

# Christian Apologetics 3

The Moral Argument  
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# Is there evidence within us of the existence of God?

- People, across cultures and times, have shared a fairly common moral code.
- Moral codes are ideas.
- Ideas originate in minds.
- It makes more sense to believe that the moral ideas we share are a product of one mind, than of each individual mind.
- This Mind is God.

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Murder

- 'I have not slain men.' (Ancient Egyptian. From the Confession of the Righteous Soul, 'Book of the Dead')
- 'Do not murder.' (Ancient Jewish. Exodus 20:13)
- 'In Nastrond (= Hell) I saw... murderers.' (Old Norse. *Volospá* 38, 39)
- 'Terrify not men or God will terrify thee.' (Ancient Egyptian. Precepts of Ptahhetep)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Lying

- 'He who is cruel and calumnious has the character of a cat.' (Hindu. Laws of Manu)
- 'Slander not.' (Babylonian. Hymn to Samas)
- 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.' (Ancient Jewish. Exodus 20:16)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Civility

- 'Nature urges that a man should wish human society to exist and should wish to enter it.' (Roman. Cicero, *De Officiis*, i. iv)
- 'Speak kindness ... show good will.' (Babylonian. Hymn to Samas)
- 'What good man regards any misfortune as no concern of his?' (Roman. Juvenal)
- 'I am a man: nothing human is alien to me.' (Roman. Terence, *Heaut. Tim.*)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Family Loyalty

- 'Brothers shall fight and be each others' bane.' (Old Norse. Account of the Evil Age before the World's end, *Volospá*)
- 'Has he insulted his elder sister?' (Babylonian. List of Sins)
- 'Nothing can ever change the claims of kinship for a right thinking man.' (Anglo-Saxon. Beowulf)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Marriage

- 'Is it only the sons of Atreus who love their wives? For every good man, who is right-minded, loves and cherishes his own.' (Greek. Homer, *Iliad*)
- 'Love thy wife studiously. Gladden her heart all thy life long.' (Ancient Egyptian)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Loyalty to the State

- 'Part of us is claimed by our country, part by our parents, part by our friends.' (Roman. Cicero)
- 'Put them in mind to obey magistrates. .... I exhort that prayers be made for kings and all that are in authority.' (Christian. Titus 3:1 and I Timothy 2:1, 2)
- 'If a ruler ... compassed the salvation of the whole state, surely you would call him Good? The Master said, It would no longer be a matter of "Good". He would without doubt be a Divine Sage.' (Ancient Chinese. *Analects*, vi. 28)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Honor to Parents

- 'Has he despised Father and Mother?' (Babylonian. List of Sins)
- 'I was a staff by my Father's side ... I went in and out at his command.' (Ancient Egyptian. Confession of the Righteous Soul)
- 'Honour thy Father and thy Mother.' (Ancient Jewish. Exodus 20:12)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Sex

- 'Has he approached his neighbour's wife?' (Babylonian. List of Sins)
- 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' (Ancient Jewish. Exodus 20:14)
- 'I saw in Nastrond (= Hell)... beguilers of others' wives.' (Old Norse. *Volospá*)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Mercy

- 'The poor and the sick should be regarded as lords of the atmosphere.' (Hindu.)
- 'Whoso makes intercession for the weak, well pleasing is this to Samas.' (Babylonian.)
- 'There, Thor, you got disgrace, when you beat women.' (Old Norse. *Hárbarthsljóth*)
- 'They said that he had been the mildest and gentlest of the kings of the world.' (Anglo-Saxon. *Beowulf*)

# Examples of the Common Moral Code: Honor and Dignity

- 'Death is to be chosen before slavery and base deeds.' (Roman. Cicero, *De Off*)
- 'Death is better for every man than life with shame.' (Anglo-Saxon. *Beowulf*)
- 'We must not listen to those who advise us "being men to think human thoughts, and being mortal to think mortal thoughts," but must put on immortality as much as is possible and strain every nerve to live according to that best part of us, which, being small in bulk, yet much more in its power and honour surpasses all else.' (Ancient Greek. Aristotle, *Eth. Nic*)

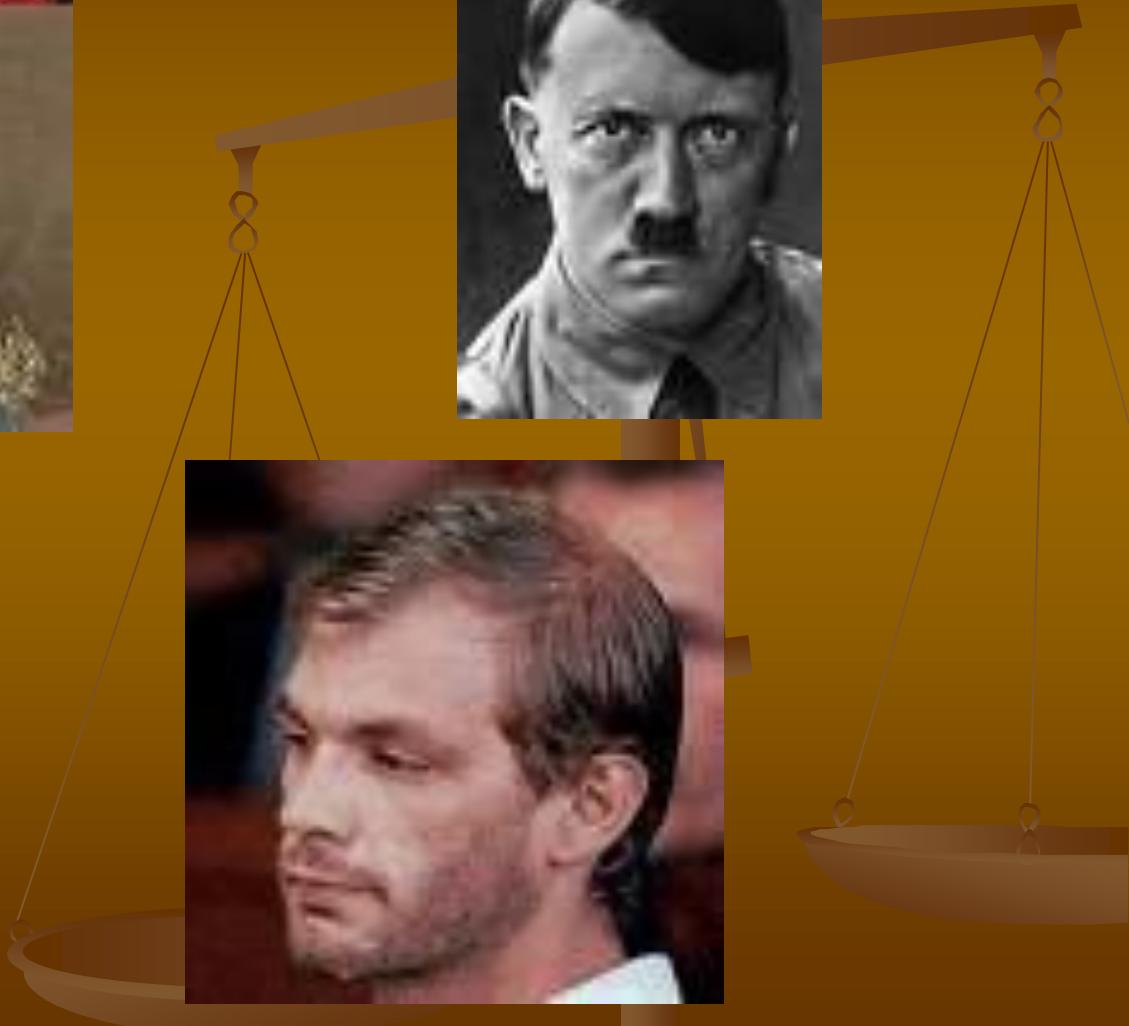
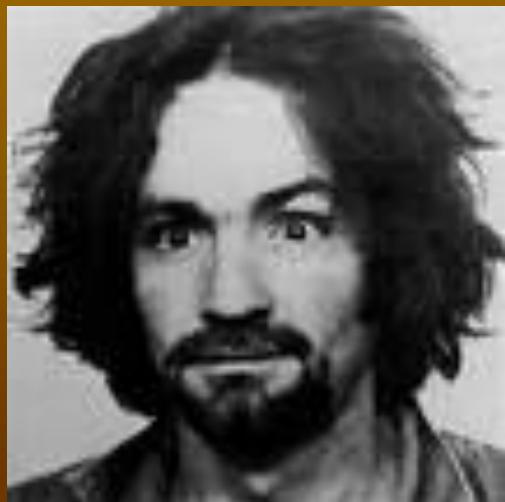
# What do these moral ideas prove?

- They do not prove Jesus Christ, but they prove the existence of a God.
- They are part of natural revelation, not special revelation.
- They disprove evolution, because according to evolution, procreation is the goal of life, not virtue.

# The Moral Argument

- The moral argument is *evidence* for God's existence, not *proof*.
- The moral law is useful because it speaks to everyone.
- The moral law is a sign of God's mercy.

# What About Exceptions?



# What about exceptions?

- People with no moral compass do not disprove the moral argument, just as sick people do not disprove natural laws of health.
- The moral law is verified by these examples- we look at them and intuitively know they are evil.