
THEOLOGICAL BASICS

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and courageous and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

1) What is God? Who is God?

1. "In the beginning ____" (Genesis 1:1) – God isn't just eternal, he is i____
2. God doesn't just exist, but is e____ itself
3. Not made out of something, but is s____ itself
4. Not a thing, but the creator of all things, the cause of all there is
5. Simplest and most complete answer to the most pressing questions of every human:
 - i) Where did I come from? G____
 - ii) What is my purpose? To k____, l____, and s____ God in this life, to be with him for eternity the next
 - iii) Where am I going? E____ L____ with him in Heaven
6. Think about if God didn't exist...

"If you were to destroy in mankind the belief in immortality, not only love but every living force maintaining the life of the world would at once be dried up. Moreover, nothing then would be immoral; everything would be lawful, even cannibalism."

- Fyodor Dostoevsky, The Brothers Karamazov

- i) Survival of the fittest – the power of the strong over the weak – *Utilitarianism* is the only valid morality
 - ii) Thought is an illusion – atoms and molecules arranging themselves accidentally in your brain
7. Evolution of atheism: Village atheist "There is no God", Enlightenment: "God left", Modernist: "God is dead", post-Modernist Scientism: "There is no God, because Science says so"

2) Knowledge of the Existence of God

1. N____ : "The survival of the fit presupposes the arrival of the fit" – Peter Kreeft
2. "P____" : We can perceive that a given thing is better/worse, good/bad
3. C____ : Things change (in "motion"), what started the motion?
4. C____ : To exist implies a cause, the universe exists, therefore it must have a cause (*Kalam Argument*)
5. T__ and C____ : Everything depends on something else being there, there must be a non-dependent source
6. M____ : We have a sense of rightness/wrongness and justice. Morality requires an objective basis
7. A__ and B____ : humans can conceive and perceive artistic value and beauty in nature and artwork
8. Desire of J__ and H____ : How can we yearn for something for which we have no experience or knowledge?

3) Knowledge of the Attributes of God

1. U____ : All our knowledge based on analogies. Can the character in a book know the author completely?
2. Not a "t____" : Not a creature, not a thing or a higher/glorified version of creation; non-dependent
3. I____ : Not just eternal (no end), but also no beginning
4. S____ (unique): If there are two gods, then they can't be infinite
5. S____ : Substance itself, not comprised of parts, cannot be broken down
6. P____ : Lacking in nothing, requiring nothing, ultimately efficient in actuality ("pure act"), All that He can be, "I am who am" – Divine Name spoken to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14)
7. G____ : Evil is the absence of good. God lacks nothing, therefore He is all good. Good is the highest state
8. P____ : Not a mindless force of nature, God is "pure will" or "pure act", and has designs (intellect)

4) Revealed Attributes of God

1. I___ e___ : Jn 8:58 "Before Abraham was, *I AM*", Rev 1:4 "him who is, was, and is to come"
2. Omnip___ / Ubiquitous : (Heb 1:3; 4:12-13, Acts 17:24-28, Eph 1:12, Col 1:16-17, Ps 138:7-12, Job 12:10)
3. I___ : James 1:17 "there is no change, nor shadow of alteration"
4. O___/Simple : *Shema* Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD"
5. G___ : 1 Tim 4:10 "the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."
6. H___ : Lev 11:44 "and be holy, for I am holy", also Gen 1:27, we are made in image and likeness of God
7. J___ and M___ : 1 John 1:9, 2 Thess 1:6, Ps 145:8
8. L___ : 1 John 4:8 "He who does not love does not know God; for God is love."
9. Omnis___ : Mt 10:30, "even the hairs of your head are all numbered."
10. Omnip___ : Mt 19:26, "with God all things are possible."
11. Tr___ : Is 55:8-9, "so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
12. I___ : Philippians 2:6-8 "taking the form of a man", Luke 3:22 "descended like a dove" *Emmanuel*: God With Us

5) Other Revealed Facts

1. The name of God: I AM WHO I AM or I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE "YHWH"
2. Trinity: God in three persons, incomprehensible outpouring of love and mutual self-giving
3. God chooses to gradually reveal himself to us "in due season"

6) Trinity

1. O___ : Deut 6:4 *Shema*
2. F___ is God: John 5:18 "[he] was calling God his own Father, thus making himself equal with God."
3. S___ is God: John 8:58 "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am!"
4. Holy S___ is God: Mt 28:19 "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
5. D___ persons: Mt 28:19, Jesus speaks as separate from the Father, the Holy Spirit as separate from Jesus
6. Not just N___ : Mt 3:16 – Jesus' baptism: all three appear at the same time, distinct from one another
7. Not just our p___ : They appear together at the same time (see above)
8. Nicene C___ : Formally codified at the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325 from which we get the creed at Mass

7) The Incarnation

1. God becomes man – Philippians 2:5-10
Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth
2. Distinct Christian d___
3. Not a g___ - that would be Gnostic Docetism
4. H___ (ὁμοούσιος) / *Consubstantial* : Of the same substance as the Father
5. All God, All Man, two n___ in the H___ union (*Council of Constantinople II A.D. 553*)

8) Jesus, the Christ

1. Jesus/Yeshua means "G___ S___"
2. Christ (Χριστός), Messiah means: "A___ One"
3. Only person ever pre-announced, in OT and even by pagans
4. Actual h___ person – more documentary and archaeological evidence than for Alexander the Great
5. Born around ___ B.C.
6. Fulfilled all the prophecies (Psalm 22, Isaiah 7:14, Hosea 11:1, Jeremiah 31:15, Isaiah 9:1-2)

9) Lord, Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Guru?

1. T_____ - everyone agrees Jesus is a “good teacher” or a “one of the greatest moral teachers”
2. L_____ - Jesus claimed to be God, the Jews understood him clearly at the time (John 8:58)
3. If not Lord, then was Jesus a L_____? Doesn't fit the profile, had no motivation, would've given up
4. If not Lord or Liar, then maybe a L_____? Doesn't fit the profile, wouldn't have fooled the Jews
5. Maybe it was all made up, Jesus was a L_____? Manuscript evidence is good, disproves this
6. Perhaps he was an eastern mystic, a Hindu G_____? Everything he preached is contrary to Hinduism
7. Ultimately the R_____ proves them all false except Lord. No Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Guru rose from death

10) The Kingdom of God

1. Christ preached the Kingdom of God and gave the K_____ to Peter and the Apostles (Mt 16:18)
I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven
2. The Kingdom is E_____ - belongs to the poor and lowly (Lk 4:18, Mt 25), hidden from the wise and learned (Mt 11:25), first shall be last and last shall be first (Mt 20:16)
3. Jesus showed himself as Messiah, ushering in the Kingdom by performing mighty works and w_____ and s_____ (Luke 18:7-23)
4. Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit to guide the Church (Mt 16:18); gives us supernatural gifts

11) The Church

1. Has A_____ to bind and loose (Mt 16:18 see Is 22:22) and forgive or retain sins (John 20:21-23)
2. M_____ : Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe commandments (Mt 28:19)
3. The Church is O_____:
 - i) Faith received from the A_____
 - ii) Preserved through succession of Holy O_____ and consistent, unbroken teaching (unanimity)
 - iii) Common celebration of worship and s_____;
 - iv) Jesus desired u_____ (John 17:21 – “that they may all be one”)
4. The Church is H_____:
 - i) Christ is the b_____ (Mk 2:19), the Church is the bride, he died to sanctify the Church (Eph 5:25)
 - ii) The C. has the fullness of the deposit of revelation and means of salvation, by grace of God we grow holy
 - iii) Canonizing and revering saints as role models and living intercessors for our holiness
 - iv) Blessed Virgin Mary, as our mother and powerful intercessor before the throne of God (Jn 19:27)
5. The Church is U_____ :
 - i) C_____ or “*katholikos*” – Greek for “according to the whole” or “in keeping with the whole”
 - ii) Christ told Apostles to preach to the all n_____ (Mt 28:19)
 - iii) At P_____, Apostles spoke and each heard them in their own language (Acts 2:7-8)
 - iv) Churches all over world, on all 7 continents, nations, races, and languages
 - v) The “Church” is more than the sum of all the local churches
6. The Church is A_____:
 - i) “*So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,*” – Ephesians 2:19-20
 - ii) Bishops, “*episkopos*” Greek for “o_____” or “g_____”, successors of Apostles through laying of hands
 - iii) Luke 10:16 – “*He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.*”
 - iv) *Ite Missae Est* – GO! You are sent!

12) The Body of Christ

1. C_____ with Jesus: Jn 15:45 "Abide in me... vine and branches", Jn 6:56 – "abides in me", Jn 14:18
2. One B_____ : *"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts."* 1 Corinthians 12:26 (goes on to talk about how some are the arms, the hands, the legs, the feet, etc.)
3. Christ as the H_____ : *"He is the head of the body, the church;"* Col 1:18
4. B_____ of Christ:
 - i) Paul and Revelation speak repeatedly
 - ii) Christ's Passion is a N_____ ceremony (anointing with oils, Palm Sunday, Garden at night, purple robe, crown)
 - iii) Christ and his bride become one flesh through Holy Communion
 - iv) Earthly marriage and marital union is a symbol of the true full communion in Heaven (Mt 22:30)
5. New T_____ :
 - i) Old Temple was destroyed, cannot be rebuilt (many attempts, all have failed)
 - ii) No high priest, no sacrifices, no more Yom Kippur rope turning white
 - iii) Holy Spirit now dwells in all the tabernacles and in our hearts when in a state of grace
 - iv) "For we are the temple of the living God" 2 Cor 6:16
 - v) Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us at our Baptism, remains when in a state of grace
6. C_____ of Saints:
 - i) We can pray for each other, offer sacrifices of suffering for each other, sanctify each other
 - ii) Communion does not die when we die (Mark 12:27 "He is not God of the dead, but of the living;")
 - iii) The Church dispenses from the treasury of merit (Rom 2:6), we can apply to each other

13) The Word of God

1. First transmitted by Jesus by speaking to the Apostles and teaching (Sacred T_____)
2. Apostles transmitted it to others by p_____ and t_____
3. Eventually some of it was written down under the authority of the Apostles (Sacred S_____)
4. Scripture is from the C_____!

14) Sacred Tradition and Apostolic Authority

1. A_____ is someone sent as a delegate on behalf of, and with the authority, of the one who sent
2. Living authority is not new, the Jewish leaders taught from the Seat of M_____ (Mt 23:2-3)
3. Keys to L_____ and B_____ are also not new, practical and symbolic as delegated authority (Is 22:22)
4. In_____ Christ promised Holy Spirit to Guide the Successors of Peter and prevent from error (Mt 16:18, 28:20)
5. M_____: Teaching authority of the Church, "Magister" = teacher
6. D_____, D_____, D_____: Dogma and doctrine cannot be abrogated once defined, discipline can (bind/loose)