

TRIPLE LAYER CAKE

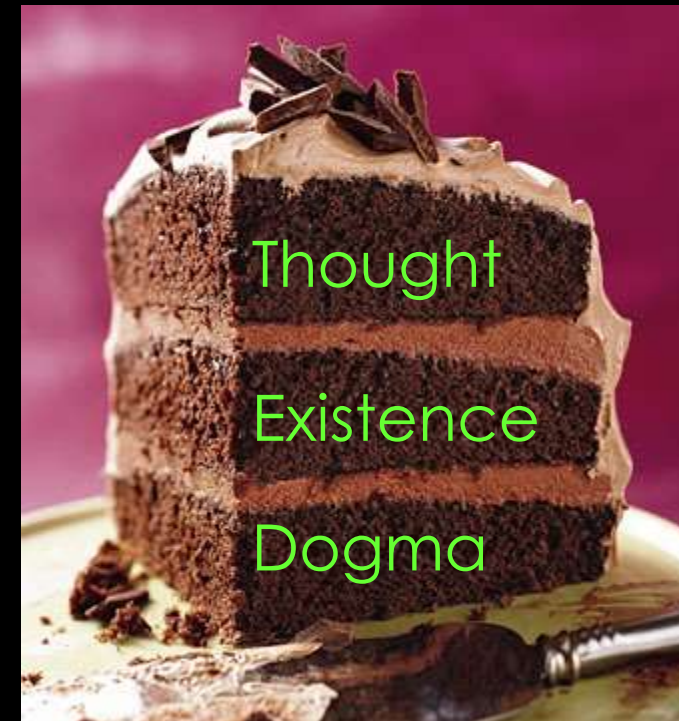




ENGAGING THE ATHEIST PHILOSOPHICALLY

ENGAGING THE ATHEIST PHILOSOPHICALLY

- Theoretical Engagement
 - Logic, Thought, Fallacies
 - Intellectual Giants on both sides of the “Argument” tracing back to Plato and Socrates
 - Examples include Ontological and Cosmological arguments for theism
- Artistic Engagement from Existential Realities
 - Drama, Music, Prose and Poetry, Art, and Imagination
- Prescriptive Engagement
 - Bible Verses given to illustrate/authenticate belief
 - Turning on Oprah for your Spiritual nourishment
 - Watching the Voice to get your cat blood boiling
 - People Magazine article on how to be happy
 - RAP style music dictating how you think about authority



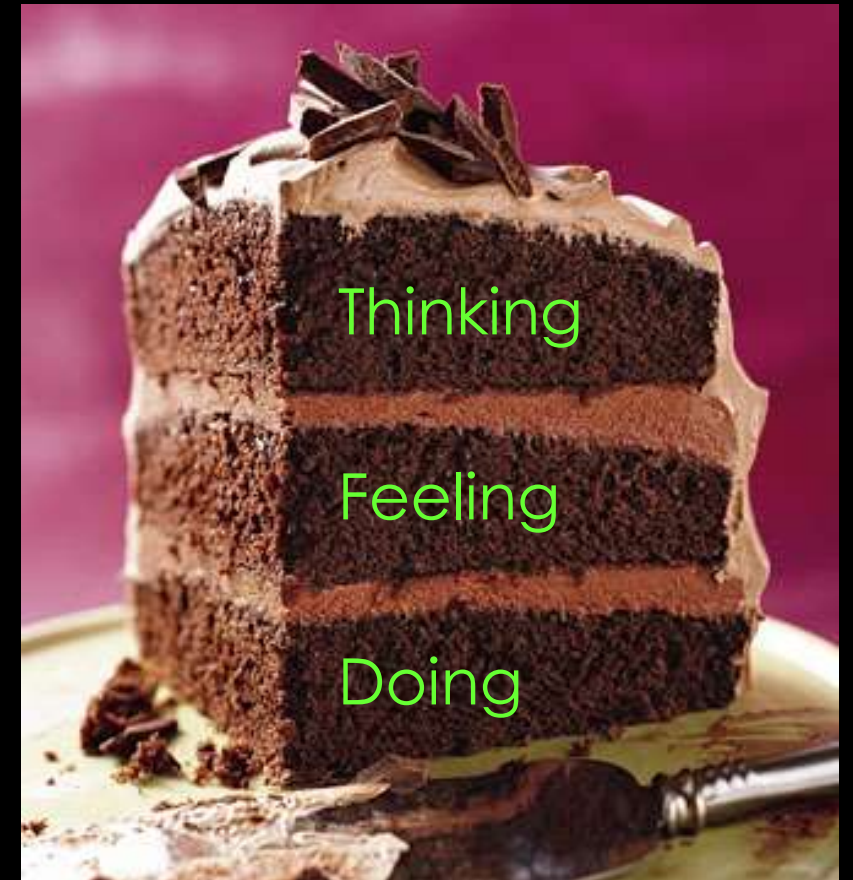
ENGAGING THE ATHEIST PHILOSOPHICALLY

- ARGUE from the Theoretical Engagement
- ILLUSTRATE from the Artistic/Existential Realities
- APPLY via Prescriptive Methods



ENGAGING THE ATHEIST PHILOSOPHICALLY

- Another way to think of these 3 layers
- Christianity uniquely adds the “icing”
 - BEING
 - Jesus Christ “God with Us” came and walked among us
 - Believers are “in Christ”—one with his Being






NOBODY'S FOOL?

The fool says in his heart “There is no God.”

Psalm 14:1

Level 1, 2 or 3?

Theoretical, Artistic, or Prescriptive?



That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and **we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,** so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-3

WELL IMAGINE THAT!

- God can be defined as a greatest possible being
- A thing exists either
 - 1> in the mind only
 - 2> in both the mind and in truth/reality
- Something “real” is greater than that which is only in the mind
- God in the mind only would NOT be the greatest possible being
- But God is by definition the greatest possible being
- Therefore, God exists in the mind and in truth/reality

Part 1 of Anselm Ontological Argument for God's Existence

KALAM ARGUMENT (COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT)

This is what the Lord says:

“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?”

Isaiah 66:1

KALAM ARGUMENT (COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT)

- Roots are from an Islamic philosophical tradition (Kalam)
 - Kalam meaning words, discussion, discourse
- Basic Premise
 - That **which begins to exist** has a cause
 - The universe began to exist
 - Therefore, the universe has a cause



ATHENIAN IDOL

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive in every way that you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god’. What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”

Acts 17: 22-23



Repent and be baptized every one of you in the
name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38