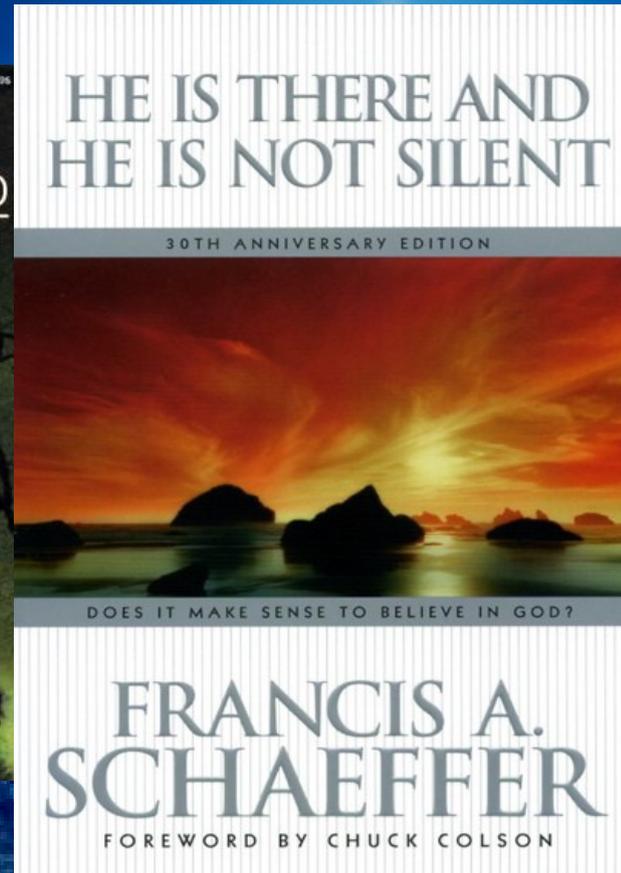
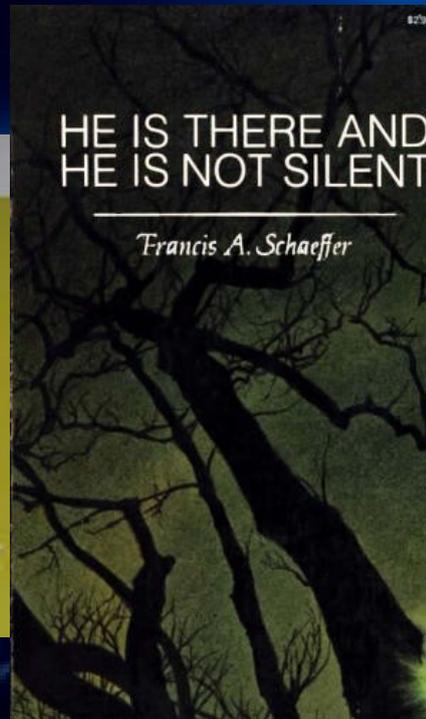


He is There and He is Not Silent

The Metaphysical Questions, Part 3 - "Truine"

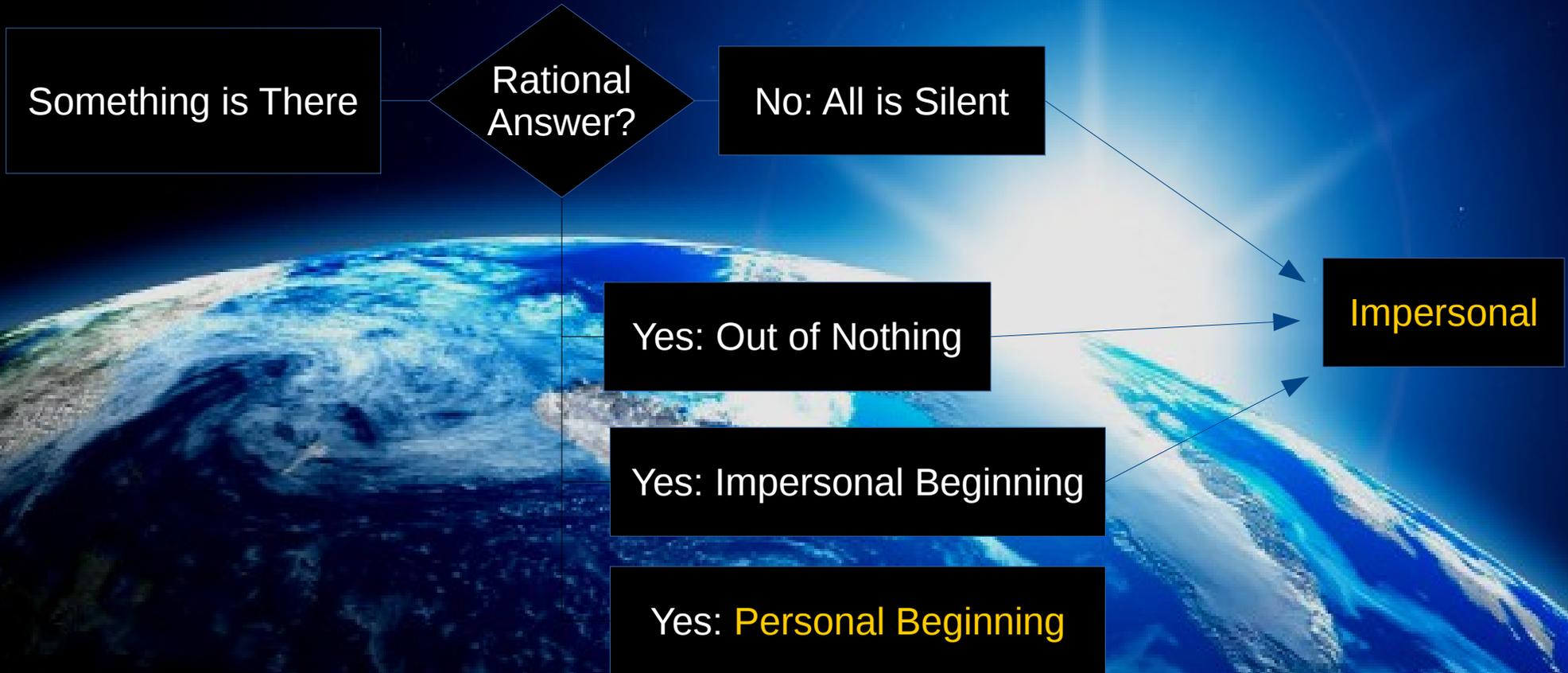


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Review - Four Answers



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No Other Factors

- “Beginning with the impersonal, everything, including man, must be explained in terms of the impersonal plus time plus chance. Do not let anyone divert your mind at this point. There are no other factors in the formula, because there are no other factors that exist. If we begin with an impersonal, we cannot then have some form of teleological concept. **No one has ever demonstrated how time plus chance, beginning with an impersonal, can produce the needed complexity of the universe, let alone the personality of man.** No one has given us a clue to this.”
~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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Semantic Mysticism

- “Often this answer—of beginning with the impersonal—is called pantheism. The new mystical thought is almost always some form of pantheism—and almost all the modern liberal theology is pantheistic as well. Often this beginning with the impersonal is called pantheism, but really this is a semantic trick, because by using the root theism a connotation of the personal is brought in, when by definition the impersonal is meant... A semantic solution is being offered. Theism is being used as a connotation word. In *The God Who is There* I have emphasized the fact that the modern solutions are usually **semantic mysticisms**, and this is one of them.

But whatever form pan-everythingism takes, including the modern scientific form which reduces everything to energy particles, it always has the same problem: in all of them the end is the impersonal.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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Review – Mankind, Manishness & Questions

Mankind

Personal
Questions

Finite – Where did
I come from? What am I?

Person – Why am I different
from the animal/machine?

Nobility – What is my value,
dignity and worth?

Cruelty – Why am I cruel?
Why is there evil in the world?

Love – Why do I love?
Why do I care?

Beauty – Why do I appreciate
Beauty? Why do I create?

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Man's Dilemma #1

Finite

Personal

“Man is finite; so he is not a sufficient integration point for himself. Yet man is different from non-man. Man is personal in contrast to that which is impersonal; or, to use a phrase which I have used in my books, man has his “mannishness.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

Explanation:

- Man is limited/finite. Everything else that is finite in the world is impersonal.
- Man's personality requires personal answers beyond the material world, beyond himself.
- Man without an infinite reference point, can only search for arbitrary values in the finite world.
- The False Hope of Transhumanism – recognizes the limitation of man, but believes man can overcome his limitations through various technological advancements.

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Man's Dilemma #2

Noble

Cruel

“the second dilemma is the contrast between man’s nobility and man’s cruelty. Or one can express it in a modern way: the alienation of man from himself and from all other men in the area of morals. ” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

Explanation

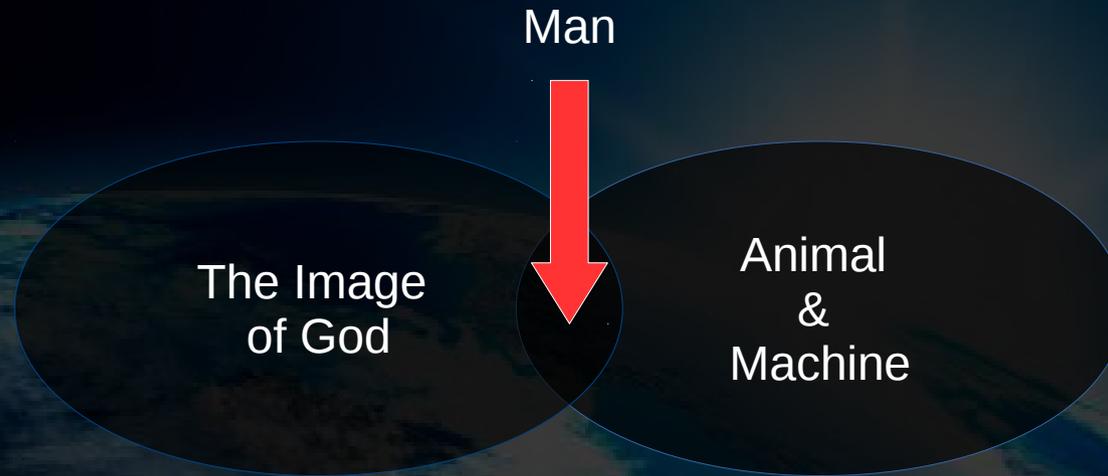
- This is really referring to the results of the Fall:
 - Sin = Alienation from God, mankind, and ourselves
- The Need for Redemption

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Man's Unique Position

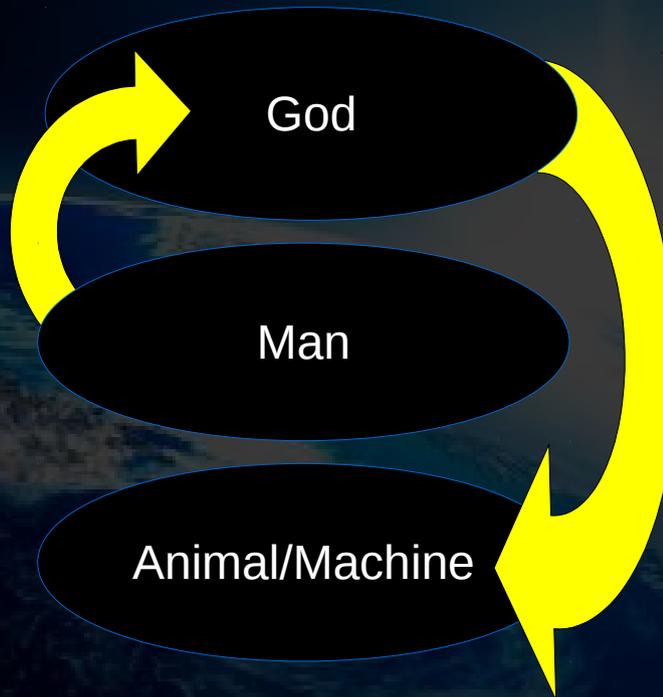


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When Man Tries to be God



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God or gods?

- “But once we consider a personal beginning, we have yet another choice to make. This is the next step: are we going to choose the answer of God or gods? The difficulty with gods instead of God is that **limited gods are not big enough.**”
~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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The Adequate Answer

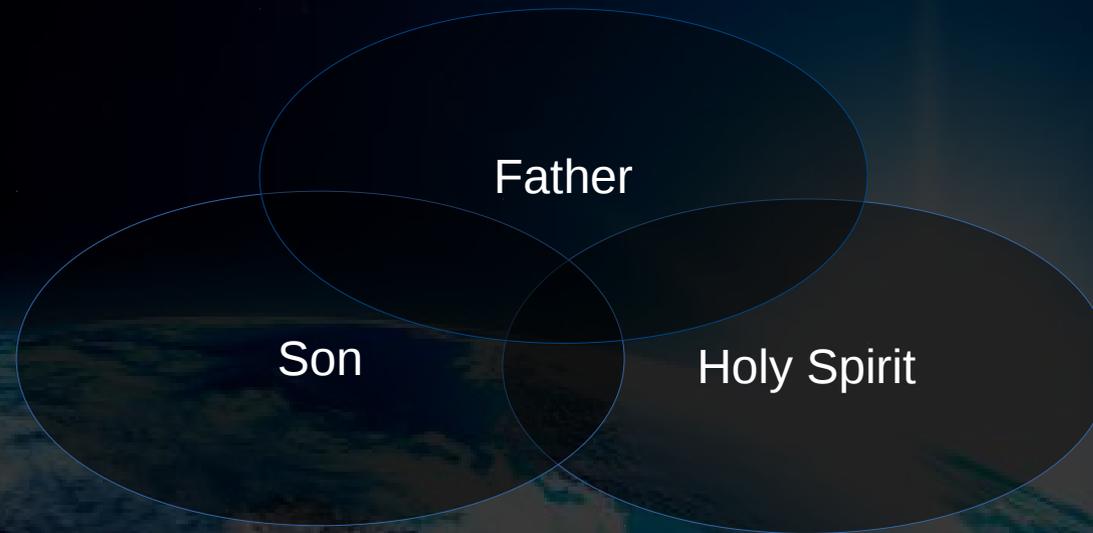
- “To have an adequate answer of a personal beginning, we need two things. We need a [1] **personal-infinite God** (or an infinite-personal God), and we need a [2] **personal unity and diversity in God.**” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*
- “we need a personal unity and diversity in God—not just an abstract concept of unity and diversity, because we have seen we need a personal God. We need a personal unity and diversity. Without this we have no answer. Christianity has this in the Trinity.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*
- “Every once in a while in my discussions someone asks how I can believe in the Trinity. My answer is always the same. **I would still be an agnostic if there was no Trinity, because there would be no answers.** Without the high order of personal unity and diversity as given in the Trinity, there are no answers.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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Unity & Diversity in the Trinity



There are Three and the Three are One

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God in Three Persons, Blessed

- “...let us think of the Nicene Creed—three Persons, one God. Rejoice that they chose the word “person.” Whether you realize it or not, that catapulted the Nicene Creed right into our century and its discussions: **three Persons in existence, loving each other, and in communication with each other, before all else was.**

If this were not so, we would have had a God who needed to create in order to love and communicate. In such a case, God would have needed the universe as much as the universe needed God. But God did not need to create; God does not need the universe as the universe needs Him. Why? Because we have a full and true Trinity. The Persons of the Trinity communicated with each other and loved each other before the creation of the world.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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The Only Answer

- “This is not only an answer to the acute philosophic need of unity in diversity, but of personal unity and diversity. The unity and diversity cannot exist before God or be behind God, because whatever is farthest back is God. But with the doctrine of the Trinity, the unity and diversity is God Himself—three Persons, yet one God. That is what the Trinity is, and nothing less than this.

We must appreciate that our Christian forefathers understood this very well in A.D. 325, when they stressed the three Persons in the Trinity, as the Bible had clearly set this forth. Let us notice that it is not that they invented the Trinity in order to give an answer to the philosophical questions which the Greeks of that time understood. It is quite the contrary. The unity and diversity problem was there, and the Christians realized that in the Trinity, as it had been taught in the Bible, they had an answer that no one else had. They did not invent the Trinity to meet the need; the Trinity was already there and it met the need. They realized that in the Trinity we have what all these people are arguing about and defining but for which they have no answer.

- Let us notice again that this is not the best answer; **it is the only answer**. Nobody else, no philosophy, has ever given us an answer for unity and diversity. So when people ask whether we are embarrassed intellectually by the Trinity, I always switch it over into their own terminology—unity and diversity. Every philosophy has this problem, and no philosophy has an answer. Christianity does have an answer in the existence of the Trinity. The only answer to what exists is that He, the triune God, is there.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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True to What is There

- “Christianity is not only true to the dogmas, it is not only true to what God has said in the Bible, but it is also true to what is there, and you will never fall off the end of the world! It is not just an approximate model; it is **true to what is there.**” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*
- “He is not silent. The reason we have the answer is because the infinite-personal God, the **full Trinitarian God, has not been silent.** He has told us who He is. Couch your concept of inspiration and revelation in these terms, and you will see how it cuts down into the warp and woof of modern thinking. He is not silent. That is the reason we know. It is because He has spoken.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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True Spirituality

- “This experiential result, however, is not just an experience of “bare” supernaturalism, without content, without our being able to describe and communicate it. It is much more. It is a moment-by-moment, increasing, experiential relationship to Christ and to the whole Trinity. We are to be in a relationship with the whole Trinity. The doors are open now: the intellectual doors, and also the doors to reality.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *True Spirituality*

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Discussion

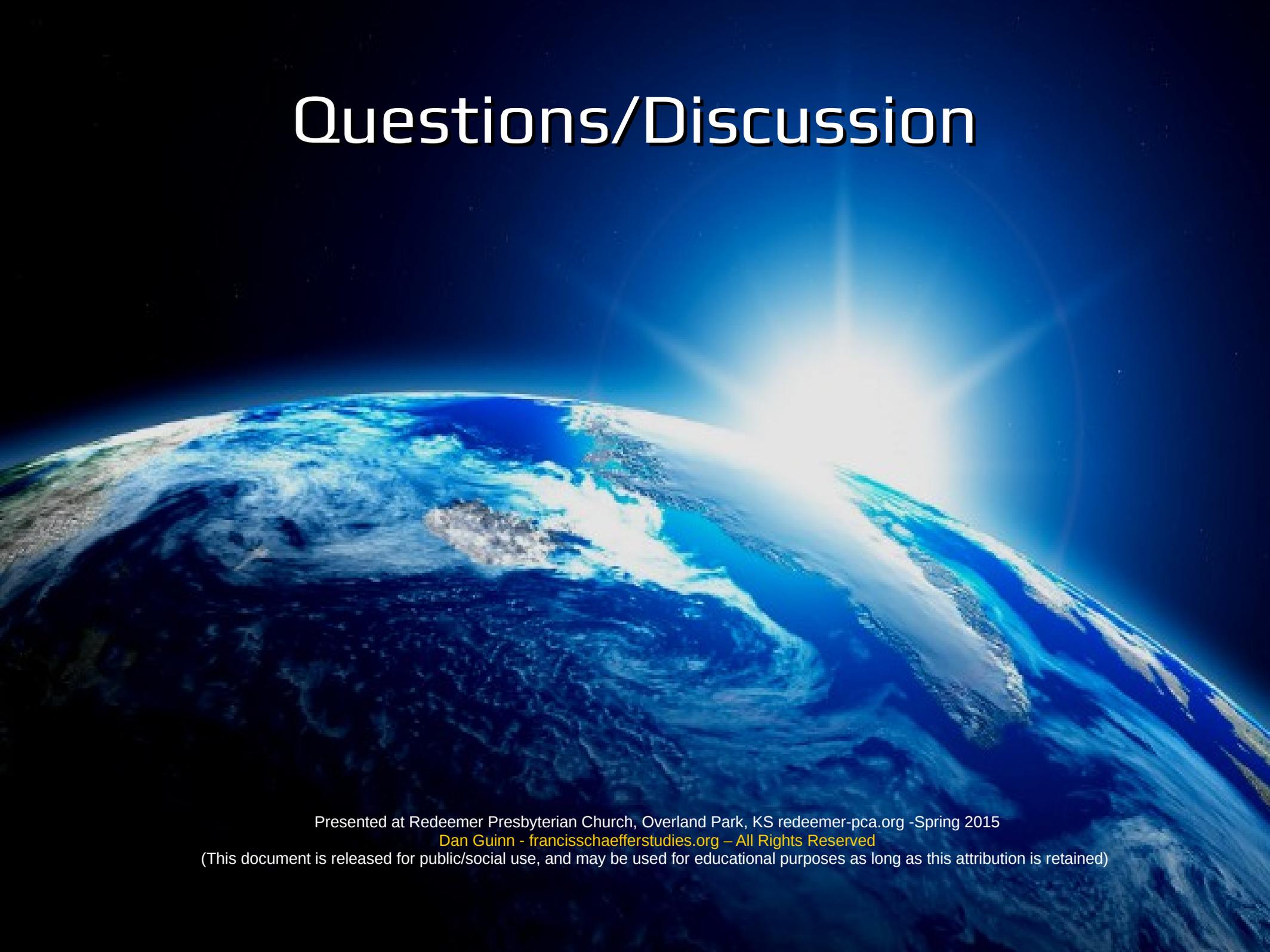
- Why is the infinite-personal Truine God the only sufficient answer?

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Questions/Discussion



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