

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 9: The Existence of God

How do we know that God exists?

Introduction & Review

Note: The primary textbook for the _____ of this series is Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*. The primary text for the _____ of this series is the Bible.

Grudem: What is systematic theology? Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, "What does the _____ Bible teach us today?" about any given _____.

The Schedule

Part 1: The Doctrine of the Word of God (February – April, 2014)

Part 2: The Doctrine of God (September – November, 2014)

Part 3: The Doctrine of Man (March 2015)

Part 4: The Doctrines of Christ and the Holy Spirit (October – November 2015)

Part 5: The Doctrine of the Application of Redemption (January – April 2016)

Part 6: The Doctrine of the Church (June – August 2016)

Part 7: The Doctrine of the Future (November – December 2016)

Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: How do we know that God exists?

1. **Humanity's _____ Sense of God (Romans 1:18-25)**

Grudem: Some people deny this inner sense of God and even deny that God exists (Psalm 14:1a, 53:1, 10:3-4). Why would people do this? _____ (Romans 1:18)

What about the believer? Grudem: In the life of a Christian this inner awareness of God becomes _____ and more distinct (John 14:23, Ephesians 3:17a, Philippians 3:8, 10, 1 Peter 1:8)

2. **Believing the Evidence in _____ and _____** (**Genesis 1:1, Acts 14:17, Psalm 19:1**)

3. **Traditional “Proofs” for the Existence of God**

The cosmological argument

The teleological argument

The ontological argument

The moral argument

4. **Only _____ Can Overcome Our Sin and Enable Us to Be Persuaded of His Existence** (**2 Corinthians 4:4-5, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5**)

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. **When the seraphim around God’s throne cry out, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3), do you think they are seeing the earth from a somewhat different perspective than ours? In what ways? How can we begin to see the world more from this perspective?**
2. **When is your inner sense of God’s existence strongest? Weakest? Why?**
3. **Look at your hand. Is it more or less complex than a wristwatch? Is it logical to think that either one of them just came about by an accidental combination of elements?**
4. **Why do some people deny the existence of God? Does Romans 1:18 suggest there is often a moral factor influencing their intellectual denial of God’s existence (cf. Psalm 14:1–3)? What is the best way to approach someone who denies the existence of God?**

Scripture Memory Passage: Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Hymn: “The Spacious Firmament on High” (Joseph Addison)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 10: The Knowability of God

Can we really know God? How much of God can we know?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Romans 1:18-20**

The Necessity for God to Reveal Himself to Us

Grudem: If we are to know God at all, it is necessary that ___ reveal himself to ___.

Romans 1:19

Matthew 11:27; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; John 1:18

Grudem: _____ people misinterpret the revelation about God found in nature.

Romans 1:18, 21, 25

We Can Never Fully Understand God

Grudem: Because God is infinite and we are finite or limited, we can never fully understand God. **Psalm 145:3:** Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness *is* unsearchable. **Psalm 147:5:** Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite. **Psalm 139:6, 17:** *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. . . . How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!* **1 Corinthians 2:10-12: 10** But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. **11** For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. **Romans 11:33:** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Grudem: We can never fully understand any _____ thing about God

Isaiah 55:9; Job 26:14, 11:7-9, 37:5

Grudem: We will _____ run out of things to learn about him

Psalm 139:17-18; Colossians 1:10

Yet We Can Know God Truly

"I know my wife" ≠ "I know everything about my wife," but I know more than _____

Grudem: We can know _____ of God's thoughts— even many of them— from Scripture

Psalm 139:17

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Grudem: The richness of the Christian life includes a _____ relationship with God.

How are you availing yourself of this richness?

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. **Sometimes people say that heaven sounds boring. How does the fact that God is incomprehensible yet knowable help to answer that objection?**
2. **How can we be sure that when we reach heaven God will not tell us that most of what we had learned about him was wrong, and that we would have to forget what we had learned and begin to learn different things about him?**
3. **Why do you think God decided to reveal himself to us? Do you learn more about God from his revelation in nature or his revelation in Scripture? Why do you think it is that God's thoughts are "precious" to us (Psalm 139:17)? Would you call your present relationship to God a personal relationship? How is it similar to your relationships with other people, and how is it different? What would make your relationship with God better?**

Scripture Memory Passage: Psalm 145:1-3

1 I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. 3 Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness *is* unsearchable.

Hymn: "I Will Thee Praise, My God, O King" (The Book of Psalms with Music (Pittsburgh: Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, 1973))

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 11: The Character of God: "Incommunicable" Attributes

How is God different from us?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Psalm 145:1-3**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: Introduction to the Study of God's Character

Grudem: he incommunicable attributes of God (that is, those attributes that God does _____ share or "communicate" to others) and the communicable attributes of God (those God _____ or "communicates" with us).

Grudem: The Incommunicable Attributes of God

1. **Independence** (self-existence). **Grudem: God does not need us or the rest of creation for _____, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify him and bring him joy. Acts 17:24-25; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:10-12; Revelation 4:11; John 1:3; Psalm 90:2; Exodus 3:14**
Grudem: We are in fact very meaningful because God has created us and _____ has determined that we would be meaningful to him. Isaiah 43:7; Ephesians 1:11-12; Revelation 4:11; Isaiah 62:3-5; Zephaniah 3:17-18a
2. **Unchangeableness** (immutability). **Grudem: God is _____ in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations. Psalm 102:25-27; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17**
Grudem: God is unchanging . . . _____ in ways that Scripture itself affirms. Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 46:9-11; Numbers 23:19
3. **Eternity.** **Grudem: God has _____ beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time.**

Psalm 90:2; Revelation 1:8; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Acts 17:30-31

4. **Omnipresence. Grudem: God does _____ have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.**

Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-10; Colossians 1:17; 1 Kings 8:27; Isaiah 66:1-2a

We do not believe in pantheism. **Grudem: The biblical perspective is rather that God is present everywhere in his creation, but that he is also _____ from his creation.**

Amos 9:1-4; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3

Grudem: Although the Bible can speak of God as being present everywhere, when the Bible says that God is “present” it usually means “present to _____.” Psalm 16:11; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 14:23; Isaiah 59:2; Proverbs 15:29

5. **Unity. Grudem: God is not _____ into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times.**

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. **As you think of God’s independence, unchangeableness, eternity, omnipresence, and unity, can you see some faint reflections of these five incommunicable attributes in yourself as God created you to be? What would it mean to strive to become more like God in these areas? At what point would it be wrong to even want to be like God in each of these areas because it would be attempting to usurp his unique role as Creator and Lord?**
2. **Using each of these five incommunicable attributes, explain how we will be more like God in heaven than we are now, and also how we will for all eternity be unlike God in each of these five areas.**

Scripture Memory Passage: Psalm 102:25-27

25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands. 26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. 27 But You *are* the same, And Your years will have no end.

Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 12: The Character of God: "Communicable" Attributes (Part 1)

How is God like us in his being and in mental and moral attributes?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Psalm 102:25-27**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: This division into "incommunicable" and "communicable" is not an absolute division and there is some room for difference of opinion concerning which attributes should fit into which categories.

- **Attributes Describing God's Being: Spirituality, Invisibility**
- **Mental Attributes: Knowledge (or Omniscience), Wisdom, Truthfulness (and Faithfulness)**
- **Moral Attributes: Goodness, Love, Mercy (Grace, Patience), Holiness, Peace (or Order), Righteousness (or Justice), Jealousy, Wrath**
- **Attributes of Purpose: Will, Freedom, Omnipotence (or Power, and Sovereignty)**
- **"Summary" Attributes: Perfection, Blessedness, Beauty, Glory**

Summary: God _____ is the best, highest, and final standard for His attributes.

Spirituality

Grudem: God is in no way limited to a spatial _____: John 4:24; 1 Kings 8:27; Exodus 20:4–6; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 14:14; Philippians 3:3; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:16; Luke 23:46; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Hebrews 12:23

Invisibility

Grudem: God's _____ essence, all of his spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by us, yet God still shows himself to us through visible, created things: John 1:18; John 6:46; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 4:12; Exodus 33:11; Exodus 33:20; Exodus 33:21–23;

Genesis 18:1–33; Genesis 32:28–30; Exodus 13:21–22; Exodus 24:9–11; Judges 13:21–22; Isaiah 6:1; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3

Knowledge (Omniscience)

Grudem: God _____ knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple [not divided] and eternal act: Job 37:16; 1 John 3:20; 1 Corinthians 2:10–11; Hebrews 4:13; Isaiah 46:9–10; Matthew 6:8; Psalm 139:1–2, 4, 16

Wisdom

Grudem: God always chooses the best goals and the best _____ to those goals: Romans 16:27; Job 9:4; Job 12:13; 1 Corinthians 1:21–30; Romans 11:33; James 1:5; Psalm 19:7; Psalm 111:10

Truthfulness (and Faithfulness)

Grudem: He is the true God, and . . . _____ his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth: Jeremiah 10:10–11; John 17:3; Job 37:16; Deuteronomy 32:4; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17; Colossians 3:9–10; Ephesians 4:25; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Proverbs 12:12

Goodness

Grudem: God is the _____ standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval: Luke 18:19; Psalm 100:5; Psalm 106:1; Psalm 107:1; Psalm 34:8; Genesis 1:31; Romans 12:2; James 1:17; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:28; Matthew 7:11; Galatians 6:10

Love

Grudem: God eternally _____ of himself to others: 1 John 4:8; John 3: 35; John 14:31; 1 John 4:10; Romans 5:8; John 3:16; Galatians 2:20; Matthew 22:37–38; 1 John 5:3; 1 John 2:15; 1 John 4:19; 1 John 4:11; John 13:35; John 17:26; Matthew 5:43–48

Mercy, Grace, Patience

Grudem: Mercy is God's _____ toward those in misery and distress. Grudem: Grace is God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment. Grudem: Patience is God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time. Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8; 2 Samuel 24:14; Matthew 9:27; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Hebrews 4:16; Exodus 33:19; Psalm 119:132; 1 Peter 5:10; Romans 3:23–24; Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15; Jonah 4:2; Nahum 1:3; Romans 2:4; 1 Timothy 1:16; James 1:19; 1 Peter 2:20; Ephesians 4:2; Galatians 5:22; James 5:8

Holiness

Grudem: He is _____ from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor: Exodus 26:33; Psalm 24:3; Exodus 20:11; Exodus 29:44; Psalm 71:22; Psalm 78:41; Psalm 89:18;

Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 99:9; Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16; Exodus 19:4-6; Hebrews 12:14; Hebrews 12:10; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 2:21, 26-27

Peace (or Order)

Grudem: In God's being and in his actions he is separate from all _____ and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions: 1 Corinthians 14:33; Romans 15:33; Romans 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20; Psalm 29:11; Psalm 85:8; Psalm 119:165; Proverbs 3:17; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 26:3; Isaiah 57:19; John 14:27; Romans 8:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Galatians 5:22; Acts 9:31

Righteousness, Justice

Grudem: God _____ acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right: Deuteronomy 32:4; Genesis 18:25; Psalm 19:8; Isaiah 45:19; Romans 3:25-26

Jealousy

Grudem: God continually seeks to _____ his own honor: 2 Corinthians 11:2; Exodus 20:5; Exodus 34:14; Isaiah 48:11

Wrath

Grudem: He intensely hates all _____: Exodus 32:9-10; Deuteronomy 9:7-8; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Romans 3:25-26; Psalm 103:8-9; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9-10

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

- 1. Spirituality: Why is God so strongly displeased at carved idols, even those that are intended to represent him? How then shall we picture God or think of God in our minds when we pray to him?**
- 2. What is it about our culture or our way of thinking today that makes us think of the physical world as more real and more permanent than the spiritual world? What can we do to change our intuitive perspective on the reality of the spiritual world?**
- 3. Knowledge: When should we try to hide our thoughts and deeds from God? How is your answer to this question a blessing for your life?**
- 4. With regard to the circumstances of your life, will God ever make a mistake, or fail to plan ahead, or fail to take into account all the eventualities that occur? How is the answer to this question a blessing in your life?**

5. **When did God learn that you would be at the location you are now in, reading this sentence, at this time on this day? How is the realization of your answer to this question a blessing to your life?**
6. **Wisdom: Do you really believe that God is working wisely today in your life? In the world? If you find this difficult to believe at times, what might you do to change your attitude?**
7. **Truthfulness: Why are people in our society, sometimes even Christians, quite careless with regard to truthfulness in speech? Why do we not very often realize that the greatest harm of all that comes from lying is the fact that God himself is dishonored? Do you need to ask God's help to more fully reflect his truthfulness in speech in any of the following areas: promising to pray for someone; saying that you will be some place at a certain time; exaggerating events to make a more exciting story; taking care to remember and then be faithful to what you have said in business commitments; reporting what other people have said or what you think someone else is thinking; fairly representing your opponent's viewpoint in an argument?**
8. **Goodness: Remembering that every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1: 17), see how many good gifts from God you can list on a piece of paper in five minutes. When you have finished, ask yourself how often you have an attitude of thankfulness to God for most of these gifts. Why do you think we tend to forget that these blessings come from God? What can we do to remember more frequently?**
9. **Love: Is it appropriate to define love as "self-giving" with respect to our own interpersonal relationships? In what ways could you imitate God's love specifically today?**
10. **Is it possible to decide to love someone and then to act on that decision, or does love between human beings simply depend on spontaneous emotional feelings?**
11. **Mercy: If you were to reflect God's mercy more fully, for whom among those you know would you show special care during the next week?**
12. **Holiness: Are there activities or relationships in your present pattern of life that are hindering your growth in holiness because they make it difficult for you to be separated from sin and devoted to seeking God's honor?**
13. **Peace: As you think about reflecting God's peace in your own life, think first about your own emotional, mental, and spiritual state. Can you say that by-and-large you have God's peace in the sense that your inner life is separate from confusion and disorder, and is frequently or continually active in well-ordered and well-controlled actions that further God's glory? Then ask the same questions concerning what may be called the "external circumstances" of your life, that is, your family relationships, your relationships with neighbors, your activities in studying or at your job, and your relationships in church activities. What about the overall picture of your life, viewed as**

a whole? Does it exhibit God's peace? What might you do to reflect God's peace more fully?

14. **Righteousness:** Do you ever find yourself wishing that some of God's laws were different than they are? If so, does such a wish reflect a dislike for some aspect of God's moral character? What passages of Scripture might you read to convince yourself more fully that God's character and his laws are right in these areas?
15. **Jealousy:** Do you reflect God's jealousy for his own honor instinctively when you hear him dishonored in conversation or on television or in other contexts? What can we do to deepen our jealousy for God's honor?
16. **Wrath:** Should we love the fact that God is a God of wrath who hates sin? In what ways is it right for us to imitate this wrath, and in what ways is it wrong for us to do so?

Scripture Memory Passage: Exodus 34:6-7

6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, **7** keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Hymn: "O Worship the King" (Sir Robert Grant, 1833)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 13: The Character of God: "Communicable" Attributes (Part 2)

How is God like us in attributes of will and in attributes that summarize his excellence?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Exodus 34:6-7**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

- **Attributes Describing God's Being: Spirituality, Invisibility**
- **Mental Attributes: Knowledge (or Omniscience), Wisdom, Truthfulness (and Faithfulness)**
- **Moral Attributes: Goodness, Love, Mercy (Grace, Patience), Holiness, Peace (or Order), Righteousness (or Justice), Jealousy, Wrath**
- **Attributes of Purpose: Will, Freedom, Omnipotence (or Power, and Sovereignty)**
- **"Summary" Attributes: Perfection, Blessedness, Beauty, Glory**

Summary: God _____ is the best, highest, and final standard for His attributes.

Will

Grudem: He _____ and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of himself and all creation: Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 4:11; Daniel 4:32; Romans 13:1; Acts 4:27-28; James 4:13-15; Deuteronomy 29:29; Matthew 6:10; Ephesians 5:17; 1 John 5:14; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 11:25-26; 1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 9:18; Ezekiel 33:11. We will _____ fully understand God's will in this life.

Freedom

Grudem: He does _____ he pleases: Psalm 115:3; Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 4:35

Omnipotence (Power, Sovereignty)

Grudem: God is able to do _____ his holy will: Psalm 24:8; Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 3:20; Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26; Titus 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:13; James 1:13

Perfection

Grudem: God completely possesses _____ excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him: **Matthew 5:48; Psalm 18:30**

Blessedness

Grudem: God _____ fully in himself and in all that reflects his character: **1 Timothy 6:15b; 1 Timothy 1:11; Genesis 1:31; Isaiah 62:5b**

Beauty

Grudem: He is the sum of all desirable qualities: **Psalm 27:4; 1 Peter 3:4; Titus 2:10; Ephesians 5:27**

Glory

Grudem: The created _____ that surrounds God's revelation of himself: **Isaiah 43:7; Romans 3:23; John 17:5; Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 24:10; Psalm 104:1-2; Luke 2:9; Revelation 21:23**

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. **Will, Freedom:** As children grow toward adulthood, what are proper and improper ways for them to show in their own lives greater and greater exercise of individual will and freedom from parental control? Are these to be expected as evidence of our creation in the image of God?
2. **Power:** If God's power is his ability to do what he wills to do, then is power for us the ability to obey God's will and bring about results in the world that are pleasing to him?
3. **Perfection:** How does God's attribute of perfection remind us that we can never be satisfied with the reflection of only some of God's character in our own lives?
4. **Glory:** When we come to live forever in the heavenly city, we will continually be surrounded by the light of the glory of the Lord (**Revelation 21:23**). Would you like to live in the presence of this glory?

Scripture Memory Passage: Psalm 73:25-26

25 *Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.* **26** *My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Hymn: "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" (Georg Neumark, 1641)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 14: The Trinity

How can God be three persons, yet one God?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Psalm 73:25-26**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: God eternally exists as _____ persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is _____ God, and there is _____ God

Grudem: The Doctrine of the Trinity Is Progressively Revealed in Scripture

1. Partial Revelation in the Old Testament. Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Isaiah 6:8; Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8; Psalm 110:1 (Matthew 22:41-46); Isaiah 61:1; Malachi 3:1-2

2. More Complete Revelation of the Trinity in the New Testament. Matthew 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 John 5:7

Grudem: Three Statements Summarize the Biblical Teaching

1. God is three persons. John 1:1-2, 17:24; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25; John 14:26, 16:7

2. Each person is fully God

- Father
- Son (**John 1:1-4, John 20:28-31, Hebrews 1:8, Titus 2:13, 2 Peter 1:1, Isaiah 9:6, Colossians 2:9**)
- Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 139:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11**)

3. There is one God. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 45:21-22; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6; James 2:19

Problems with denying any one of the three statements

If you deny the first, then the easiest solution is _____. If you deny the second, then the easiest solution is to say that at least one of the members of the Trinity is _____ God. If you deny the third, then the easiest solution is _____. **Grudem: _____ analogy adequately teaches about the Trinity, and all are misleading in significant ways**

Grudem: The Importance of the Doctrine of the Trinity

Grudem: The _____ is at stake. Grudem: _____ by faith alone is threatened

Grudem: What Are the Distinctions Between . . .

The Father _____, the Son _____, and the Spirit _____

Grudem: Application

Grudem: Because God in himself has both _____ and _____, it is not surprising that unity and diversity are also reflected in the human relationships he has established

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

- 1. What are some ways in which members of your family reflect the diversity found in the members of the Trinity? How does your family reflect the unity found among members of the Trinity? What are some ways in which your family relationships could reflect the unity of the Trinity more fully?**
- 2. Do you think that the trinitarian nature of God is more fully reflected in a church in which all the members have the same racial background, or one in which the members come from many different races (see [Ephesians 3:1-10](#))?**
- 3. If we see the trinitarian existence of God as the fundamental basis for all combinations of unity and diversity in the universe, then what are some other parts of creation that show both unity and diversity?**

Scripture Memory Passage: [Matthew 3:16-17](#)

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Reginald Heber, 1826)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 15: Creation

Why, how, and when did God create the universe?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: [Matthew 3:16-17](#)

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: We may define the doctrine of creation as follows: God created the entire universe out of _____; it was originally very _____; and he created it to glorify _____.

Grudem: God Created the Universe Out of Nothing

[Genesis 1:1](#); [Psalm 33:6, 9](#); [John 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:16](#); [Revelation 4:11](#); [Hebrews 11:3](#); [Nehemiah 9:6](#); [Colossians 1:16](#); [Genesis 2:7, 21-22](#); [John 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:16](#); [Genesis 1:2](#)

Grudem: Creation Is Distinct From God Yet Always Dependent on God

Grudem: The term often used to say that God is much greater than creation is the word _____. Very simply, this means that God is far “above” the creation in the sense that he is greater than the creation and he is independent of it.

Grudem: God is also very much involved in creation, for it is continually dependent on him for its existence and its functioning. The technical term used to speak of God’s involvement in creation is the word _____, meaning “remaining in” creation. [Job 12:10](#); [Acts 17:25, 28](#); [Colossians 1:17](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#); [Ephesians 4:6](#)

Grudem: God Created the Universe to Show His Glory

[Psalm 19:1-2](#); [Revelation 4:11](#)

Grudem: The Universe God Created Was “Very Good”

[Genesis 1:31](#); [1 Timothy 4:4-5](#)

Grudem: The Relationship Between Scripture and the Findings of Modern Science

Grudem: Scripture itself places no such restriction on the subjects to which it can speak. . . . Our understanding of some “scientific” facts is a matter of our faith (Hebrews 11:3)

Grudem: Some Theories About Creation Seem Clearly Inconsistent With . . . Scripture

- (1) Grudem: _____ Theories
- (2) Grudem: _____ Evolution
- (3) The Theory of a “Gap” Between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2

Grudem: Both “Old Earth” and “Young Earth” Theories Are Valid Options for Christians Who Believe the Bible Today

a. “Old Earth” Theories of Creation

b. “Young Earth” Theories of Creation

(1) Day-_____ View

(1) Creation With an Appearance of _____

(2) Literary Framework View

(2) Flood Geology

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. Are there ways in which you could be more thankful to God for the excellence of his creation?
2. Why do we feel joy when we are able to “subdue” even a part of the earth and make it useful for serving us— whether it be in growing vegetables, developing a better kind of plastic or metal, or using wool to knit a piece of clothing?
3. When you think about the immensity of the stars, and that God put them in place to show us his power and glory, how does it make you feel about your place in the universe? Is this different from the way a non-Christian would feel?

Scripture Memory Passage: Nehemiah 9:6

You alone *are* the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Hymn: “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah!” (William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 16: God's Providence

If God controls all things, how can our actions have real meaning? What are the decrees of God?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Nehemiah 9:6**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that he (1) _____ them existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them; (2) _____ with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and (3) _____ them to fulfill his purposes.

Grudem: Preservation

Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17; Acts 17:28; Nehemiah 9:6; 2 Peter 3:7; Job 34:14–15

Grudem: Concurrence

Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 148:8; Job 37:6; Psalm 135:6; Psalm 135:7; Psalm 104:4; Job 38:12, 32; Matthew 5:45; Psalm 104:27-29; Matthew 6:26; Proverbs 16:33; Job 12:23; Psalm 22:28; Acts 17:26; Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:19; Psalm 139:16; Job 14:5; Acts 17:28; Proverbs 20:24; Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 75:6-7; Luke 1:52; Psalm 127:3; 1 Corinthians 4:7; Proverbs 21:1; Psalm 33:14-15; Philippians 2:13

Grudem: Our words, our steps, our movements, our hearts, and our abilities are _____ from the Lord. Grudem: It seems better to affirm that God causes all things that happen, but that he does so in such a way that he somehow upholds our ability to make willing, responsible choices, choices that have real and eternal results, and for which we are held _____.

Grudem: What About Evil?

Examples: the life of Joseph (**Genesis 37-50**); the hardening of Pharaoh's heart in **Exodus 7-8** (even though Pharaoh also hardened his own heart—see also **Romans 9:17-18**); David's

_____ (1 Samuel 2:25, 16:14; 2 Samuel 12:15-18, 24:1, 10, 12-17; 1 Chronicles 21:1);
 Job's calamity (Job 1:12, 15, 17, 19, 21-22), Jonah (Jonah 1:15, 2:3), and Jesus' crucifixion

Grudem: God uses all things to fulfill his purposes and even uses _____ for his glory and for our good. Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20; James 1:13-14; Isaiah 66:3-4; Matthew 6:13; 1 Peter 2:11

Grudem: In thinking about God using evil to fulfill his purposes, we should remember that there are things that are _____ for God to do but _____ for us to do

Grudem: Government

Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:11; Philippians 2:10-11

Grudem: The Decrees of God

Ephesians 1:4; Psalm 139:16

Grudem: The Importance of Our Human Actions

1. We are still responsible for _____ actions
2. Our actions have real results and do change the course of events
3. Prayer is one specific kind of action that has definite results and that does change the course of events. James 4:2; John 16:24
4. In conclusion, we must _____! 2 Samuel 10:12; 2 Timothy 2:10
5. What if we cannot understand this doctrine fully?

Grudem: Further Practical Application

1. Do not be afraid, but _____ in God. Matthew 6:26, 31; 10:29-31; Psalm 91; 121; 1 Peter 1:6-7
2. Be _____ for all good things that happen. Psalm 103:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
3. There is no such thing as "luck" or "_____"

Scripture Memory Passage: Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Hymn: "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" (William Cowper, 1774)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 17: Miracles

What are miracles? Can they happen today?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Romans 8:28**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: Definition

Hebrew

owth. _____, signal, distinguishing mark, banner, remembrance, miraculous sign, omen, warning, token, ensign, standard, miracle, proof (H226). **Genesis 1:14; 4:15; 9:13; Exodus 7:3; 31:13; Numbers 2:2; 2 Kings 20:9; Isaiah 7:14**

mowpheth. _____, sign, miracle, token (H4159). **Exodus 4:21; 7:9; Ezekiel 24:24; Joel 2:30**

Greek

dynamis. _____, mighty work, strength, miracle, might, virtue, ability, power in a thing by virtue of its nature (G1411). **Matthew 6:13; 7:22; 25:15; Mark 5:30; Luke 4:36; 9:1; 10:19; Acts 1:8; 6:8; 19:11; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 19:1**

semeion. _____, mark, miracle, wonder, token, unusual occurrence (G4592). **Matthew 12:38-39; 26:48; Mark 16:20; Luke 2:12; 23:8; John 2:11; 3:2; 6:2; 11:47; 20:30; Acts 4:16, 22; 8:6, 13; 2 Thessalonians 3:17; Revelation 12:3**

Grudem: A miracle is a less _____ kind of God's activity in which he arouses people's awe and wonder and bears witness to _____.

Grudem: Miracles as Characteristic of the New Covenant Age
Luke 10:1, 9, 17-19; Matthew 10:8; Luke 9:49-50

Grudem: The Purposes of Miracles

Grudem: To authenticate the message of the _____. John 3:2

Grudem is a _____ (the sign gifts are present and active today in the lives of believers). Most Baptists are _____ (the sign gifts are not present and not active today in the lives of believers). We hold this argument in an _____ hand.

Grudem: To bear witness . . . that the kingdom of God has _____. Matthew 12:28; Luke 9:1-2

Grudem: To _____ those who are in need. Matthew 20:30, 34; 14:14

Grudem: To remove hindrances to people's ministries. Matthew 8:15

Grudem: To bring _____ to God. Matthew 9:8; John 9:3

Grudem: Were Miracles Restricted to the Apostles?

Acts 6:8; 8:6-7; Galatians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

Grudem: False Miracles

Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:7, 19; Acts 8:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Revelation 13:11-14

Grudem: Should Christians Seek Miracles Today?

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. **When you first came to faith in Christ, did the stories of miracles in the Bible have any influence (negative or positive) on your believing the message of Scripture?**
2. **Have you thought of the church at the time of the New Testament as a church with frequent miracles? Have you thought of the contemporary church as one with frequent miracles?**
3. **If more miracles did occur, what might be the dangers? What might be the benefits?**

Scripture Memory Passage: Hebrews 2:3-4

3 How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Martin Luther, 1529)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 18: Prayer

Why does God want us to pray? How can we pray effectively?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Hebrews 2:3-4**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: Prayer is personal communication _____ God

Grudem: Why Does God Want Us to Pray?

(1) **Prayer expresses our _____ in God and is a means whereby our trust in him can increase. Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:13; Matthew 21:22.** (2) **Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship with God.** (3) **Prayer God allows us as creatures to be _____ in activities that are eternally important.**

Grudem: The Effectiveness of Prayer

Grudem: Prayer changes the way God acts: James 4:2; Luke 11:9-10; Exodus 32:9-14; 2 Chronicles 7:14; 1 John 1:9. Grudem: We need a _____ to come between us and God and to bring us into God's presence. 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-15; 9:3; 7:26-27; 10:19-20, 22; 9:24. Grudem: Praying "in Jesus' name." John 14:13-14; 16:23-24; Acts 3:6; 4:7; 16:18; 1 Corinthians 5:4. Grudem: Should we pray to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit? Acts 7:59; 9:10-16; 1 Corinthians 16:22; Revelation 22:20. Grudem: The role of the Holy Spirit in our praying. Romans 8:26-27

Grudem: Some Important Considerations in Effective Prayer

1. Praying According to God's Will
1 John 5:14-15; Matthew 6:10; Matthew 26:39. Grudem: We should frequently bring a request to God and then wait _____ before him.

2. Praying With Faith
Mark 11:24; Matthew 21:22; James 1:6

3. Obedience
Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 15:8; 15:29; 28:9; 1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 3:21-22

4. Confession of Sins**Psalm 19:12; James 5:16****5. Forgiving _____****Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:12****6. Humility****Luke 18:11-14; 20:47; Matthew 6:5-6****7. Continuing in Prayer over _____****Deuteronomy 9:25-26; 10:10-11; Genesis 32:26; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 2 Corinthians 12:8; Mark 14:36, 39; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2****8. Praying Earnestly****Hebrews 5:7; Daniel 9:19****9. Waiting on the Lord****Psalm 27:14; 38:15; 130:5-6****10. Praying in _____****Daniel 6:10; Luke 5:16; Matthew 6:6****11. Praying With _____****Acts 4:24; Matthew 6:9-13****12. _____****Nehemiah 1:4; Daniel 9:3; Joel 2:12; Luke 2:37; Acts 13:2-3; 14:23; Matthew 6:16****13. What About Unanswered Prayer?****Grudem: We must begin by recognizing that as long as God is God and we are his creatures, there must be _____ unanswered prayers.****Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)**

1. **When have you known the most effective times of prayer in your own life? What factors contributed to making those times more effective?**
2. **How does it help and encourage you (if it does) when you pray together with other Christians?**
3. **Have you ever tried waiting quietly before the Lord after making an earnest prayer request? If so, what has been the result?**
4. **Do you have a regular time each day for private Bible reading and prayer?**

Scripture Memory Passage: Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hymn: "From Every Stormy Wind" (Hugh Stowell, 1828, 1831)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 19: Angels

What are angels? Why did God create them?

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: What Are Angels?

Grudem: _____, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies. **Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 148:2, 5; Colossians 1:16; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Hebrews 1:14; Luke 24:39; Numbers 22:31; 2 Kings 6:17; Luke 2:13; Psalm 34:7; 91:11; Hebrews 1:14; Hebrews 12:22**

Grudem: Other kinds of heavenly beings

- Cherub____: **Genesis 3:24; Psalm 18:10; Ezekiel 10:1-22; Exodus 25:22**
- Seraph____: **Isaiah 6:2-7**
- Living creatures: **Ezekiel 1:5-14; Revelation 4:6-8**

Grudem: Rank and order among the angels: **Jude 9; Daniel 10:13; Revelation 12:7-8; 1 Thess. 4:16.** **Grudem: Only two angels are specifically named in Scripture:** **Jude 9; Daniel 8:16.** **Grudem: How many angels are there?** **Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Hebrews 12:22; Rev. 5:11.** **Grudem: Do people have individual guardian angels?** **Psalm 91:11-12; Acts 12:15; Matthew 18:10.** **Grudem: Who is the Angel of the Lord?** **Genesis 16:10, 13; 22:12; 31:11, 13; Exodus 3:2, 6**

Grudem: When Were Angels Created?

Grudem: All the angels must have been created _____ the seventh day of creation. **Genesis 2:1; Exodus 20:11**

Grudem: The Place of Angels in God's Purpose

Grudem: Angels show the greatness of God's love and plan for us. Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; 1 Corinthians 6:3; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Hebrews 2:16. Grudem: Angels remind us that the unseen world is real. 2 Kings 6:17; Psalm 148:2; Hebrews 12:22. Grudem: Angels provide helpful examples. Matthew 6:10; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 5:11-12. Grudem: Angels carry out _____ of God's plans

- **Grudem: Bring God's _____.** Luke 1:11-19; Acts 8:26; 10:3-8, 22; 27:23-24
- **Grudem: Carry out some of God's judgments.** 2 Samuel 24:16-17; 2 Chronicles 32:21; Acts 12:23; Revelation 16:1
- **Grudem: When Christ returns, angels will come with him as a great army accompanying their King and Lord.** Matthew 16:27; Luke 9:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7
- **Grudem: Patrol the earth as God's representatives.** Zechariah 1:10-11
- **Grudem: Carry out war against demonic forces.** Daniel 10:13; Revelation 12:7-8; 20:1-3
- **Grudem: When Christ returns, an archangel will proclaim his coming.** 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Grudem: Angels directly _____ God. Psalm 103:20; Isaiah 6:2-3; Revelation 4:8; Luke 2:14; 15:10; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12

Grudem: Our Relationship to Angels

Grudem: We should be aware of angels in our daily lives. 1 Timothy 5:21; Hebrews 13:2; Daniel 6:22; Acts 5:19-20; 12:7-11; Matthew 4:11; Psalm 91:11-12. **Grudem: Beware of receiving false doctrine.** Galatians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Kings 13:18. **Grudem: Do not worship angels, pray to them, or seek them.** Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10

Scripture Memory Passage: Revelation 5:11-12

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Hymn: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" (James Montgomery, 1816)

Systematic Theology

Part 2: Doctrine of God

Chapter 20: Satan and Demons

How should Christians think of Satan and demons today? Spiritual warfare.

Scripture Memory Passage Review: **Revelation 5:11-12**

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: Demons are evil _____ who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world

Grudem: The Origin of Demons

Genesis 1:31; 3:1; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Isaiah 14:12-15

Grudem: The sin of Satan is described as one of _____ and attempting to be equal to God in status and authority

Grudem: Satan as Head of the Demons

Grudem: "Satan" is the personal name of the _____ of the demons. Job 1:6; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Zechariah 3:1

Grudem: The name "Satan" is a Hebrew word (satan) that means "_____"

Grudem: The Activity of Satan and Demons

1. Satan Was the Originator of Sin

Genesis 3:1-6; 2 Corinthians 11:3; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8

2. Demons Oppose and Try to Destroy Every Work of God

Matthew 4:1-11; Revelation 12:9; Psalm 106:37; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 4:8

**3. Yet Demons Are _____ by God's Control and Have _____ Power
Job 1:12; 2:6; Jude 6; James 4:7; Mark 13:32**

Grudem: There is ___ indication that angels or demons can know our thoughts

4. There Have Been Differing Stages of Demonic Activity in the History of Redemption
Grudem: In the Old Testament. . . . During the ministry of Jesus. . . . During the new covenant age. . . . During the Millennium. . . . At the final judgment

Grudem: Our Relationship to Demons

1. Are Demons Active in the World Today?

2. Not All Evil and Sin Is From Satan and Demons, but Some Is

1 Corinthians 1:10; 5:1-5; 6:1-8; 11:33, 28; Flip Wilson was _____—the Devil did _____ make me do it. However . . . **1 Corinthians 10:20; 1 Timothy 4:1, 3-4; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 4:26; 6:11-12, 14; 1 John 5:18**

3. Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?

Grudem: The Greek New Testament . . . _____ uses language that suggests that a demon actually “possesses” someone. Romans 6:14; Luke 4:2; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 6:12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8).

4. How Can Demonic Influences Be Recognized?

Mark 1:23-24; 9:17-18, 20, 22; 5:2-5, 13. Grudem: A refusal to _____ “that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” 1 John 4:2-3

5. Jesus Gives All Believers Authority to Rebuke Demons and Command Them to Leave

1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; Hebrews 2:14; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 12:11; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:4; Philippians 1:28; Ephesians 6:16, 13

How do we rebuke demons? Follow Jesus' example in **Matthew 4** and quote _____—remind Satan he is already defeated and command him to flee in Jesus' name.

Scripture Memory Passage: James 4:7-8

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

Hymn: “Christian, Dost Thou See Them?” (John Mason Neale, 1862)