



RE»NEW

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?



“Theology means ‘the science of God’ and I think any [person] who wants to think about God at all would like to have the clearest and most accurate ideas about Him which are available...If you do not listen to theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones.”

-C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*

Sola Scriptura

- **Scripture is the only infallible authority for faith and practice**
- **Church history/tradition is NOT infallible, but still important**

The Apostles' Creed

- Creed = statement of beliefs
- Probably emerged ~215 in Rome for baptisms





Part 1:
***The Foundations
of Faith***

Why do we believe what we believe about God?

- **God has revealed Himself:**
 - **General Revelation**
 - **Special Revelation**

General Revelation

1. Creation

A. Romans 1:19-20

Romans 1:19-20

(19) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

General Revelation

1. Creation

A. Romans 1:19-20

B. Evidence for a Beginning



- **The Big Bang
(Friedman-Lemaitre
Model)**



- ***“Many people do not like the idea that time has a beginning, probably because it smacks of divine intervention...”***
- Stephen Hawking

General Revelation

1. Creation

A. Romans 1:19-20

B. Evidence for a Beginning

C. Evidence of Design



“I see a universe that, had it been constructed slightly differently, would never have given birth to stars and planets, let alone bacteria and people...Many good scientists have concluded from these observations that an intelligent God must have chosen to create the universe with such beautiful, simple, life-giving properties. Many other equally good scientists are nevertheless atheists. Both conclusions are positions of faith.”

- William Philips

General Revelation

1. Creation

A. Romans 1:19-20

B. Evidence for a Beginning

C. Evidence of Design

2. Conscience

A. Romans 2:14-15

Romans 2:14-15

(14) For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. (15) They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

General Revelation

1. Creation

A. Romans 1:19-20

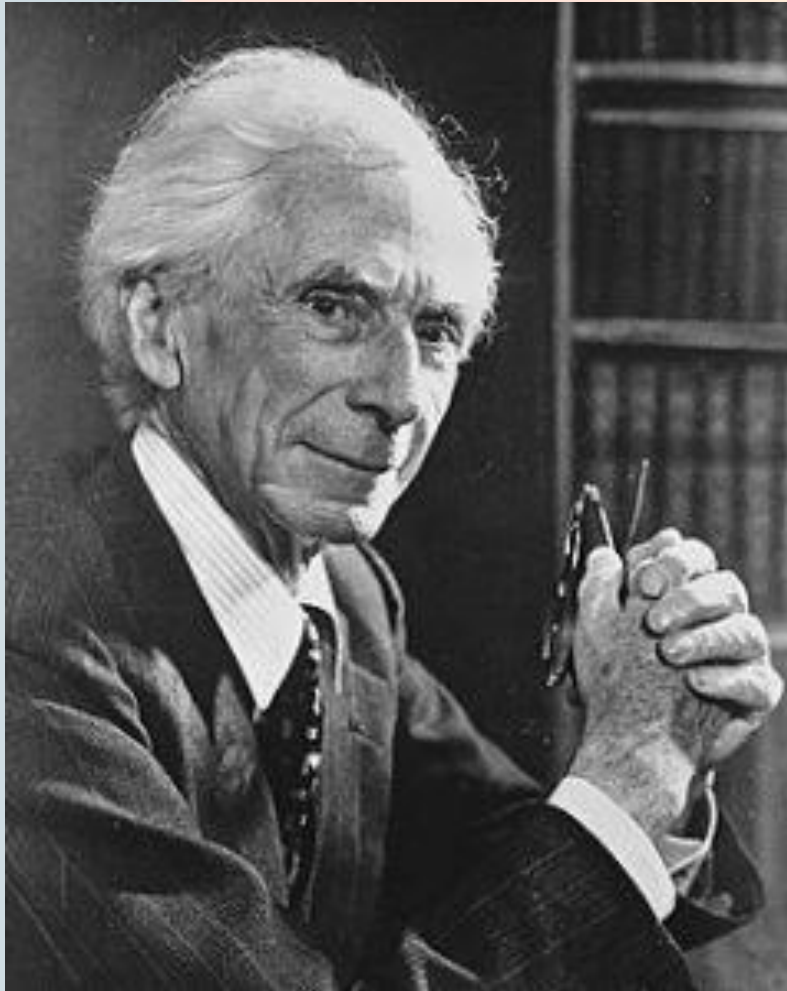
B. Evidence for a Beginning

C. Evidence of Design

2. Conscience

A. Romans 2:14-15

B. Existence of objective morality



“I do not know the solution.”

-Bertrand Russell on the problem of objective morality without God

Special Revelation

1. Scripture

A. Manuscript evidence

**B. Historical/Archaeological
Evidence**

C. Makes sense of reality



***"I believe in
Christianity as I
believe that the Sun
has risen; not only
because I see it, but
because by it I see
everything else."***

-C.S. Lewis

Special Revelation

2. Jesus Christ

A. Eyewitnesses

B. Empty tomb

C. Extreme conversion

D. Executions

3. Personal Encounter

Part 2:
The Nature
of God

7 Clear Truths from Scripture

1. God is one

Deuteronomy 6:4

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our
God, the LORD is one.**

1 Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist...

1 Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 Clear Truths from Scripture

- 1. God is one**
- 2. Jesus is God**
- 3. Jesus is distinct from the Father**
- 4. The Holy Spirit is God**

Acts 5:3-4

(3) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? (4) While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

7 Clear Truths from Scripture

- 1. God is one**
- 2. Jesus is God**
- 3. Jesus is distinct from the Father**
- 4. The Holy Spirit is God**
- 5. The Holy Spirit is also distinct from the Father and Son**

John 14:16-17

**(16) And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another
Helper, to be with you forever,
(17) even the Spirit of truth...**

7 Clear Truths from Scripture

6. All three are personal in nature

John 16:13-14

(13) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (14) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

7 Clear Truths from Scripture

6. All three are personal in nature

7. Triadic statements

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

How do we hold all these together?!?!

1. God is one

2. Jesus is God

3. Jesus is distinct from the Father

4. The Holy Spirit is God

5. The Holy Spirit is distinct

6. All three are personal in nature

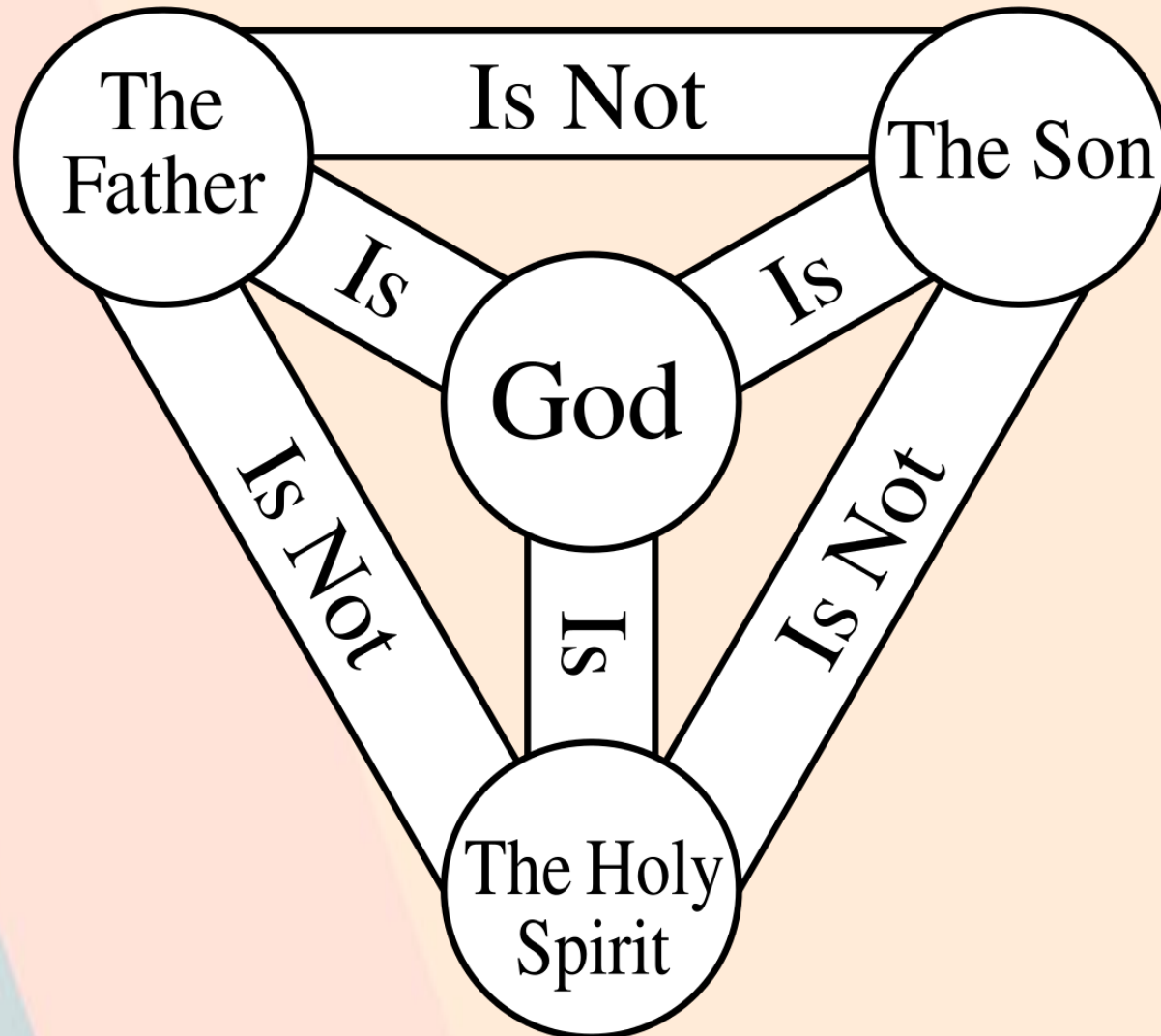
7. Triadic statements

THE TRINITY

The Trinity

We believe that there is one God, eternally existing in three separate yet equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

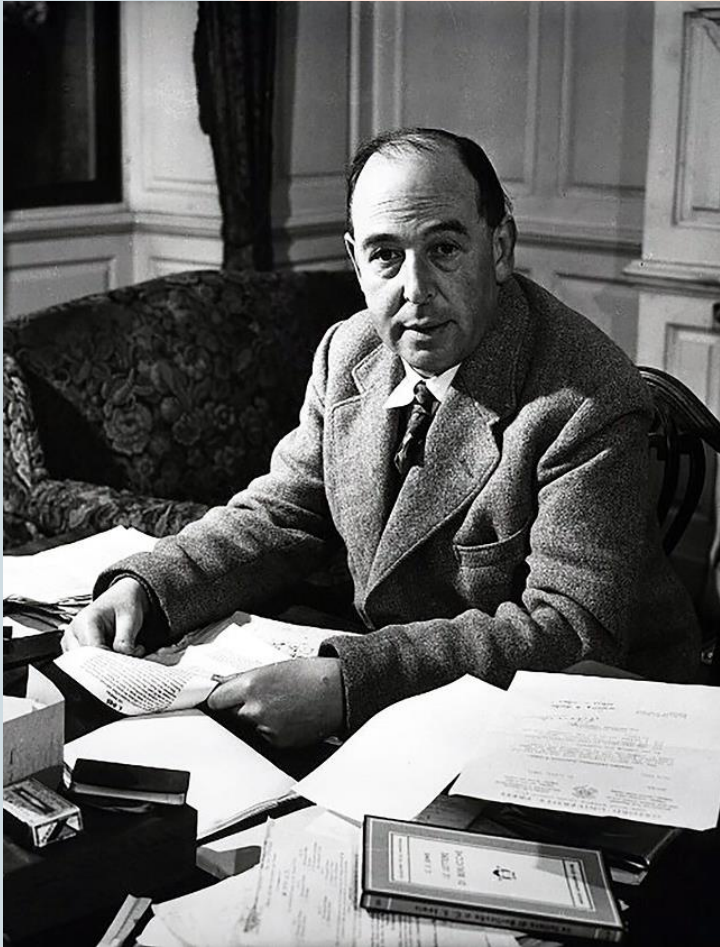
The Trinity



Why does the Trinity matter?

1. It is essential for the gospel

2. It is the source of real love



“Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love. [Christians] believe that the living, dynamic activity of love has been going on in God forever and has created everything else. And that, by the way is perhaps the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions: that in Christianity God is not a static thing...but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance...”

-C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*

John 17:26

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.