

THEOLOGY II- Lecture #7

Mental Abilities of God

Psalms 92:5

Job. 37:16

I Chron. 28:9

He knows the billions
of people

Ps. 139:17-18

Free Will of Men

Free moral beings
choose or create
new things

Relationship re-
quires free will
(Free will gives love meaning)

Josh. 24:15 - choose
this day: God relates
to us in the present

God's Foreknowledge

Unfixed future
Not a determined
future

Example: praying
for God to make
someone marry
you.

Foreknowledge:

"The Greek word *foreknowledge* (*Proginosko*) is made up of the two Greek elements 'previous' (*pro*) and 'knowledge' (*ginosko*). In general Greek literature it simply means 'knowledge in advance,' or sometimes 'prognosts' in the medical sense.

"In the early church the term was sometimes used as another word for prophecy. When used of God it seems always to mean knowledge in advance--usually of events.

"Sometimes it is connected with his full understanding of us, e.g., in Clement: 'For He has foreknowledge of all things and knows what is in our hearts.'

"Also Justin, '. . . until the number of those fore known by Him as good and virtuous is complete' and 'For He foreknows some about to be saved by repentance.' The early church was, we note, emphatic in its denial that foreknowledge implied any predetermination of events. Thus Justin Martyr says: 'So that what we say about future events being foretold, we do not say it as though they came about by fatal necessity; but God foreknowing all that shall be done by all men, and it being His decree that the future actions of men shall all be recompensed according to their value, He foretells by the Spirit of prophecy that

He will bestow meet rewards. . . ' and 'But if the word of god foretells that some angels and men shall be certainly punished, it did so because it foreknew that they would be unchangeably wicked, but not because God had created them so'.

"Origen says: 'I shall take from the Scriptures the predictions regarding Judas, or the foreknowledge of our Savior regarding him as the traitor. . . ' and then proceeds to argue that this foreknowledge in no way implied compulsion.

"Jerome, notwithstanding, his withering attack on the Pelagians, is also clear on this point: 'For Adam did not sin because God knew that he would do so; but God, inasmuch as He is God, foreknew what Adam would do of his own free choice.'"

-- p. 91 God's Strategy in Human History

2 Pet. 3:17-- Knowing in advance

Acts 2:23-- God made His plans in the light of what he knew would happen. His plan to deliver up His Son to them was made in the knowledge that they would crucify Him.

1 Pet. 1:18-20-- God knew in advance, the plan for His Messiah, but its actual manifestation came in these last times.

Rom. 11:2 Previously knew about

Acts 26:4-5 Jews knew about Paul's former life, no idea of election or predetermination

1 Pet. 1:1-2

Rom. 8:29 Predestined (poorizo) = marking out beforehand

"In looking at Romans 8:29, we must be clear to whom Paul is talking, of whom he speaks, and why. He is not dealing with questions about how anyone came to be converted, nor with why anyone else did not. He is writing to *Christians* about *their own* position. The foreknowledge he has in view implies a complete understanding of them, of their characters, their weaknesses, and their

reactions. He is saying that God completely understood those to whom he gave the destiny of being conformed to the image of Christ. Nevertheless he gave them this destiny, he wants to cooperate with them now to bring in good, and he wants to give them all things as Christ's fellow-heirs. The whole context is one of their own destiny, as Christians, in the creation and in its liberation.

"With this great destiny in store, a destiny made in a full understanding of our natures and weaknesses, we may indeed see that nothing shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

-p. 205, "God's Strategy in Human History

UNCREATED

TRIUNE

CREATOR

Mental Abilities of God

Ps. 92:5, Job 21:22
Job 36:5, Job 37:16
1 Chron. 28:9, 1 Sam. 2:3
1 Sam. 16:7

Free Will of men

Free moral beings choose or
create new things

Josh. 24:15

God's Foreknowledge

II Pet. 3:17
Acts 2:23
1 Pet. 1:18-20
Rom. 8:29

All-Wise

Jer. 10:7-12, Dan. 2:20-23
Prov. 3:19, Rom. 16:27
Eph. 8, Eph. 3:10, I Tim.
1:17

Mercy X Truth

Ps. 25:10, Ps. 57:10
Ps. 61:6-7, 85:10, 86:15
Ps. 89:14, 115:1, Prov. 3:3
Prov. 14:22, 16:6, 20:28
Hos. 4:1

God is perfect in applying
truth.

-- he knows our deepest
thoughts and desires
-- Dan. 4:37

All-Understanding

1 Chron. 28:9, Job 12:13
Ps. 147:5, Isa. 40:28,
Jer. 51:15

Patience x Wrath x Grace

Ps. 78:38-39

God's goal is always
redemption and reconcilia-
tion.

God knows all possibilities
and probabilities

All-knowing

1 Sam. 2:3, 1 Kings 8:39
Job. 21:22, 23:10, 36:4,
Ps. 37:18, Ps. 44:21, Ps. 1:6

Righteousness x Justice

II Pet. 3:9-13, Jer. 11

God knows all that can be
known but some areas are
still uncertain because of
man's free will.

Ps. 37:18, Ps. 44:21, 69:19
Ps. 94:11, 103:14, 142:3,
Ps. 147:4, Isa. 66:18,
Ezek. 11:5, Lk. 16:15,
Acts 1:24, Rom. 11:33,
1 Cor. 8:3, II Tim. 2:19,
Heb. 4:13, I Jn. 3:20

God Has Power Over His Power

Since God's power is infinite, He can never use all of it at once.

God also can choose to limit His power in any way at all that He wills.

Authority and Submission

The Godhead is doing all that can be done at any given moment to get everyone saved based on the Moral confines of truth. God has given man a free-will and will not take it back and overrule it to make men do something they do not want to do.

Deut. 30:19

God's army consists only of volunteers. Prayer releases God to move more mightily yet stay impartially just and fair.

God's Sovereignty

God is free from outside control or manipulation.

Man cannot reach God or control God by any human device.

Job. 11:7-11

Ps. 2:1-6

2 Cor. 12: 7-10

Spiritual- Jn. 4:24

What God is:

Ps. 86:8, 89:6, 71:19,
Ps. 113:1-9, Isa. 40:18
Isa. 46:5

Father x Son x Holy Spirit

What God (the Godhead) is

Matt. 28:19, 1 Jn. 5:6,
Jn. 14:12-26, 15:26
Jn. 16:7-16

The Godhead- fellowship of 3 distinct but not separate persons

Moral- Ps. 25:8

What God does:

Ps. 86:8, 72:18

Ultimate Value

All 3 members of the Godhead are the same in substance, nature, and essence.

Ultimate Relationship

Harmony and Unity

John 17:18-24

Ultimate Morality

All 3 members of the Godhead are perfect in character

All 3 members of the Godhead
are one in agreement, purpose,
and love.

Fundamental Reality

Fundamental Relationship

Source of Love

I loved you before you were conceived, even before you were born. I held you in my arms even in your mother's womb. I caressed your little body as it grew. I tenderly watched over your forming, rejoicing and singing over you, fondling your tiny fingers and toes. You, my child, were a picture in my mind long ago-- I planned you. I knew the color of your hair and eyes, how tall you would be. I knew your smile, the sound of your laugh, the taste of your tears. Did you think you were an accident? Just a combination of cells and genes? Nothing is by accident in MY creation--that is how I know you so well. You are MY special child, there is none other like you.

I was there at your birth. My hand guided you out of your mother's womb, enveloping you in love, and My angels rejoiced at the birth of you.

I watched you as you grew, keeping you from harm. How well I tended you, My child, waiting for you to see Me standing there with love. But you didn't see. I called but you did not know My voice. How it hurt me just to stand there and watch your hurt and pain. If only you could have reached out to Me. How can My children forget their Creator so soon?

There were times you drew close, and how I rejoiced then, ready to pour out My love on you. Then man hurt you and you thought it was Me. I who never felt anything less than love for you.

So many times I stretched out My hand, sure that you would take it. I set up so many circumstances: blessings and trials of every sort. My heart yearned for you to return to Me, so I could hold you again as I did in your mother's womb. You were a part of Me so long. For so long I thought of you and how special you would be, My child--and how I would bless you as you graciously served Me--a witness to the world of my glory--oh, the plans I had!

And then because of your choices, because you knew Me not, I had to stand helplessly by and watch your pain and grief. It broke My heart anew to see that pain-- such needless pain! And that pain became a wall between us that had to be broken.

I turned My face away and allowed Satan to send affliction after affliction against that wall. After each barrage I thought, "Surely now it will collapse and you will turn to Me. Surely now there's nothing left." And finally there was not!

I was waiting that day you finally reached out. I was there, only a hair's breadth away, as always. I met you then, My heart spilling over. I washed your filthy rags, cleansed your tiny body and clothed you in robes of white linen and with My armor. How I joy over you, My special one. So long I waited. Can you imagine the celebration in Heaven the first time you heard My voice? The festival the day of your baptism?

Satan tests you now, but stay close to Me and he will be of no consequence. I know your hurts, I know every one, I was there, and many I kept from being even deeper than they are-- but each hurt on you left an identical hurt on Me and as I heal you and you respond, My heart's hurts are healed also. Your faith is as healing ointment on my heart-- a heart scarred and broken since the creation of man.

You are My special one, whom I created to administer healing balm to My body-- for it is through the body that My heart is healed.

There is a particular part of My body where the pain is nearly unbearable. That is the part that I have appointed for you. Soon I will show you where and how. Stay close to Me now. LEARN My teachings. HEAR My words. KNOW ME! I LOVE YOU.

All Wise

Dan. 2:20-23
Jer. 10:7,12
1 Tim. 1:17

Mercy X Truth

Ps. 25:10
Ps. 85:10
Prov. 3:3

God is perfect in applying truth

He knows our deepest thoughts and desires and He knows what is best

Prov. 3:19

for us => a wise Father.

Reasonable Universe: There is wisdom behind the law-
Children-abstract stage- concrete stage
Albert Einstein
Example.

*Read prophecy from the love of God

Dan. 4:37 King Neb.

Gifts of HS are God's wisdom in action.

Will we stop learning in heaven?

No, we are finite and He is infinite

∴ We will never stop learning in heaven

Example: heaven is like an exciting book with infinite # of pages.

*Now is where we build our spiritual muscles-- training for eternity.

*The more you learn about reality, the more exciting it is to live.
Just think what you'll be like after 1000 years in heaven!

C.S. Lewis, Weight of Glory-- if we could see believers in beauty we would be tempted to worship them-- also shocked at the evil in the wicked.

*Relationship is enhanced by knowledge.

Example: A 4 year old boy kissing the girl next door

A 15 year old boy kissing his date goodnight

He is 24 and she is 20

Married for 25 years

= the more you learn, the more excited you get!

People will sin in heaven just as much as we eat worms here

Sin is an unintelligent choice

*If we serve God with the old habits, devil, sin and temptation

*How much more will we make it in the perfect atmosphere of heaven among His people in His presence.

*We will never become smarter than our Master

All Understanding

1 Chron 28:9

Ps. 147:5

Knowledge =
what wisdom
= how under-
standing= why

Patience X Wrath X Grace

Ps. 78:38-39

He deals with us in
understanding

Isa. 54:7-8, after
wrath, grace is still shown

God's goal is always re-
demption and reconciliation

God knows all

Possibilities
and probabili-
ties.

Alternative Web-- Knows all possibilities and probabilities

God sees all things; past, present and future

To God as well as man- Is there a future with God?

- 1) Past is past
- 2) Present is present
- 3) Future is future

God has not yet come back a second time
The end of the world has not taken place

The new heavens and the new earth
haven't been created.
Not everybody is saved that can be saved.

*Names are not fixed in the book of life.

Rev. 3:5 Erase his name

Exo. 32:32-33 Moses

*I think that a child's name is written in when he is conceived,
and is only erased when he sins.

Rev. 22:18-19

Matt. 19:28 12 Thrones and Judas had one

Acts 1:16-17, 24-25 Judas

"Godspell" Judas-- "I Am predestined fate"

A.W. Tozer- "Law of Moral Gravity

1 Sam. -- King Saul chosen but lost it by disobedience
goes to witch, 1 Sam 28:15-18

*God loves you and has a wonderful purpose for your
life- Plan-- both you and God, Adam named animals

Paul- called him from his birth to be an apostle- but
yielded only later.

Acts 9:15

Gal. 1:13-16

Jer. 1:4-10

Certainties:

What do we know with certainty tomorrow?

Sun will rise

Air to breathe

God has also determined that certain things will happen:

Jesus will return- McArthur "I will return"

New Heavens and new earth

Acts 2:19-20- signs which will happen

(Prophecy- God will see that they happen)

Possibilities-- Decisions depending on man's choices

Times and sequences

God is currently doing everything possible to save people

2 Pet. 3:8-9 He is extending the time in His mercy so that more can be saved

2 Pet. 3:10-13 But there is a limit, a natural limit not a calendar determination

Matt. 24:21-22 Days will be cut short

∴ Prophecy is not a determined date, but we always have the hope of God recreating and extending His hand of mercy.

Not Kay-Sara-Sara- whatever will be will be
= no choice

Def. of fate: The supposed force, principle, or power that predetermines events.

Gen. 6:6-8 Grateful for divine "buts" Barry McGuire- you may be a divine but.

∴ Prayer is a meaningful exercise because the future is not fixed.

*God steps in and is involved in His universe.

Web of Choices

When we make a choice, possibility becomes reality and a new array of choices opens up to us; lemons to lemonade

Jas. 1:12-- character built by choices, created when choices are made; trials => alternatives to choose from.

Choice: Thought

Deed

Habit

Character

Destiny

*Character is summation of choices

Today is the day of salvation

*God creativity for new choices

All-knowing

1 Sam 2:3

Rom. 11:33

Heb. 4:13

Righteousness x Justice

God is patient with man
but there will be ultimate
justice

II Pet. 3:9-13

Jer. 29:11

Ps. 73:18-20

God knows all

that can be
known but
some areas
are still uncertain
because
of man's free
will

Is God surprised by our choices?

No- we are finite and predictable

Example: God carries the fishbowl from A to B
What the goldfish do is their freedom

=> God can wisely deal with us to bring us to the end
of ourselves

=> Train example--you can move in the train but
you'll end up at the destination

Concerning God's All-knowingness: Can God be tempted?

Jas. 1:13

Why? God has infinite wisdom and knowledge

To sin one must: 1) Justify it- make wrong right

=> need to be in God's word

2) Convince yourself you won't be
found out

3) Convince yourself that if you do
get caught you won't be punished

God has power over His power:

Since God's power is infinite, He can never use all of it at once

God can also limit His power in any way He desires- Soap

Bubble Example

Does God have any limits?

God can't uncreate Himself

God can't do anything that is morally or practically
impossible.

Can God create a rock so big that He can't lift it?

No practical impossibility

Can God create a problem so complex that He can't
solve it?

No- moral impossibility

Authority & Submission

The Godhead is doing all that can be done at any given moment to get everyone saved based on the Moral confines of truth. God has given man a free will and will not take it back and overrule it to make men do something they do not want to do.

Deut. 30:19

God's army consists only of volunteers. Prayer releases God to move more mightily yet stay impartially just and fair.

Prayer is invading the impossible

God's Sovereignty

God is free from outside control or manipulation

Man cannot reach God or control God by any human device.

Job. 11:7-11

Ps. 2:1-6

II Cor. 12:7-10

His arm is too big to twist; Can't bribe Him.

He owns all; will not be manipulated by our temper tantrums

Fasting v. hunger strike

*God's moral law is sovereign

He will negate man's evil will; Isa. 66:24

Why doesn't God stop the war?

Why didn't God stop you the last time you sinned?

C.S. Lewis-- God will stop the war, but when He walks on the stage the show is over.

Two people fighting will turn on you if you break them up

So when God stops the war, human history will end and choices will be over.

Can we stop God's ultimate purpose?

No- He will do His will

God will accomplish His ultimate purposes in the world and we can cooperate or oppose His purposes, that's our choice.

*Election example: God gives us a vote- ourselves in or out

1 Tim. 4:7-8 Our body will pass away, but character preparation will be with us for eternity.

*God is making us a trophy of His grace

*Life is calisthenics for the football game of eternity.

See charts remaining

ISAIAH 6:1-3		REV. 4:8
HOLY	HOLY	HOLY
UNCREATED	TRIUNE	CREATOR
<u>Law or Form-</u> Based on what is real, not arbitrary; right and wrong; Law is eternal	*Personal responsibility allows God to give man society more freedom Less resp. -> more gov't control	<u>Freedom</u> Personal choice- outside ing; "I want freedom w/o bounds, even freedom from God."
<u>Order</u>	<u>Obedience</u> Submission to authority	<u>Creativity</u> Become destructive outside of love
<u>Structure</u>	*Submit to His- Moral Governor *That brings all people	<u>Liberality:</u>

happiness

Beauty and Symmetry

- *Realize God's greatness when He rules
- *Purpose and Design

Spiritual- Jn. 4:24

What God is:

Ps. 86:8, 89:6, 71:19
Ps. 113:1-9, Isa. 40:18
Isa. 46:5
Unlike anyone else

Speech:

1. Begins as a thought
2. Formed by the mouth

3. Breath behind it
Unity and Diversity

Ultimate Value

All 3 members of the Godhead are the same in substance, nature, and essence.
All 3 uncreated

Father x Son x H. Spirit

Who God (the Godhead) is

Matt. 28:19, 1 Jn. 5:6
Jn. 14:12-26, 15:26
Jn. 16:7-16

The Godhead- fellowship of 3 distinct but not separate persons

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Our Universe

Matter=solid x liquid x gas
Space=length x width x height
Time=past x present x future
Universe=matter x space x time
Man=body x soul x spirit
Body=flesh x bones x blood
Soul=will x mind x emotions
Spirit= conscience x intuition
x devotion
DNA x RNA x Amino = Protein
triplet triplet Acid Synthesis

Ultimate Relationship

See Chart on Page ?
Harmony and Unity
-they live for each other
No arguments or divorce
John 17:18-24-- moral oneness

All 3 members of the Godhead are one in agreement, purpose and love, but distinct in person and function

Expenditure of energy to maintain balance-

Example: unkept

yard takes no energy

*Relationships require

energy

*God puts lots in

Moral- Ps. 25:8

Good and Upright

What God does:

Ps. 86:8, 72:18
Wondrous things

$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$, $1 \times 1 \times 0 = /$
can't take away one

$1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$

Father x Son x Holy Spirit
Originator x Mediator x
Executor (appropriator).

From x Through x By
whom whom whom
(Rom. 11:36)

OT- Father emphasized
NT- Son emphasized
Acts- Holy Spirit "

Ultimate Morality

All 3 members of the Godhead are perfect in character
All 3 are creators

Fundamental Reality

First Reality

Fundamental Relationship

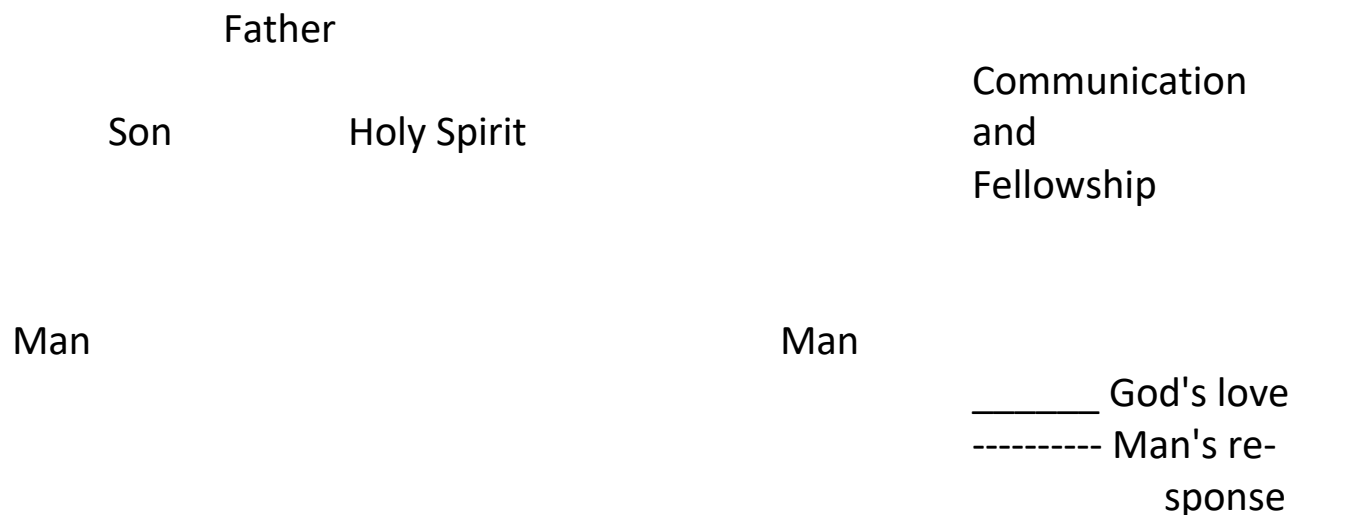
First Relationship

Source of Love

*We too become sources
of love
Sun example

In the trinity, we have both
unity and diversity. This
view most accurately fits
the universe as we see it
and fully explains the nature
of reality.

Triangle of Fellowship



*These lines were corrupted and lost since Dick made these notes

God's love for man is unconditional and everlasting.
However, man must respond to God's love for the
relationship to be complete. Fellowship is based on
the values of love, trust, and truth. Communication
is the life-blood of all relationships.

2 Chron. 16:9

John 4:23-24

John 17:3

Acts. 17:28

1 Cor. 10:31

Jn. 14:23

Jn. 17:21

1 Jn. 1:3

Acts 2:46-47

Rom. 15:32

2 Tim. 1:4

*God is not lonely and never has been

*Love is behind the universe- not impersonal