# **Ontology**

## Why Your View of Reality Shapes Everything

#### "What is real?"

This isn't just a philosophical question—it's a **theological one**. How we answer it determines **how we see God, ourselves, and the universe.** 

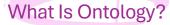
Ontology, the branch of philosophy and theology that studies the nature of being, existence, and reality, is foundational to every worldview.

Yet, in today's culture, many people dismiss absolute reality in favor of:

- Subjective experience ("Live your truth")
- Materialism ("Only what we can see and test exists")
- Postmodernism ("Reality is whatever we make it")

But **if we get ontology wrong**, we get **everything wrong**—from morality to meaning, from purpose to God.

So let's break it down. ATTOOED APOLOGIST



Ontology deals with what exists and what is ultimately real.

### **Key questions include:**

- What does it mean to "be"?
- Is reality purely physical, or is there a spiritual realm?
- Does God exist, and if so, what is His nature?
- Are human beings just advanced matter, or do we have souls?

Ontology isn't just abstract philosophy—it defines how we live.

## Competing Views of Reality

Different worldviews have different ontological foundations:

### 1. Naturalism (Materialism)

- "Only the physical world exists."
- No soul, no spirit, no God—just atoms and molecules.
- Humans are biological machines, and consciousness is just brain chemistry.
- Flaw: If naturalism is true, then:
- X Morality is subjective.
- X Free will is an illusion.
- X Meaning is invented, not discovered.

### 2. Pantheism (All is One, All is God)

- "Reality is divine, and we are all part of it."
- No distinction between God and creation—everything is one.
- Often found in Eastern religions and New Age spirituality.
- Flaw: If everything is divine, then:
- X Good and evil become illusions.
- X There's no personal God to worship.
- X Individual identity is meaningless.

## 3. Theism (God as the Ultimate Reality)

- "God is the necessary being from whom all else derives."
- Reality is both physical and spiritual—God is outside of creation.
- 🔁 Christianity, Judaism, and Islam affirm this foundational truth.

- Strength: Theism grounds reality in:
- Objective morality.
- Human purpose and value.
- 🔽 A Creator who gives life meaning.

### The Biblical Ontology: God as the Source of All Being

The Bible begins with the ultimate ontological statement:

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

#### This tells us:

- God is the source of all being.
- reation is real, but dependent on God.
- ★ We are not self-existent—only God is.

This is reinforced in **Exodus 3:14**, when God declares:

#### "I AM WHO I AM."

Unlike us, God doesn't derive His existence from anything else—He is self-existent, eternal, and necessary.

"For in Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

This means everything else—creation, humanity, morality—flows from His nature.

## Why Ontology Matters for Christianity

Your ontology determines how you answer life's biggest questions:

## 1. What Is the Nature of Humanity?

- X If naturalism is true, humans are just highly evolved matter with no soul.
- ✓ If biblical theism is true, humans are created in God's image with intrinsic worth (Genesis 1:27).

How you define what it means to be human affects ethics, justice, and identity.

- 1 2. Is Truth Objective or Subjective?
  - X If postmodernism is right, truth is fluid and personal.
  - If God exists, truth is fixed and absolute (John 14:6).

Our culture promotes "my truth", but objective reality doesn't bend to personal feelings.

- 1 3. Is Morality Real or a Social Construct?
  - X If naturalism is true, morality is just a survival mechanism.
  - ✓ If God exists, morality is rooted in His unchanging nature (Isaiah 5:20).

Without objective moral grounding, words like "justice" and "evil" lose meaning.

- 1 4. Does God's Existence Matter?
  - X If naturalism is right, life has no ultimate meaning.
  - ✓ If theism is right, our existence has purpose, and our destiny is eternal (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Everything hinges on who God is and whether we live in relation to Him.

# How Should Christians Respond?

We must **defend a biblical ontology** in a world that rejects absolute reality.

- 1. Expose the Contradictions of False Worldviews
  - Naturalists say morality is real—but can't justify it.
  - Postmodernists say truth is relative—but insist their views are true.
  - Pantheists claim all is one—but live as if distinctions matter.

Christianity stands alone in providing a coherent, grounded reality.

# 2. Proclaim God as the Source of All Being

Many think of **God as a distant force**—but He is the very ground of reality itself.

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things." (Romans 11:36)

Without God, nothing can exist, make sense, or have meaning.

## ✓ 3. Call People to Align with Reality

The Gospel isn't just about forgiveness—it's about restoring people to truth.

"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:32)

To reject God's reality is to live in illusion—but Christ came to restore us to what is real.

### Final Thought: Reality Is Not Up for Debate

We don't create reality—we conform to it.

God is not just a part of existence—He is the very foundation of it.

What we believe about ontology isn't just an academic issue—it's the difference between:

- Truth or deception
- Purpose or meaninglessness
- **★** God or illusion

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10)

Reality is not relative—it is rooted in the unchanging God.

 $\bigcirc$  How do you see ontology affecting today's culture? Let's discuss!  $\bigcirc$ 

#TattooedApologist #ChristianApologetics #Ontology #BiblicalTruth #RealityMatters #Theology #GodIsReal #1000LivesForChrist