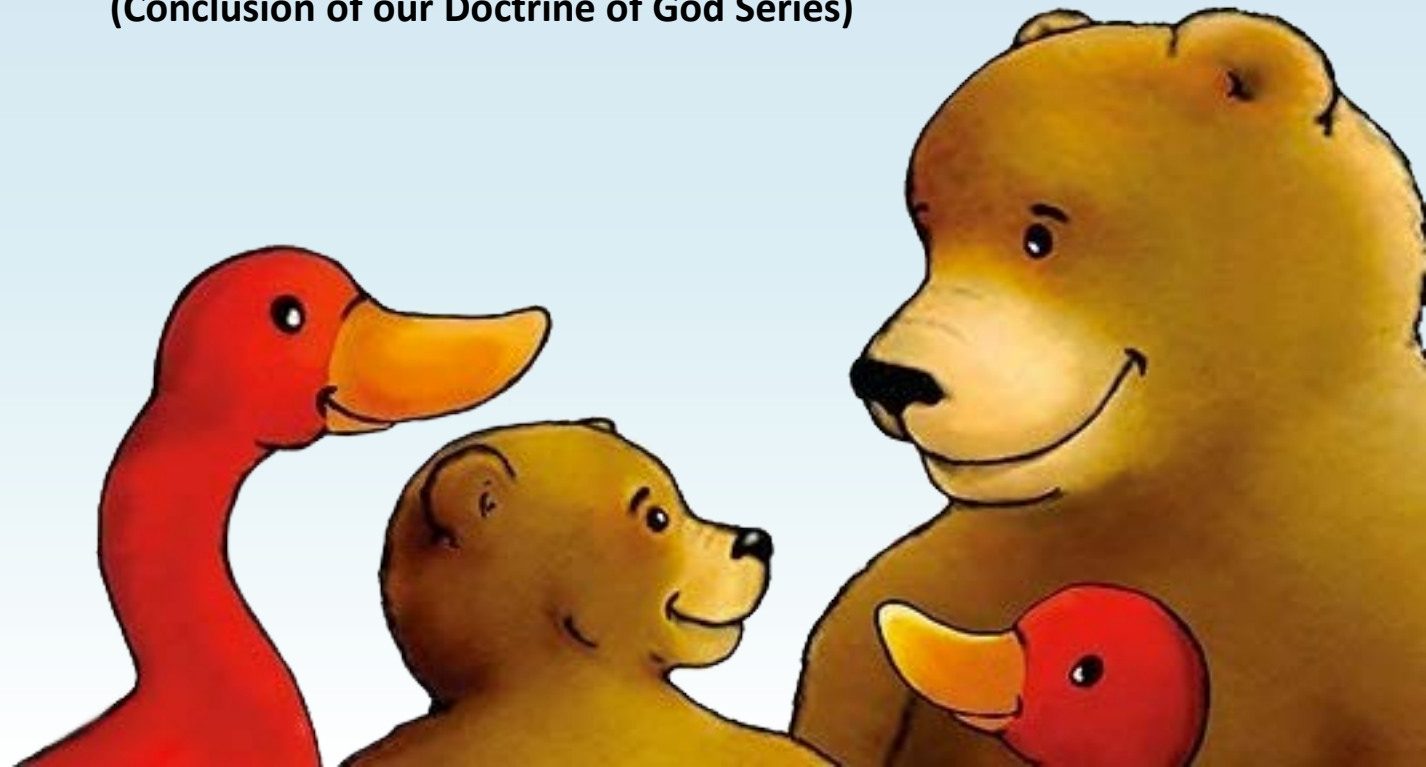


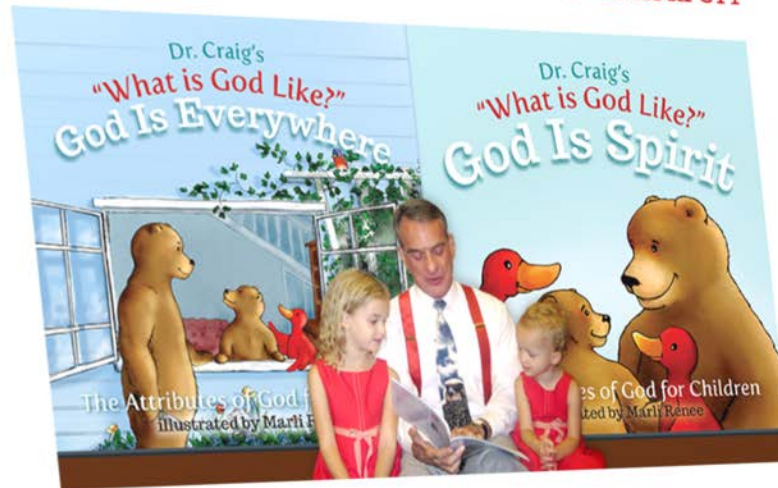
# *“What Is God Like?”*

## **Part 10 – The Greatness of God**

**(Conclusion of our Doctrine of God Series)**



## 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.



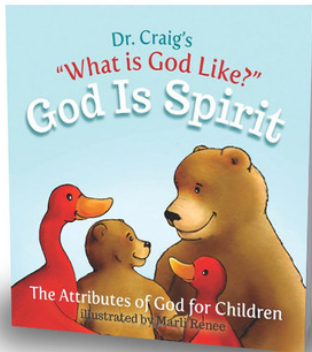
**WILLIAM LANE CRAIG,** Ph.D., D.Theol., is Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology in southern California and the founder of the web-based ministry Reasonable Faith. He is the

omnipresence, eternally, 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

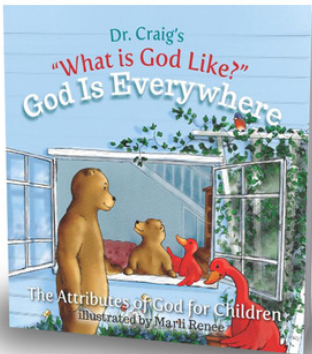


Reasonable Faith. He is the of the web-based ministry California and the founder of Theology in southern Philosophy at Talbot School Research Professor of Ph.D., D.Theol., is WILLIAM LANE CRAIG

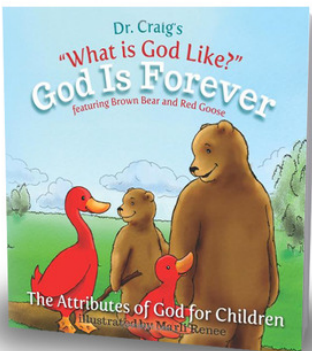




**“God Is Spirit”** is about what theologians call the “incorporeality” of God (God’s being pure spirit without a body). It helps to correct the popular misunderstanding that God has a body. In providing correct teaching about God, “God Is Spirit” also teaches children about the difference between our 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.

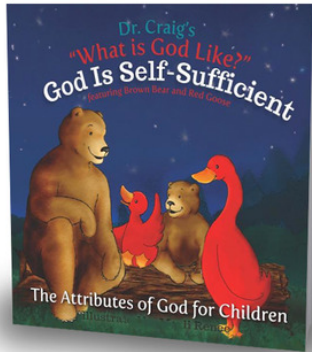


**“God Is Everywhere”** is about what theologians call God’s “omnipresence” (God’s being all- present). Our story helps us avoid two errors in thinking about God: thinking that God is localized in a place like heaven and thinking that God is spread throughout space like an invisible gas. It explains 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.

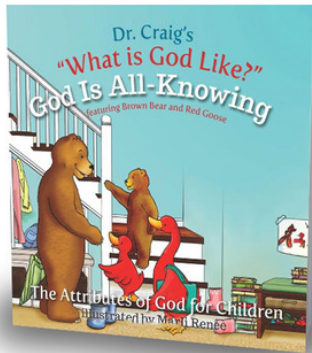


**“God Is Forever”** is about the eternity of God. Just as “God Is Everywhere” deals with God’s relationship to space, so “God Is Forever” deals with God’s relationship to time. Just as God is everywhere, so God is always. He never comes into existence and never goes out of existence. In contrast to 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.

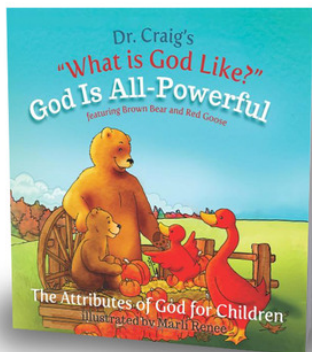




**“God Is Self-Sufficient”** is about what theologians call God’s aseity. “Aseity” refers to God’s self-existence. It comprises God’s necessity and independence. God doesn’t just happen to exist, as if by accident. Rather God exists by a necessity of His own nature; it is impossible for Him not to exist. 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.”



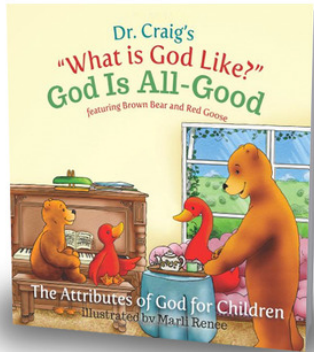
**“God Is All-Knowing”** is about what theologians call God’s omniscience. “Omniscience” comes from two Latin words omni (all) and scientia (knowledge). It is the attribute of knowing only and all truths. This booklet focuses on God’s foreknowledge, or His knowledge of truths about the future. It explains 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.



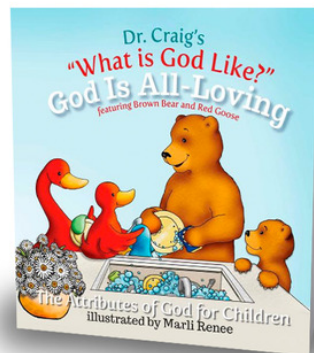
**“God Is All-Powerful”** is about what theologians call God’s omnipotence. “Omnipotence” comes from the Latin words omni (all) and potentia (power). Although God has all power, theologians have not typically thought that God can do the logically impossible (like make a square circle). Such logical contradictions 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.



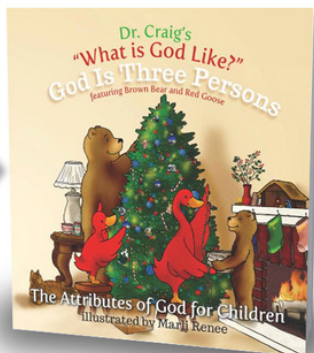




**“God Is All-Good”** raises profound and very important questions about the foundation of moral values. Papa Bear maintains that without God moral values and duties have no foundation and are therefore just subjective matters of opinion. The terrible consequences of such an atheistic view are made plain. 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.

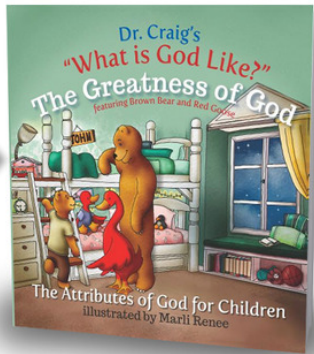


**“God Is All-Loving”** emphasizes God’s unconditional love for us. God’s love for us is not based upon our performance. Even though God hates our sin, He loves us. This wonderful truth is unique to the Judaeo-Christian faith. Other religions like Islam teach that God’s love is conditional and has to 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*.

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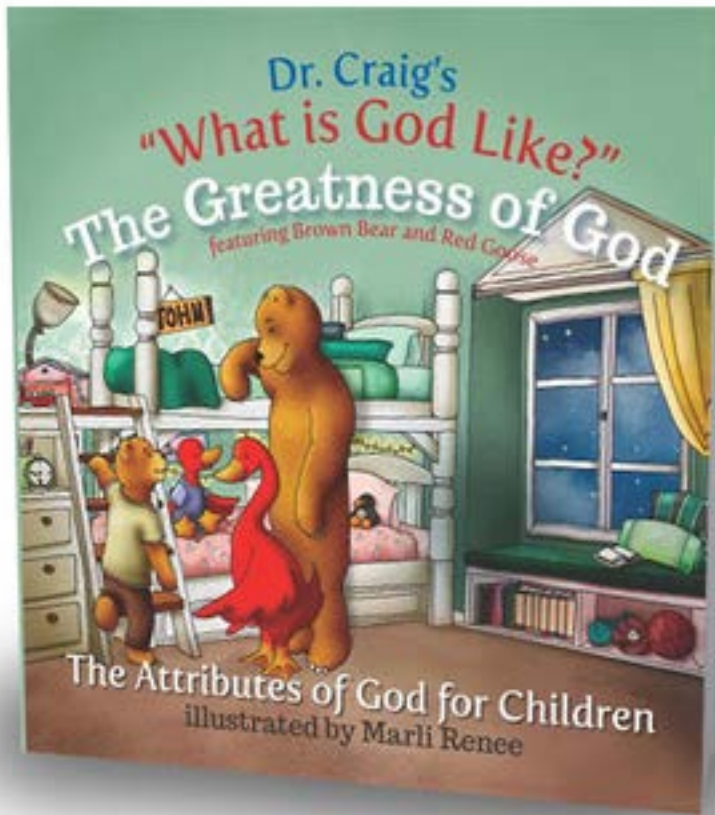
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# Practical Application of God's Love

YouTube video player interface showing a lecture by William Lane Craig.

**Video Title:** Doctrine of God Part 21: Application of God's Love

**Channel:** ReasonableFaithOrg (20,286 subscribers)

**Video Description:** Published on Aug 17, 2015. For more resources visit: <http://www.reasonablefaith.org>

**Video Content:** William Lane Craig, Defenders Class, Doctrine of God Part 21. The video shows Craig speaking at a podium with a whiteboard in the background. The podium features the text "WILLIAM Lane Craig DEFENDERS CLASS DOCTRINE OF GOD PART 21".

**Playlist:** Defenders 3: Doctrine of God (21/21 videos)

- 12. Doctrine of God Part 12: Practical Application of God's Incorporeality | God's Omniscience
- 13. Doctrine of God Part 13: Systematic Study of God's Omniscience
- 14. Doctrine of God Part 14: Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom
- 15. Doctrine of God Part 15: God's Middle Knowledge
- 16. Doctrine of God Part 16: Practical Application of Divine Omniscience / God's Omnipotence
- 17. Doctrine of God Part 17: Practical Application of Divine Omnipotence
- 18. Doctrine of God Part 18: God's Holiness
- 19. Doctrine of God Part 19: Application of God's Holiness
- 20. Doctrine of God Part 20: God's Love
- 21. Doctrine of God Part 21: Application of God's Love

**Related Videos:**

- God and the Big Bang: Cosmology - A Religion for Atheists? (1:11:16, 765 views)
- A Christian Philosopher Reacts to Supreme Court's Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage | WL (60:22, 1,043 views)
- Doctrine of God Part 16: Practical Application of Divine Omniscience / God's



# Practical Application of God's Love

Doctrine of God Part 21: Ap

RF Doctrine of God (Part 21)

The Ontological Argument

← → ↺ | reasonablefaith.org/defenders-3-podcast/transcript/doctrine-of-god-part-21

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Transcript

Doctrine of God (Part 21)




Transcript of William Lane Craig's [Defenders 3](#) class.

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## Practical Application of God's Love

Today we want to bring to a close a major section of our Defenders class – dealing with the attributes of God. We are going to look at an application of the moral attribute of God – his love. We saw in the lesson last time that God exhibits *agape* love – universal, unconditional, impartial love. Even while we were hateful enemies of Christ, God loved us and sent his Son to win us back to himself.

What application might we draw from this attribute of God's love?

1. We should *bathe in the sunshine of God's love for us*. Ephesians 3:14-19, Paul writes,

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

What an incredible description of our union with Christ. We are rooted and grounded in love. Paul asks that we might know the depths of the extent – the height – of Christ's love for us, love which he says even surpasses knowledge. For all the knowledge that we might acquire, the love of Christ surpasses



For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

[Ephesians 3:14-19 RSV]

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love.

[1 John 4:18 RSV]

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Romans 8:35-39 RSV]





But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.  
Remember then from what you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first.

[Revelation 2:4-5 RSV]

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

[1 John 4:19-21]

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

[Matthew 5:43-48 RSV]



# The Ontological Argument

Interview

Video

## What is the Ontological Argument?

The One Minute Apologist with William Lane Craig



# The Ontological Argument

YouTube

P1 God is something-than-which-nothing-greater-can-be-thought-of

P2 Things exist EITHER Contingently OR Necessarily

P3 It is GREATER to exist Necessarily THAN Contingently

Anselm Of Canterbury Prayed...

Assumption I (A1) IF (A1) + (P3) = it is POSSIBLE to think of a being GREATER than GOD (e.g. a necessary SUPER-GOD)

GOD EXISTS CONTINGENTLY

Contingently

It is GREATER

Therefore God is NOT something-than-which-nothing-greater-can-be-thought-of

But P1 says God IS something-than-which-nothing-greater-

These 2 statements form a Logical CONTRADICTION

Our Assumption (A1) (God exists Contingently) is FALSE

By (P2) the alternative is GOD EXISTS Necessarily

Proof by Contradiction – AMEN!

The Ontological Argument (1 of 2) | by MrMcMillanREvis

MrMcMillanREvis

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Descartes: God without existence is absurd

Malcolm: God's existence is Necessary (not impossible)

Plantinga: A being with Maximal Greatness exists

Anselm: Proof by CONTRADICTION

SUCCEEDS

either or TOTALLY FAILS

ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

~~"A Priori"~~

Aquinas: Only experience can lead to God

~~"Analytic"~~

Kant: "God exists" is a Synthetic statement

~~"Deductive"~~

Gaunilo/Davies: It uses invalid logical tricks

The Ontological Argument (2 of 2) | by MrMcMillanREvis

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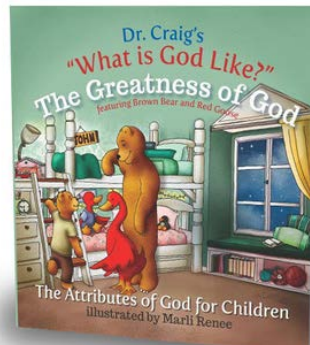
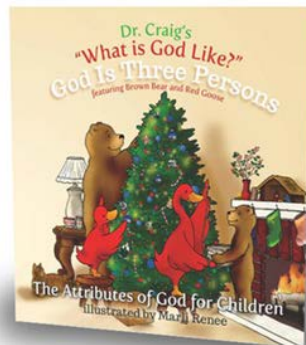
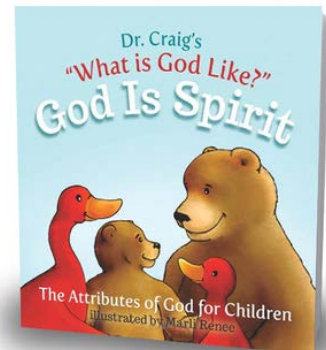
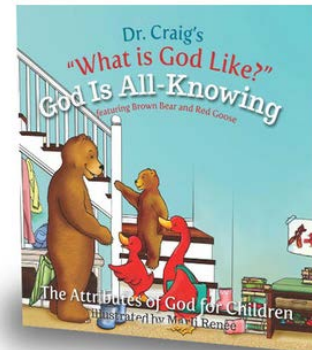
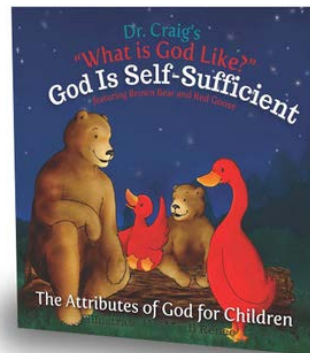
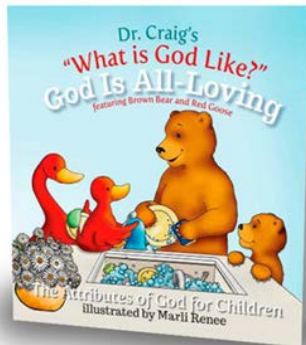
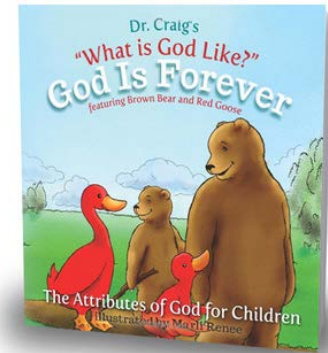
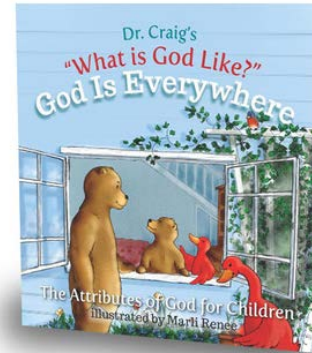
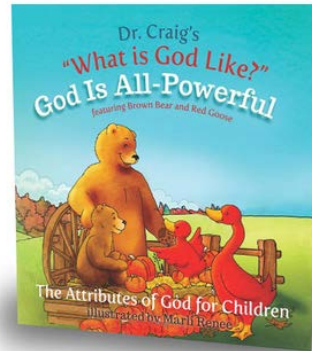
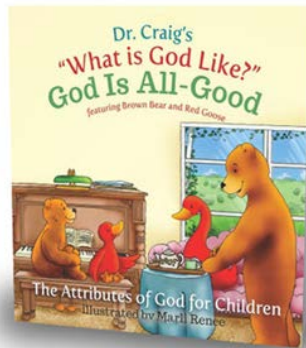
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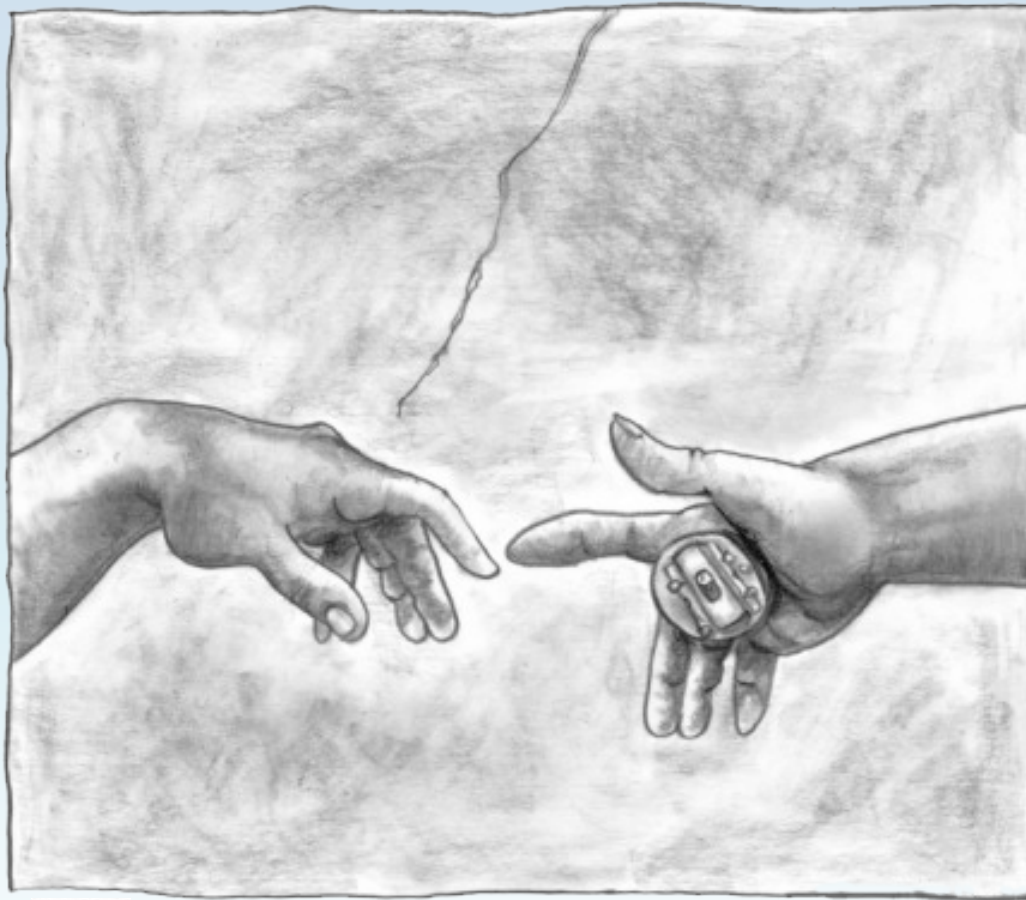




# The Attributes of God



# 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)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTHftmEm2O4> (34:10, 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](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)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApBu8Ob6hjo&list=PLIpO3BUiq2IFdX50i-DIb6-posLJL7NEz&index=21> (22:39)
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)

