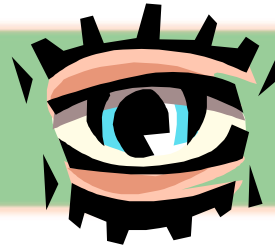


# GOD'S

...developing a Christian worldview



# VIEW

## HOW GOD SEES THE WORLD

"When Jesus said you have to enter the kingdom like a child, He meant you have to enter with and child's trust, not with a child's understanding." (Budziszewski page 29)

We need an adult understanding of our faith.

## GOD

### TEACHING KEY

Review God's attributes at this time. Ask the students to list as many of these as they can. Then make sure you hit the following:

Creator — All Powerful, Ever-present, All-Knowing, Sovereign

Judge — Truthful, Righteous, Just, Holy

Savior — Merciful, Faithful, Unchanging, Loving.

All his attributes are infinite, self-existent, self-sufficient, and eternal

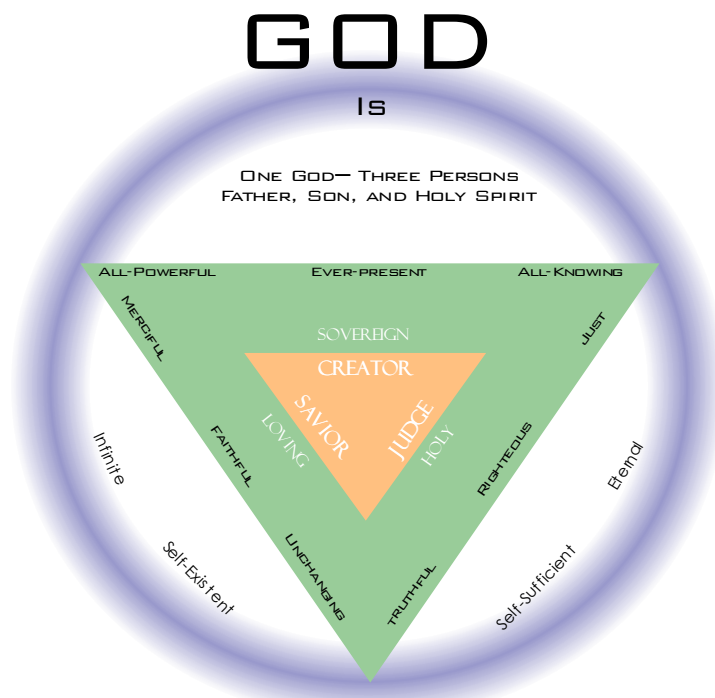


Diagram adapted from diagram in "God Discover His Character" by Bill Bright, New Life Publications Page 37

God is a Trinity – one what in three whos

"The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith. That is, it transcends reason without being contrary to reason. It is not know by reason but only by special revelation. God is one in essence but three in persons. He is a plurality within unity. God is a tri-unity, not a rigid singularity."

Geisler, Norman "The Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics" Baker 1999 page 737

God's holiness and love are in complete harmony. His justice and his mercy work together in Jesus Christ to bring us to a relationship with himself.

READ VERSES TOGETHER FROM PAGE 31 IN BUDZISZEWSKI

## CREATION

What is the difference between recombining old things in new ways, and actually creating something?

Creation has no ideas or raw materials to start with. Only God creates, humans only recombine things that already exist.

Did God need to create people or anything at all?

No way, He didn't need to. He is triune, he was not lonely or incomplete

Discuss the difference between "gift love" and "need love"

"So get this: God is distinct from His creation. He isn't a part of it; it isn't a part of Him. He didn't 'arise' from it; it didn't 'arise' from Him. He spoke, and where nothing was before, it was." (Budziszewski page 33)



## CREATION AND SCIENCE — THREE VIEWS HELD BY CHRISTIANS

### Theistic Evolution

Accepts the theory of macro-evolution as do some scientists. Posits that God is the driving force behind evolution to bring about man as the crowning achievement of this creative process.

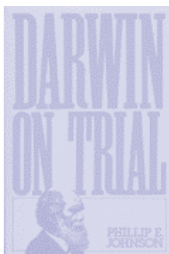
**Objections** — What kind of God would do this? Use millions of years of death and carnage to bring about his creation. Struggles to agree with the Biblical account in Genesis. Naturalistic evolutionary theory seeks to explain this **without** God, so why is God needed in this theory.

### Old Earth Creationism (Day Age Theorists)

Accepts that the earth and the Universe is very old as modern science claims. Believes that each "day" in the Genesis account represents a long period (or age) of God's creative activity. God finished creating in the sixth age with the creation of human beings made in his image and is now resting from his creative activity.

### Young Earth Creationism

Believes the days in Genesis to be 24 hour solar days as marked by the phrase "morning and evening." They also cite God's institution of the Sabbath rest day in the OT as a direct reference to God's creation in six days and resting for one. Does not accept certain scientific reasoning which puts forth the hypothesis of an ancient earth.



### FOR FURTHER READING

- **Three Views on Creation and Evolution**—edited by J.P. Moreland and John Mark Reynolds by Zondervan Corp. 1999
- **Darwin on Trial** — Phillip Johnson published Inter-varsity Press 1993



## THE BAD NEWS

What is evil?

Evil is an absence of that which is good. It is not something in itself, but an absence or privation of true goodness which only comes from God.

"God created good things, but some of them are spoiled" (Budziszewski page 29)

Discuss the identity of Satan

An angel who was made good, but went bad. Not an equal and opposite of God, he is limited in his abilities.

Where does evil come from in the world?

God allows it to exist as free creatures choose to rebel against the character and ways of God

How does God giving us the freedom to love him show his great love for us?

Love is a volitional commitment, one has to want to or choose to love. God did not make us to be robots who were forced to

Discuss what it means to say that human beings are fallen.

Human beings willfully disobeyed God and therefore fell away from their intended state of goodness as the image bearers of God. When the first humans, Adam and Eve, originally sinned against God they and all of creation were subjected to a curse.

### ELEMENTS OF THE FALL

- Human beings are separated and alienated from God.
- Human beings are alienated from each other.
- We are personally stained by sin so that even our desires and emotions do not obey our minds. Our purest experiences are mixed with sin.
- Physical creation under decay (entropy).
- We cannot repair ourselves and we are under the judgment of God.

Give a very basic definition for Hell

Hell is a place and condition of absolute eternal separation from God

### TWO VIEWS OF HOW SOMEONE IS CONDEMNED TO HELL

POSITION OF BUDZISZEWSKI , C.S. LEWIS, AQUINAS, GEISLER

HELL IS THE DESIRE OF THE UNBELIEVER FULFILLED. GOD SIMPLY GIVES US THE RESULT OF OUR CHOOSING TO REJECT HIM.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES  
ROMANS 10, 2 PETER 3, 1 TIMOTHY 2

REFORMED POSITION OF CALVIN, EDWARDS, R.C. SPROUL

GOD IS THE ONE WHO PREDESTINES AND ELECTS US TO SALVATION. IT IS HIS CHOICE OF US, NOT OUR CHOICE OF HIM. HELL IS FOR UNBELIEVERS, WHO BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN ARE RIGHTLY CONDEMNED.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES—ROMANS 9, EPHESIANS 1, JOHN 6.

### SALVATION FROM HELL

PEOPLE



GOD

PEOPLE



GOD

## THE GOOD NEWS THAT ANSWERS THE BAD NEWS

Discuss the qualifications of a Savior and whether they sound valid to you or not.

1. He must be capable of paying **that kind debt** — would have to suffer a human death
2. He must be capable of paying **that large a debt** — would have to have infinite resources
3. He must **be able to stand for other humans** — he would need to share our human nature
4. He would have to be **sinless or innocent** — why?
5. He must be **willing** to pay the debt.

“To sum up these requirements, our debt against God could be paid only by a sinless human being who could count as a new representative of every human being, one who loved us so much that he was willing to spend himself for us — but who was also God, so that He could spend Himself without limit. In other words, God Himself would have to take the heat for us. As a man. **An He did it.**” (Budziszewski page 37)

## YOU



How would you explain to someone how they can place their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation?

Review Eph 2:8,9 — Grace, Saved, and Faith (confident belief, trust, commitment of mind, attitude and action.

What does the author mean when he says we need “to grab and hang on?” (Budziszewski page 38)

Not just head knowledge, it means trusting only in Jesus the Savior and realizing you cannot get to God on your own. You may want to read the excellent paragraph spanning from the bottom of page 38 to the end of 39 in Budziszewski

## THE BOTTOM LINE

ARE WE WILLING TO SAY, “GOD MESS WITH ME, DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO.”