

# What We Believe

## Hebrews 11:6

**“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”**

# What We Believe

## Why is Understanding God Importance?

1. We can't recognize false God's unless we know the true God.
2. False Ideas have practical consequences.
3. Our spiritual growth depends on our concept of God.
4. A Commitment to what is less than ultimate will not be satisfying.

# What We Believe

## **Cosmological Argument (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 3:4)**

- **Whatever begins to exist has been caused by another.**
- **The universe began to exist.**
- **Therefore, the universe was caused to exist by another.**

# What We Believe

Robert Jastrow, a NASA scientist and agnostic....

”Science has proven that the universe exploded into being at a certain moment. . . . Was the universe created out of nothing, or was it gathered out of preexisting materials? And science cannot answer these questions, because, according to the astronomers, in the first moments of its existence the universe was compressed to an extraordinary degree, and consumed by heat and fire beyond human imagination. . . . The scientist’s pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. . . .

# What We Believe

**Robert Jastrow, a NASA scientist and agnostic....**

**....For the scientist who has lived by faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”**

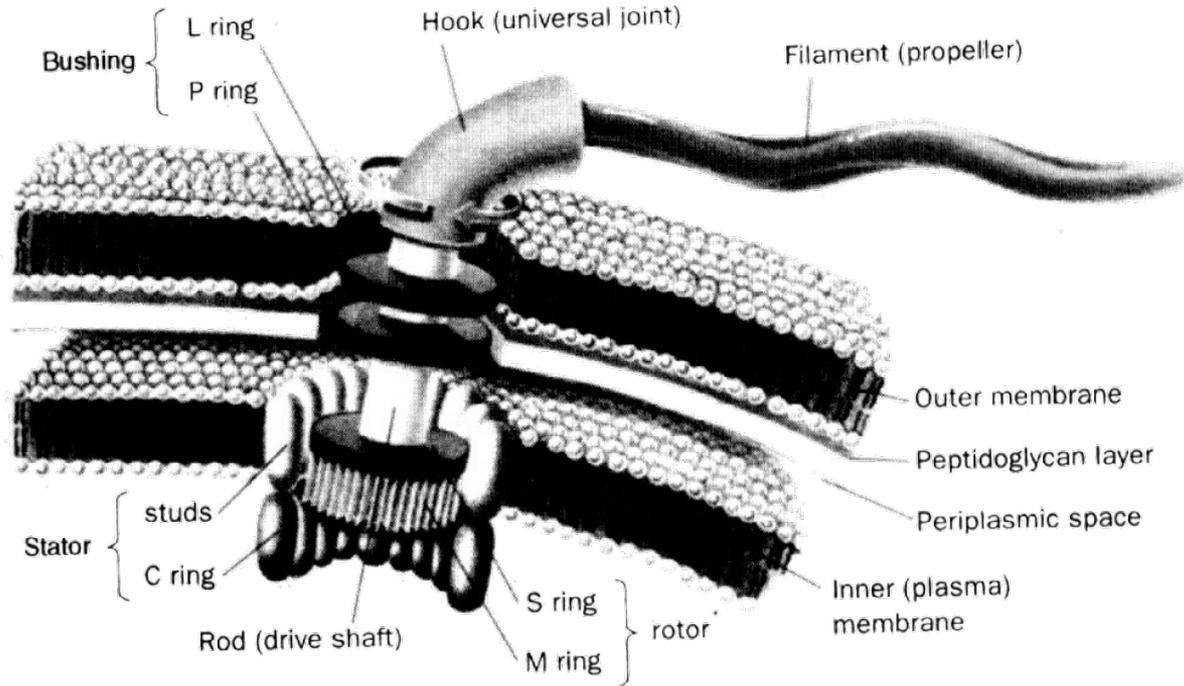
# What We Believe

## Argument from Design (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-21)

- Design implies a designer.
- The universe manifests design.
- Therefore, there must be a designer of the universe.

# What We Believe

## Irreducible Complexity - Bacterial Flagellum



# What We Believe

## An Illustration of Irreducible Complexity

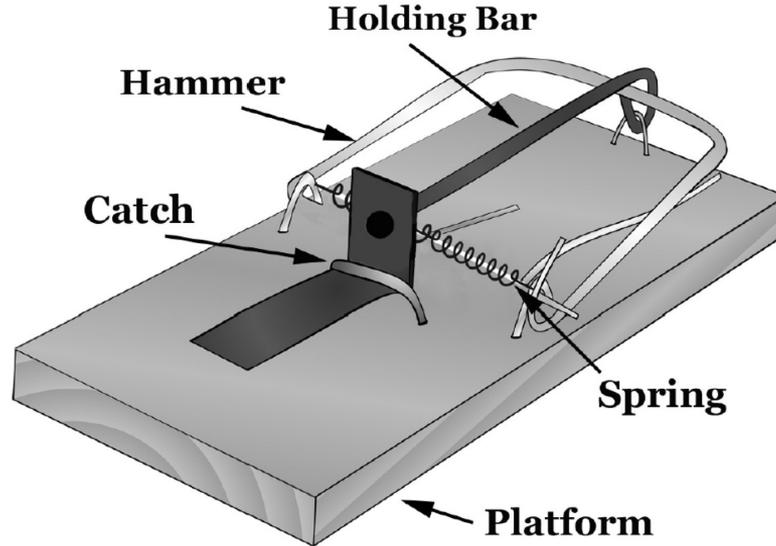


Figure 2. A common mechanical mousetrap is irreducibly complex. Image credit: "Mousetrap Rat Trap." Illustration by Christian Dorn (Commongt, 2020) Pixaby. Pixaby license. Modified by Amanda Witt, who granted permission.

# What We Believe

## **Argument from Morality (Romans 2:14-15)**

- **Moral Law implies a Moral Law Giver.**
- **There is Moral Law.**
- **Therefore, a Moral Lawgiver exists.**

# What We Believe

**There are Two Kinds of Attributes:**

- **MORAL** (communicable - shared with man)
- **NON-MORAL/Metaphysical** (incommunicable - not shared)

# What We Believe

**The Uncaused Cause is “Pure Actuality”**

**“Pure Actuality” is uncreated Pure Being with no potential or capacity to be anything other than what He Is.**

**God can't add or subtract anything from His nature, since to gain something or lose something implies a lack of perfection.**

# What We Believe

## **Exodus 3:14-15**

"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' ....

'This is My name forever...."

(cf. John 8:58 – Jesus identifies with God's nature as the 'I AM')

# What We Believe

## C.S. Lewis on understanding God...

**"If Christianity was something we were making up, of course we could make it easier. But it is not. We cannot compete, in simplicity, with people who are inventing religions. How could we? We are dealing with Fact. Of course anyone can be simple if he has no facts to bother about."**

**(Lewis, Mere Christianity, 15)**

# What We Believe

## ASEITY

God is self-existing and not caused by another (Aseity, Lat: “of oneself”).

Doesn't mean “self-caused”!

# What We Believe

## **SIMPLE**

**God has no parts... He's a unity without any division making Him indivisible.**

**(Parts imply composition, and needs a composer)**

# What We Believe

## IMMATERIAL

God is spirit, not material because He has no parts.

Stephen Charnock says...

“If God were not a Spirit, he could not be infinite. All bodies are of a finite nature; everybody is material, and every material thing is terminated. . . .

If God had a body he must consist of parts, those parts would be bounded and limited...” (The Existence and Nature of God)

# What We Believe

## **IMMUTABLE**

**God is unchangeable and always the same.**

**He never gains or loses anything since this implies lack of perfection and temporality.**

# What We Believe

## ETERNAL

God is not temporal and above time with no beginning or end. This means no succession of moments, or "befores" and "afters". His present is fixed, our present moves through time...

# What We Believe

## IMPASSIBILITY

Nothing in the universe can make God suffer, feel pain or misery... This doesn't mean He doesn't have feelings, but His feelings and emotions are not the result of actions imposed on Him by others. The early Church fathers called this Apathea. God's has no changing emotions, they are always the same and flow from his unchanging nature...

# What We Believe

## INFINITE

If being finite means you are limited in power and nature,  
then infinite means you're unlimited in power and nature.

# What We Believe

## **SOVEREIGNTY**

**Refers to God's rule and control over all His creation.**

**Many see this as an activity of God rather than an attribute.**

**God displays his sovereignty through His Power, Providence and Will.**

# What We Believe

## OMNI-PREDICATES

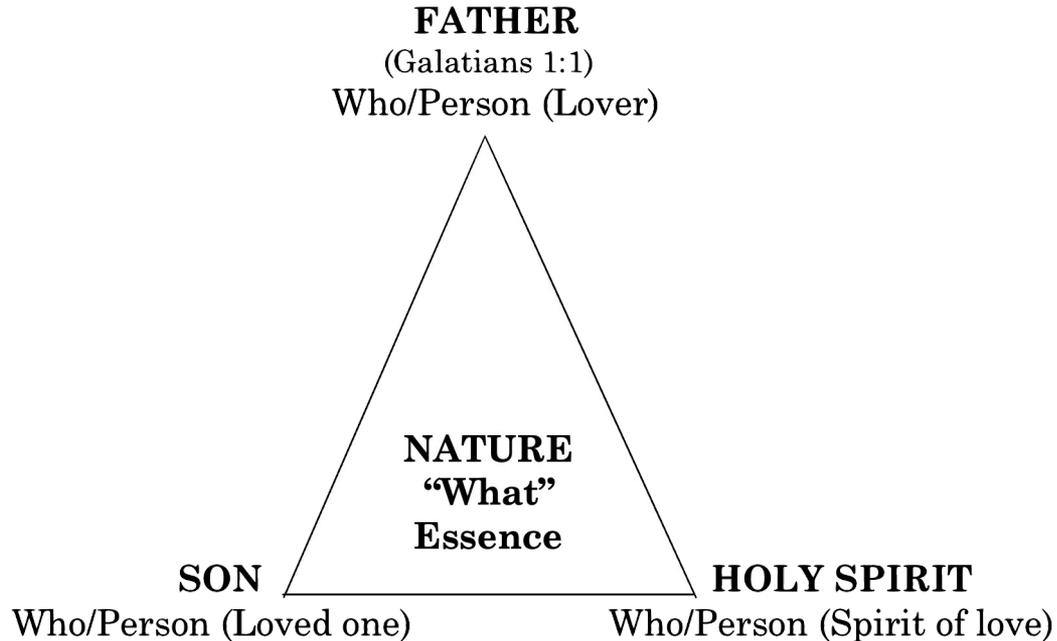
**Omnipotent - God has All-Power to do what is actually possible.**

**Omnipresent - God is active and present everywhere (Psalm 139)**

**Omniscience - God knows all things past, present and future in accord with His nature.**

# What We Believe

## God in Three Persons (Trinity)

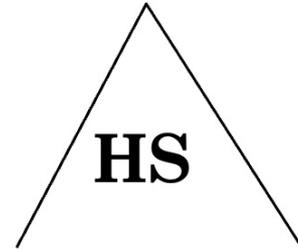
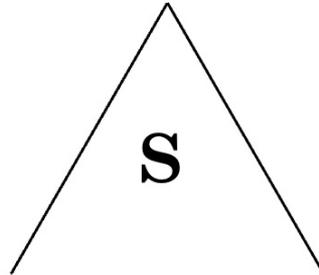
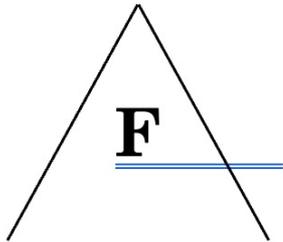


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## False Views of God

### Tri-theism

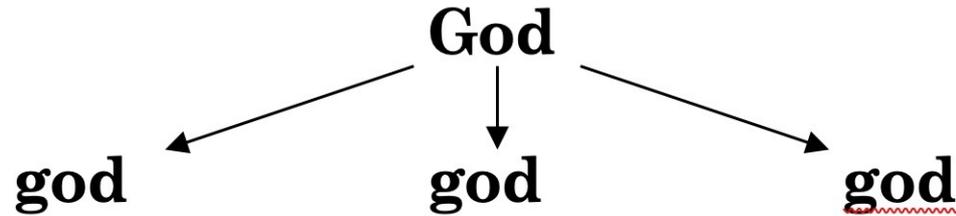
(three separate gods; Jews and later Muslims accused early Christians)



# What We Believe

## Triad/Henotheism

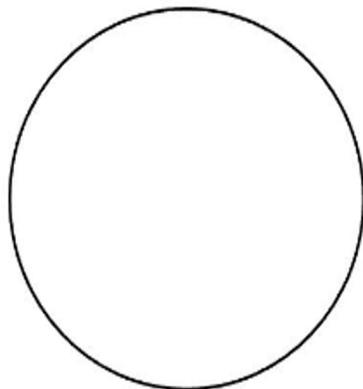
(Hinduism, Assyrians, Babylonians, One chief God over other gods)



# What We Believe

## Unitarianism

(Arianism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Judaism)



**God is one, no *multiplicity*.**  
**= The Son is a *created* man.**  
**Holy Spirit is *impersonal*.**

# What We Believe

## Modalism

(Oneness Pentecostals, Jesus Only Movement, Sabellius 3<sup>rd</sup> cent.,  
overemphasized the *Unity* of God; Emmanuel Swedenborg)

