

G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together

Systematic Theology-- Doctrine of God **Theology Proper///Paterology**

1. **Paterology** comes from two Greek words which mean "father" and "word" - which combine to mean "the study of the Father."
2. **Theology proper** is the study of God and His attributes.
1. **Theology proper** answers several important questions about God: for example the existence of God, the knowability of God, the attributes of God, the trinity- God in three persons

The Existence of God

Romans 1:18-20-Psalm 19:1-4

I. How Do We Know God Exists?

A. Humanity's Inner Sense of God

1. **Every person born into this world has a deep, inner sense that God exists. They have a sense that they are His creation, and that He is their Creator.**

B. Believing the Evidence in Scripture and Nature

1. **In addition to people's inner awareness of God that bears clear witness to the fact that God exists, clear evidence of His existence is to be seen in Scripture and in nature. Gen. 1:1-Psalm 19:1-4-Ecclesiastes 3:11**

C. Traditional "Proofs" for the Existence of God

- **Ontological argument (Ont-"being.")**

1. **Ontological argument is the philosophical study of the nature of the existence and reality of God. If man can think that God exists as a perfect being, then this God must exist.**

- **Cosmological argument (Cosmo means world or universe)**

1. **Cosmological argument considers the fact that every known thing in the universe has a cause.**

1. Therefore, it reasons, that the universe itself must also have a cause, and the cause of such a great universe can only be God.

- **Teleological argument. (Telos means “end” or “goal” or “purpose.”)**

1. The teleological argument states that since the universe displays such an amazing design, there must have been a divine Designer.

- **Moral argument.**

1. Moral argument begins from man’s sense of right and wrong, and of the need for justice to be done, and argues that there must be a God who is a moral law giver.