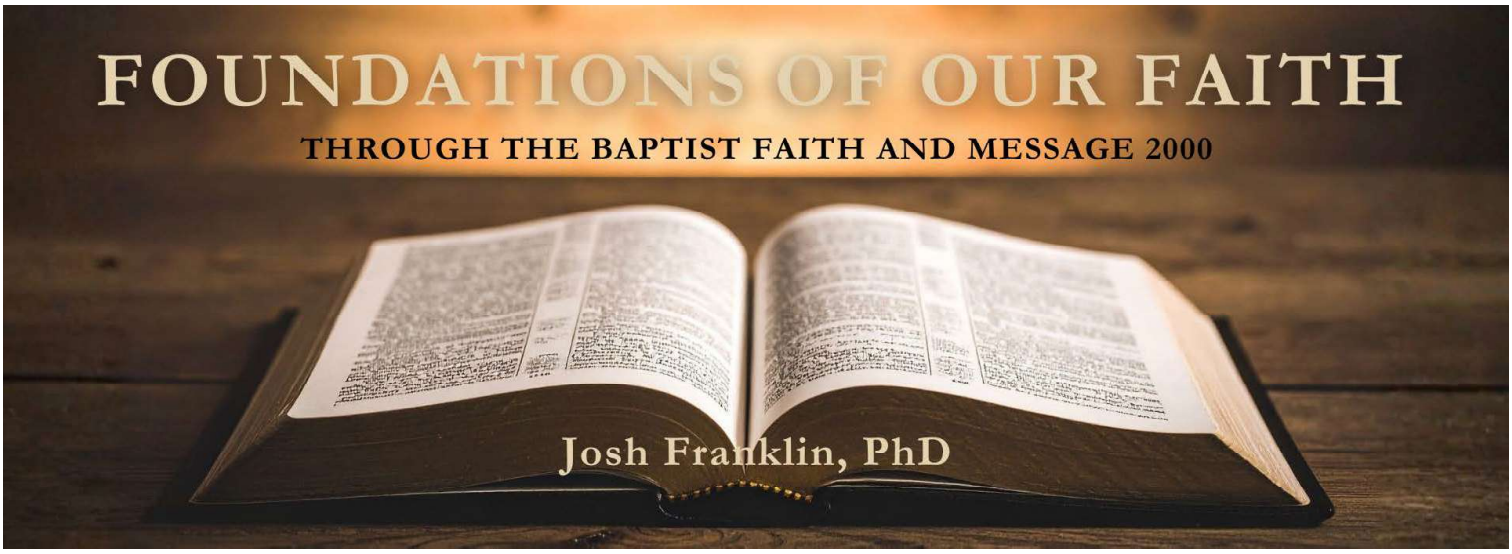


Lord, I Want to Know You!

"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You."
(from St. Augustine's *Confessions*)

I. God Has Made Himself Known

Romans 1:19; Genesis 35:7; Psalms 98:2

A. God reveals Himself to us through His creation.

- Romans 1:20
- God reveals Himself to us through nature, His actions in history, and our personal experiences.

B. God reveals Himself to us through His Word

- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is the record of God's special revelation to us.

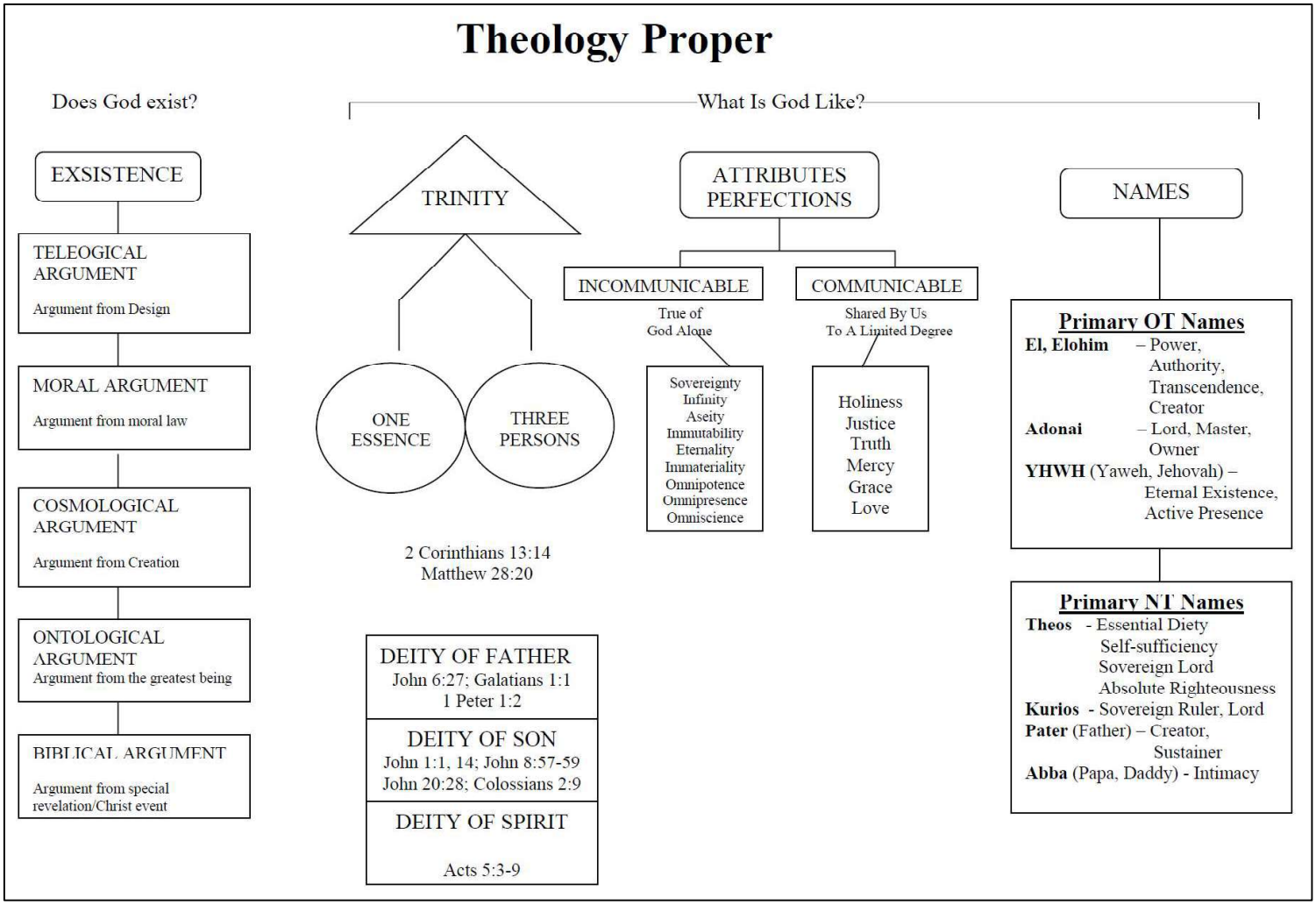
C. God reveals Himself to us through His Son

- John 1:18
- Jesus came to give understanding (1 John 5:20).
- Jesus chose to reveal the Father to us (Matt. 11:27).
- His last word and clearest revelation is in Jesus (Heb. 1:1-2).

2. We Long to Know Him

- We all have a longing for God. To be close with Him. To be connected to Him.
- God longs for us to know Him as well. (see Hosea 6:6; Genesis 1:26; Exodus 34:11)
- Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:10 – a prayer to know Him deeper.
- John 4:24 – We must know Him spiritually.
- Philippians 3:8; Jeremiah 9:23-24a – our priority in life.

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 – Article Two – God
There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.



Theological Observations From Article Two[1]

1) We affirm "there is one and only one living and true God." This cancels out atheism and polytheism.

2) This God is "intelligent, spiritual and personal. He is Creator, Redeemer, Preserver and Ruler." This rules out pantheism, panentheism and deism.

3) Our God is "infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing." God has no beginning or end. He lacks nothing. He is perfect and pure with no taint of sin or evil. He is omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowing). "His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present and future, including the future decisions of his free creatures." This sets aside finite theism.

4) The Bible reveals a God who rightly deserves our love and obedience. To give such devotion to any other person or any other thing is to commit idolatry and violate the First Commandment (Ex. 20:3).

5) Our God is also utterly unique from the theological conceptions of all other religions, for the Bible reveals Him to be a Trinity of three eternal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and yet still one – a unity. Indeed the biblical witness is clear: whatever it is that constitutes God as God, the Father is all of this, the Son is all of this and the Holy Spirit is all of this. But, there is still only one God, distinct in person "but without division of nature, essence or being."

6) The Christian God is personal and more (a tri-unity). In other world religions like Buddhism, God is less than personal. Islam views God as utterly transcendent and basically unapproachable. Mysticism and its New Age offspring see God as wholly immanent. The Bible says the one true God is both (transcendent and immanent). He is above us and separate from us, and yet he is also a God who can be known, truly and genuinely known, in a personal relationship.

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[1] These observations, including the above chart, come from "God" handout by Daniel Akin, www.danielakin.com