

## Who Made God?

*The question about who made God sounds profound, but it actually rests on a misunderstanding of what Christians mean by God as the eternal First Cause.*

Roger,

I have a good friend who is not a believer and likes to dabble in philosophy. He is very smart and sometimes asks me questions I can't answer. One of them was, "What is the origin of God?" You said once that you discussed this with someone else. What was your explanation? Joshua

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Dear Joshua,

### **The question behind the question**

#### **Self-created vs self-existent**

The question behind "who made God?" confuses the difference between self-created and self-existent. The first is irrational, and the second is rational.

It violates logic to suggest that something could create itself. A thing would have to exist before it existed to create itself. That is a nonsense statement.

It is logically consistent to say that something could exist from all eternity as an uncreated reality. That is not self-creation. In fact, there exists a line of logic that requires it.

### **The law of causality**

That line of [logic](#) is called the *law of causality*. In layman's terms, it is referred to as *cause and effect*. This law states that every effect must have a cause by the very definition of the word *effect*.

#### **Cause and effect**

Further, the cause must be equal to or greater than the effect. If you wish to throw a stone, the force of your arm must be greater than the weight of the stone.

The assumption of sufficient cause is basic to all reality and every aspect of our existence. If we call into question its absolute validity, then reason, knowledge, science, and anything rational become impossible.

### **Every effect must have a cause**

This, by the way, is not the same as saying ever *thing* must have a cause; only that every *effect* must have a cause. Or, every *event* must have a cause. This again is not the same as saying every *thing* must have a cause.

### **Argument for a first cause**



Another way to describe the *Argument of First Cause* is to say that for anything to be in motion or to change, something must have initiated the change. At some point, the cause of all change and motion must be something that has existed eternally and is therefore unchangeable. There must be a first cause, or nothing could get started.

Moreover, if there were ever a *time* when nothing existed, not even God, then nothing could exist now. Something must exist from all eternity as the basis of everything else, their motions, and the changes in them and is therefore an uncaused entity.

For a fuller discussion of this issue, see [Creation, Conscience and Christ](#)

### **The necessary being**

#### **Why God cannot not exist**

This is what theologians mean when they say God is a *necessary being*. They mean he cannot NOT exist. Without a first cause, there can be no secondary causes. If this line of logic is invalid, then so is all knowledge.

### **Attributes of the first cause**

#### **Eternal**

Since the First Cause must be equal to or superior to its most obvious effect, the universe, it follows that it must have certain attributes. First, it must be eternal, as shown above.

## **Omnipotent**

Second, it must be infinitely powerful because the energy for the creation of the universe has no other source but itself.

## **Omnipresent**

Third, it must be omnipresent, for we live in a universe billions of light-years in diameter.

## **Transcendent**

It must be infinite in all respects, or else its energy would eventually be depleted. From this alone we deduce the three incommunicable attributes: omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent.

This conclusion also leads to the view that the First Cause must have a quality and kind of existence infinitely different from any created thing, which is why the question *who made God* ultimately rests on a false assumption. We call that *transcendence*. If the First Cause is not God, then what else could it be?

I hope this helps your friend.  
Roger

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