right distance from the Earth.

The Moral Argument

- Objective right and wrong exists
- There must be a Lawgiver
- There are things that are always wrong and there are things which are always right (for everyone, in every location).
- Man has a conscience (a sense of oughtness – there are things which we ought to do and things which we ought not to do).

Relativism

- Relativism believes that societies and/or individuals can decide what is right and what is wrong.
- These ideas vary from culture to culture or person to person.
- Is lying wrong? Stealing? Killing?

The Moral Argument

- Is right and wrong objective or subjective? Do they apply to all people and at all times.
- Or is right or wrong a matter of opinion?
- Was Adolf Hitler wrong? Or was his view of right and wrong just different?
- The study of morality and values is called axiology.

Forms of Relativism

- Cultural Relativism
- Conventionalism
- Ethical Subjectivism

Cultural Relativism

- Cultural Relativism believes that each culture can have its own view of morality. This is no right or wrong answer to the morality question. Therefore, there cannot be objective morality.
- Morals do not just describe how things are. Morals tells how things ought to be.
- Just because things are a certain way does not mean they should be that way.

Cultural Relativism

- Just because two people give different answers to the same question does not mean that there is no right answer.
- Just because two countries disagree on abortion and homosexuality – does not mean there is no right or wrong answer.

Conventionalism

- Conventionalism believes that society decides what is right and wrong.
- This idea believes that right and wrong exist, but society makes the decision on what is right and wrong.

Ethical Subjectivism

- Ethical Subjectivism is based on the idea that what is true for you is true for you, and what's true for me is true for me.

Where Does Morality Come From?

- Morality consists of commands, not suggestions.
- Morality is universal.
- Morality applies to all people in all places at all times. Morality is objective. Right and wrong exist outside of and regardless of our beliefs.
- **Everyone believes in an objective standard of right and wrong when they are the one that is wronged.**

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