

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.

THE TATTOOED APOLOGIST

What Is Ontology?

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:**

- ✗ **Morality is subjective.**
- ✗ **Free will is an illusion.**
- ✗ **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:**

- ✗ **Good and evil become illusions.**
- ✗ **There’s no personal God to worship.**
- ✗ **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.**
- ✦ **Creation 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?

- ✗ **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.**

⚠️ 2. Is Truth Objective or Subjective?

✗ 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.

⚠️ 3. Is Morality Real or a Social Construct?

✗ 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.

⚠️ 4. Does God’s Existence Matter?

✗ 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**.

💬 **How do you see ontology affecting today's culture? Let's discuss!** 🗨️

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