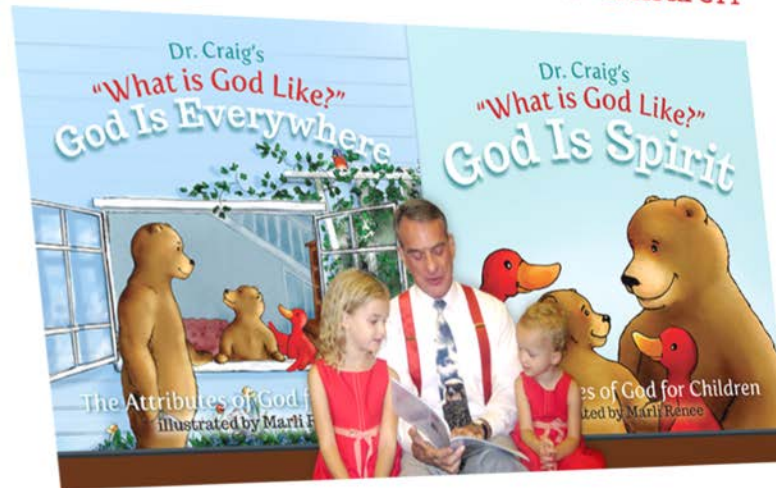


“What Is God Like?”

Part 6 – God’s Omnipotence



Apologetics Resources for Your Children



What Is God Like?

PARENTS: We all know that small children can ask very profound questions, questions that sometimes leave us searching for answers! "What Is God Like?" is a series of ten illustrated booklets designed to help you teach Christian truth to your children and answer some of their deepest questions about God. These easy-to-understand booklets cover the principal attributes of God, such as omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, eternity, self-existence, and so on.



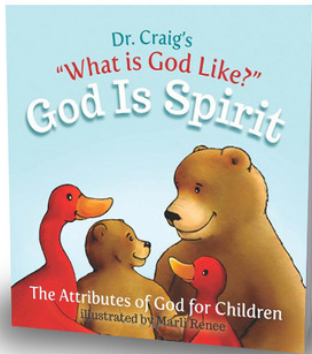
WILLIAM LANE CRAIG, Ph.D., D.Theol., is Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology in southern California and the founder of the web-based ministry Reasonable Faith. He is the

omnipotence, eternity, self-existence, and so on
principal attributes of God. These easy-to-understand booklets cover the
questions about God. These easy-to-understand booklets cover the
teach Christian truth to your children and answer some of their deepest
is God Like?" is a series of ten illustrated booklets designed to help you
questions, questions that sometimes leave us searching for answers! "What
We all know that small children can ask very profound

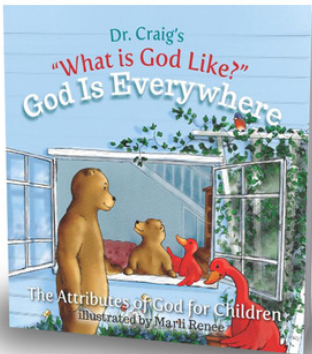


Reasonable Faith. He is the
of the web-based ministry
California and the founder
of Theology in southern
Philosophy at Talbot School
Research Professor of
Ph.D., D.Theol., is
WILLIAM LANE CRAIG

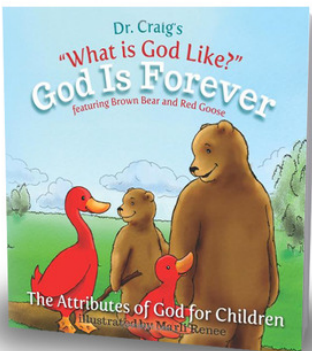




“God Is Spirit” is about what theologians call the “incorporeality” of God (God’s being pure spirit without a body). It helps to correct the popular misunderstanding that God has a body. In providing correct teaching about God, “God Is Spirit” also teaches children about the difference between our soul and body. It thereby raises important issues about what happens to a person when he dies and serves as a springboard for discussion with your children about the Christian hope of life after death.

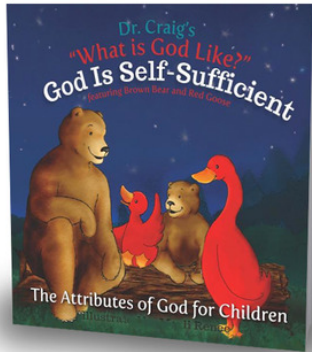


“God Is Everywhere” is about what theologians call God’s “omnipresence” (God’s being all- present). Our story helps us avoid two errors in thinking about God: thinking that God is localized in a place like heaven and thinking that God is spread throughout space like an invisible gas. It explains that God is everywhere in the sense that He knows what is happening at any place and is active there. It thereby gives your children assurance that God is with them no matter where they go.

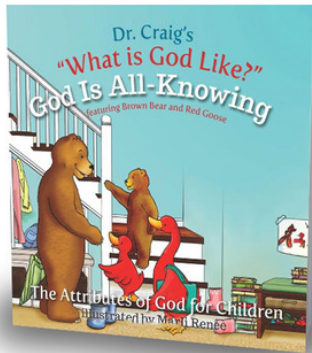


“God Is Forever” is about the eternity of God. Just as “God Is Everywhere” deals with God’s relationship to space, so “God Is Forever” deals with God’s relationship to time. Just as God is everywhere, so God is always. He never comes into existence and never goes out of existence. In contrast to the world around us, God exists permanently. Our story gives your children assurance that God will always be with them and that we shall live with God forever.

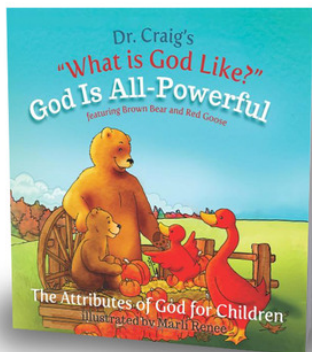




"God Is Self-Sufficient" is about what theologians call God's aseity. "Aseity" refers to God's self-existence. It comprises God's necessity and independence. God doesn't just happen to exist, as if by accident. Rather God exists by a necessity of His own nature; it is impossible for Him not to exist. Moreover, God does not depend upon any other being for His existence. God alone is self-existent, and everything else depends on Him. Many theologians consider aseity to be the most fundamental of God's attributes, but, sadly, the average Christian has never heard of it. This booklet attempts to expand your children's concept of God's greatness by describing Him as self-sufficient. By magnifying their concept of God, you can help your children to see why, as Papa Bear says, "We should depend on the One who depends on no one."

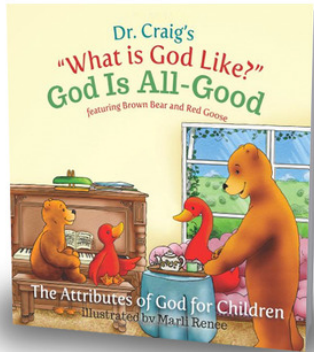


"God Is All-Knowing" is about what theologians call God's omniscience. "Omniscience" comes from two Latin words omni (all) and scientia (knowledge). It is the attribute of knowing only and all truths. This booklet focuses on God's foreknowledge, or His knowledge of truths about the future. It explains that although God knows infallibly what will happen, we still remain free in our choices. For we can choose differently than we shall choose, and if we were to choose differently, God's foreknowledge would have been different than it is. Several practical applications are drawn as a result of God's knowing all about us.

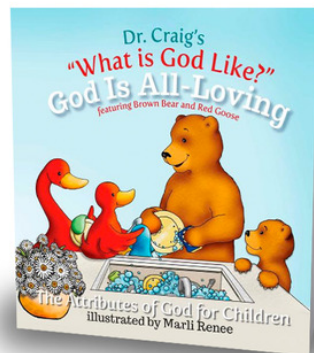


"God Is All-Powerful" is about what theologians call God's omnipotence. "Omnipotence" comes from the Latin words omni (all) and potentia (power). Although God has all power, theologians have not typically thought that God can do the logically impossible (like make a square circle). Such logical contradictions are not, properly speaking, really things at all, but just combinations of words. In this booklet Papa Bear quizzes the children concerning a number of such "things" that God cannot do. By confronting these difficult questions at home, the children are better equipped to meet the challenges they will inevitably confront in school. Mama Goose helps them to see as well the practical implications of having God's unlimited power living within them.

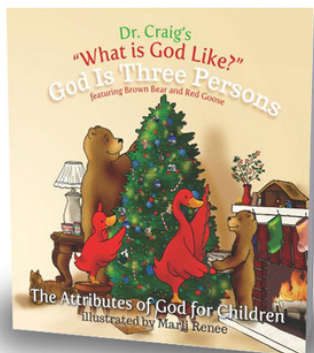




“God Is All-Good” raises profound and very important questions about the foundation of moral values. Papa Bear maintains that without God moral values and duties have no foundation and are therefore just subjective matters of opinion. The terrible consequences of such an atheistic view are made plain. But Papa goes on to explain that God Himself is the foundation for objective moral values and duties. Papa thereby answers an age-old objection to basing morality in God: is something good just because God wills it, or does God will something because it is good? This is a false dilemma. The answer is that God wills something because He is good. That is to say, God is Himself the standard of goodness, and His commands are expressions of His nature. Thus, God’s commandments are not arbitrary but reflect the nature of a Being who is Goodness itself.

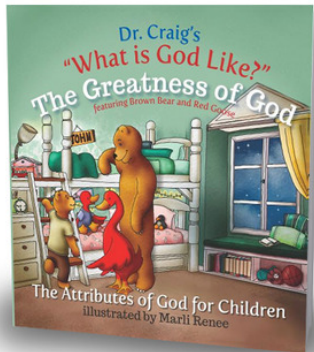


“God Is All-Loving” emphasizes God’s unconditional love for us. God’s love for us is not based upon our performance. Even though God hates our sin, He loves us. This wonderful truth is unique to the Judaeo- Christian faith. Other religions like Islam teach that God’s love is conditional and has to be earned. But the God of the Bible loves sinners. God’s unconditional love is the basis upon which we can accept ourselves, despite all our shortcomings. Understanding God’s love can thus help your child to have a proper self-image. It can also help us to see that we should love others, too, whether they are nice or not, since God loves them unconditionally.



“God Is Three Persons” is about the important doctrine of the Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is not the logical incoherence that three persons are somehow one person or that three Gods are somehow one God. It is the doctrine that the one God is tri-personal. God has three minds or self-conscious selves. There are three divine persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and together they make up the one being that is God. Each one has all the attributes of God, but each person plays a different role in the plan of salvation. This booklet will stimulate your children’s thinking about the Christian doctrine of God and help them to understand the relations between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as well as our adoption into God’s family.





According to St. Anselm (1033-1109), God is the greatest being conceivable. For if we could think of something greater than God, then that would be God! This series of ten booklets has been all about the greatness of God. We have seen that God is incorporeal, omnipresent, eternal, self-existent, omniscient, omnipotent, the paradigm of goodness, omnibenevolent, and triune. By sharing these booklets with your children you have expanded their minds to contemplate the greatest being conceivable. God is not like Zeus, the Tooth Fairy, the Flying Spaghetti Monster, or any other finite thing. Your children, if they have absorbed these booklets, will never be fooled by any of the paltry substitutes for God marketed in popular culture. We hope, too, that their awe and worship of God will have grown more profound. ["The Greatness of God"](#) does not add an additional attribute to our concept of God but sums up the entire series and issues in adoration and worship of God.



Home > William Lane Craig



William Lane Craig

Biographical Sketch

William Lane Craig is Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology and Professor of Philosophy at Houston Baptist University. He and his wife Jan have two grown children.

At the age of sixteen as a junior in high school, he first heard the message of the Christian gospel and yielded his life to Christ. Dr. Craig pursued his undergraduate studies at Wheaton College (B.A. 1971) and graduate studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (M.A. 1974; M.A. 1975), the University of Birmingham (England) (Ph.D. 1977), and the University of Munich (Germany) (D.Theol. 1984). From 1980-86 he taught Philosophy of Religion at Trinity, during which time he and Jan started their family. In 1987 they moved to Brussels, Belgium, where Dr. Craig pursued research at the University of Louvain until assuming his position at Talbot in 1994.

He has authored or edited over thirty books, including *The Kalam Cosmological Argument*; *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus*; *Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom*; *Theism, Atheism and Big Bang Cosmology*; and *God, Time and Eternity*, as well as over a hundred articles in professional journals of philosophy and theology, including *The Journal of Philosophy*, *New Testament Studies*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy*, and *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*.

He has authored or edited over thirty books, including *The Kalam Cosmological Argument*; *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus*; *Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom*; *Theism, Atheism and Big Bang Cosmology*; and *God, Time and Eternity*, as well as over a hundred articles in professional journals of philosophy and theology, including *The Journal of Philosophy*, *New Testament Studies*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy*, and *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*.

Receive our free Newsletter

Get Dr. Craig's newsletter and keep up with RF news and events.

Subscribe

Support Reasonable Faith Donate



Tweet

Like

457



15



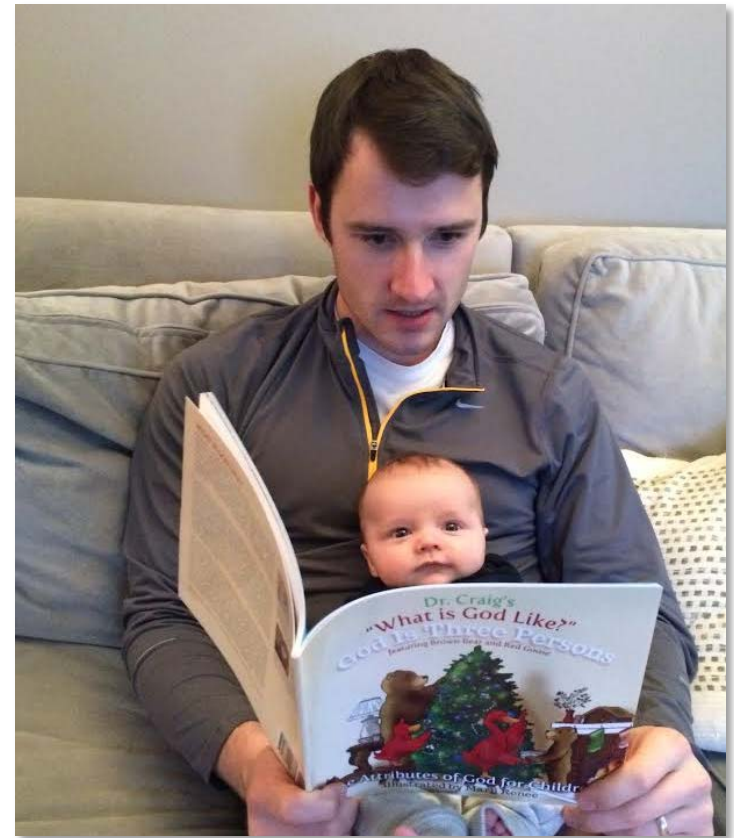
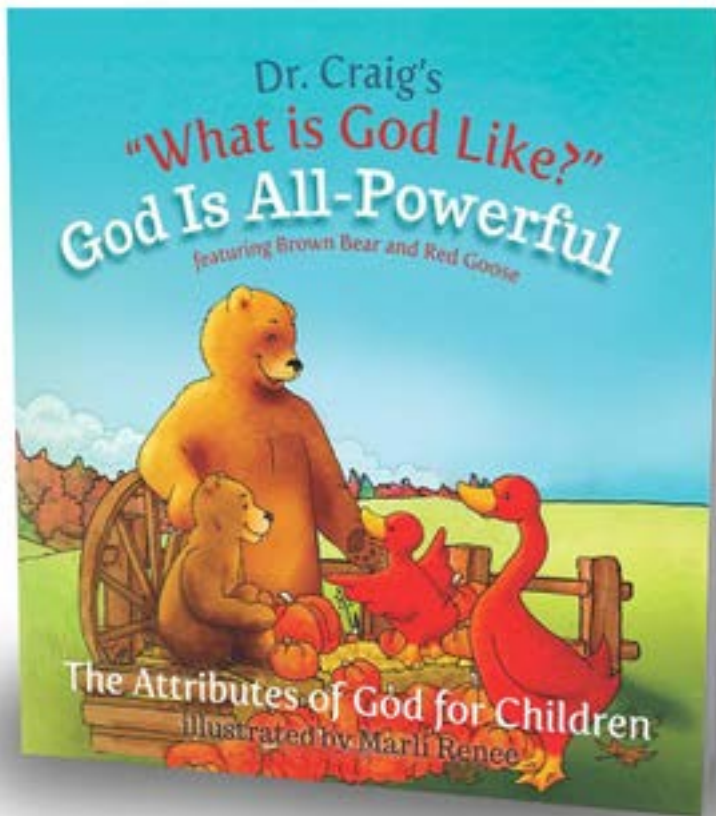
107

Reasonable Faith App
for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch & Android phones



Reasonable Faith App
for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch & Android phones





“God Is All-Powerful” is about what theologians call God’s omnipotence. “Omnipotence” comes from the Latin words omni (all) and potentia (power). Although God has all power, theologians have not typically thought that God can do the logically impossible (like make a square circle). Such logical contradictions are not, properly speaking, really things at all, but just combinations of words. In this booklet Papa Bear quizzes the children concerning a number of such “things” that God cannot do. By confronting these difficult questions at home, the children are better equipped to meet the challenges they will inevitably confront in school. Mama Goose helps them to see as well the practical implications of having God’s unlimited power living within them.



God's Omnipotence (starts at 16:40)

YouTube

WILLIAM Lane Craig DEFENDERS CLASS DOCTRINE OF GOD PART 16

0:26 / 39:32

CC HD

Doctrine of God Part 16: Practical Application of Divine Omniscience / God's Omnipotence

RF ReasonableFaithOrg

 **Subscribe** 19,350

1,276

+ Add to ➦ Share ... More

 18  6





Doctrine of God Part 17: Practical Application of Divine Omnipotence



ReasonableFaithOrg

[Subscribe](#) 19,350

986 views

[+](#) Add to [Share](#) [...](#) More

[Like](#) 33 [Comment](#) 2



Transcripts

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/defenders-3-podcast/transcript/doctrine-of-god-part-16>

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/defenders-3-podcast/transcript/doctrine-of-god-part-17>

REASONABLE Faith
with William Lane Craig

Translations News RF Chapters Calendar Store Donate

Search

Writings Media Forums About RF

Home > Defenders Podcast: Series 3 > Doctrine of God > Transcript: Doctrine of God (Part 16)

 **Doctrine of God (Part 16)**
Transcript of William Lane Craig's [Defenders 3](#) class.

Practical Application of God's Omniscience / God's Omnipotence

In our last time together we looked at God's knowledge of so-called subjunctive conditionals or counterfactuals which is known as middle knowledge. I argued that although this is a controversial subject that not all Christians agree on, nevertheless there are considerable theological reasons for believing that God does have middle knowledge, namely, it is the only way to provide a robust doctrine of divine providence and sovereignty that is compatible with human libertarian freedom. For that reason I think that this is an aspect of divine omniscience that is important and well worth affirming.

Let's go to the application section of the lesson. I want to draw three practical applications of this attribute of divine omniscience to our lives today.

First of all, God's omniscience serves as a basis for total trust in God's guidance in your life. Because God is omniscient, he never makes a mistake. He never changes his mind due to a lack of foresight. He never overlooks anything; nothing ever catches him by surprise. Therefore we can confidently trust him as he guides us through life. This is especially true if we affirm the doctrine of middle knowledge because then it means that everything that happens in your life happens either by God's direct will or at least his permission with respect to greater goods that might be achieved. No matter what you go through, no

Receive our free Newsletter
Get Dr. Craig's newsletter and keep up with RF news and events.
 [Subscribe](#)

Support Reasonable Faith [Donate](#)



Reasonable Faith App
for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch & Android phones


REASONABLE Faith
with William Lane Craig

Translations News RF Chapters Calendar Store Donate

Search

Writings Media Forums About RF

Home > Defenders Podcast: Series 3 > Doctrine of God > Transcript: Doctrine of God (Part 17)

 **Doctrine of God (Part 17)**
Transcript of William Lane Craig's [Defenders 3](#) class.

Practical Applications of God's Omnipotence

We've been talking about God's attribute of divine omnipotence. I suggested that the doctrine that God is omnipotent doesn't mean that you can say God can do "blank" and just combine that with any sort of words like "make a round square" or "sin" or "act contrary to his nature." I suggested that a rough-and-ready definition of "omnipotence" would be that God can bring about any state of affairs which is logically possible for someone in that situation to bring about. That would mean that the limits to God's power are simply those of logic. When people talk about logical impossibilities they are not really talking about things that God cannot do because those are not things at all. They are just contradictory combinations of words.

So when the Scripture says that God can do all things, I think that what it means is what this definition implies – he can bring about any state of affairs which is logically possible to bring about for someone in such a situation. *[Dr. Craig then repeats the definition for someone in the class.]* No one could bring about the state of affairs, for example, of God making a rock heavier than he can lift. Nobody could bring about the state of affairs of God's sinning, of a morally perfect being committing a sin. Nobody could bring it about the different counterfactuals of creaturely freedom are true than the ones that are true – that correspond to persons other than the agent. In every case it is simply a matter of logic that circumscribe the limits of God's power. And that makes him omnipotent.

Receive our free Newsletter
Get Dr. Craig's newsletter and keep up with RF news and events.
 [Subscribe](#)

Support Reasonable Faith [Donate](#)



Reasonable Faith App
for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch & Android phones




When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.”

[Genesis 17:1 RSV]

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.”

[Revelation 19:6 RSV]

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

[Genesis 1:1]

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood forth.

[Psalm 33:9]

who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

[Romans 4:17 RSV]



“Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you in the spring and Sarah shall have a son.”

[Genesis 18:14]

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too hard for me?”

[Jeremiah 32:26,27 RSV]

“Ah Lord GOD! It is thou who hast made the heavens and the earth by thy great power and by thy outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for thee.”

[Jeremiah 32:17 RSV]

Then Job answered the LORD: “I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be thwarted.”

[Job 42:1 RSV]

Jesus looked to them and said to them, “**With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**”

[Matthew 19:26 RSV]



Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt.

[Mark 13:46 RSV]

<Start Part 17 Verses>

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

[2 Corinthians 4:6-10 RSV]

what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

[Ephesians 1:19-21 RSV]



Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

[Ephesians 3:20-21 RSV]

“He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

[John 15:5 RSV]

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!”

[Philippians 4:13 RSV]

Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

[2 Corinthians 12:8-10]



In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will,

[Ephesians 1:11 RSV]

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

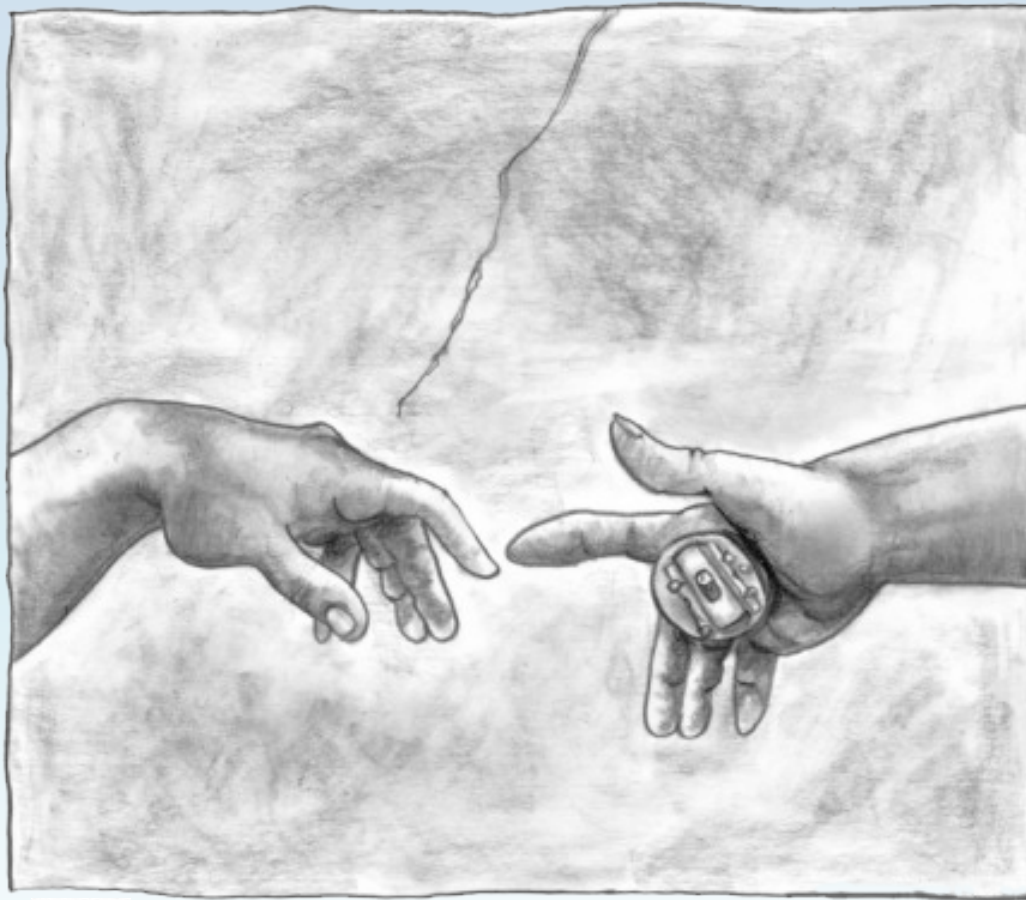
[Ephesians 3:20-21 RSV]

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

[Romans 8:28-30 RSV]



Questions?



KME



Videos on the Doctrine of God

1. God is Spirit – Incorporeality
<https://youtu.be/80bMJRbdPOE> (0:49 Craig Intro)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhqGgPSxm9w> (24:45 to be cut?)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTHftmEm2O4> (34:10 to be cut?, includes Immutability)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcVDhmv9bYU> (31:07)
2. God is Everywhere – Omnipresence
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhYguRSR_SA&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=8 (32:41 laryngitis)
3. God is Forever - Eternity. God's relationship to time
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD4BfTIC7tY&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=5> (35:05)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-JD2TDtEuU> (32:25)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-ql6awsrqk> (28:21)
4. God is Self-Sufficient – Aseity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWscWmEdpJ8> (47:06)
5. God is All-Knowing – Omniscience
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pStF1fBg90&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=12> (43:11)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Cfahfd7EAq> (36:55)
6. God is All-Powerful – Omnipotence
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B16my7f85q4&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=16> (39:32)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3dkwLHeTIY&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=17> (32:26)
7. God is All-Good - Goodness, Objective Morals
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CQWsu0JAAtg&index=18&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz> (38:27)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8l7-FuyZV4&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=19> (35:45)
8. God is All-Loving - Grace, Unconditional Love
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSVxeGoPW10&index=20&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz> (31:41)
9. God is Three Persons – Trinity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gU1qHmgW0GQ> (11:58)
<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/defenders-2-podcast/s5> (series of audio podcasts)
10. The Greatness of God - Summary, Wrap-Up
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApBu8Ob6hjo&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=21> (22:39)

