The Triune God
The Bible assumes that

• God exists and that we can know it
• God possesses a certain nature we can grasp
• God can and has communicated with mankind
• God’s benevolence can be known
• God’s revelation can be recognized, understood and followed
• an objective moral code exists that can be known, understood and followed
The Parable Of The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25ff)

- Christ assumed the lawyer ... knew what the law said and meant
- ... could understand the parable
- ... had the moral capability and amenability to understand and obey the parable
- Why? Because God made the world/man that way.
- We can think as God thinks (rationality), feel as he feels (emotion), judge as he judges (morality), want what he wants (volition) and act as he decrees/desires (behavior)
What is man?

- ... that You should exalt him ... (Job 7:17)
- ... that You are mindful of him ... (Psalms 8:4; Heb 2:6)
- ... that You take knowledge of him? ... (Psalms 144:3)
What is man?

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:26-27)
Man Is Touched By God
What is man?

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
body - soul - spirit
the body both of men or animals; the living body

soma 4983 - JHT
soul

the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions; ... a moral being designed for everlasting life

psuche 5590 - JHT
spirit

the vital principal by which
the body is animated

pneuma 4151 - JHT
The Triune God

body - soul - spirit
soul

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal
soul

- rational - thought, reason, memory
  - emotional
  - moral
  - volitional
  - behavioral
- temporal/eternal
soul

- rational
- emotional - love, hate, passion
  - moral
  - volitional
  - behavioral
- temporal/eternal

The Triune God
soul

- rational
- emotional
- moral - conscience, oughtness
- volitional
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal
soul

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional - will, decision making
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal
soul

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional
- behavioral - man’s actions
- temporal/eternal
soul

• rational
• emotional
• moral
• volitional
• behavioral

• temporal/eternal - now & forever
What does this mean?

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal
What does this mean?

- rational - we can think like God
  - emotional
    - moral
    - volitional
    - behavioral
  - temporal/eternal
What does this mean?

• rational
• emotional - we can feel like God
  • moral
  • volitional
  • behavioral
• temporal/eternal
What does this mean?

- rational
- emotional
- moral - we have conscience like God
- volitional
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal
What does this mean?

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional - we can choose like God
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal
What does this mean?

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional
- behavioral - we can act like God
  - temporal/eternal
What does this mean?

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal - we can be with God now
What does this mean?

- rational
- emotional
- moral
- volitional
- behavioral
- temporal/eternal - we can be with God forever
What does this mean?

• God wants us to think like Him.
• God wants us to feel like Him.
• God wants us to have a conscience like His.
• God wants us to choose like Him.
• God wants us to act like Him.
• God wants us to be with Him - now and forever.
Man Is Touched By God
Can man, “touched by God,”...

• know/understand God? (Deut 29:29; Rom 11:33)
• are his higher ways/thoughts beyond us? (Is 55:8-9)
• Rom 1:18ff - his existence is “clearly seen”
• Acts 14:17 - his benevolence is everywhere/always
• Acts 17:27 - he seeks to, and can be, found
• 2 Pet 1:3-4 - we can make his nature our own
Can man, “touched by God,”...

- understand God’s nature “here and now?”
- understand God’s nature **before** “here and now?”
- is what God **is** what God has **always** been?
The Nature of God...

• usually considered as applying exclusively to us
• does God’s nature apply only to us/within time?
• or has what it is in time
• always been what it is in eternity?
The Nature of God...

- has always been as it is (Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8)
- has always been as it is in time
- has always been as it is in eternity
God's Love In John

- God's love for the world
- The Father's love for the Son
- The Son's love for the Father
- Man's love for the Father & the Son
- Jesus' love for man
- Jesus' teaching about the disciples' love
- The Father's love for man
God's Love In John

God's love for the world

- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
God’s Love In John

The Father's love for the Son

- 3:35 - the Father loves the Son & gave all things into his hand
- 5:20 (p) - the Father loves the Son & gave all things into his hand
- 10:17 - the Father loves the Son because he was willing to give his life
- 15:9 - the Father loved me (the Son)
- 17:24 - the Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world
- 17:26 - the Father loved the Son
God’s Love In John

**The Son's love for the Father**

- 14:31 - that the world may know that Christ loved the Father
- 17:24 - the Son loved the Father before the foundation of the world (implicit)
- 17:26 - the Son loved the Father (implicit)
God's Love in John

Man's love for the Father & the Son

- **5:42** - does not exist (the love of God is not in you)
- **8:42** - does not exist (if you were of your Father, i.e. God, you would love me)
- **14:15** - if we love Christ, we will keep his commandments
- **14:21** - having & keeping Christ's commandments shows love for Christ, & those who love me through keeping the commandments are loved of my Father, & thus loved by Christ
God’s Love In John

Man's love for the Father & the Son

- 14:23 - if a man loves Christ he will keep his words and the Father will love him and come to him, and Father and Son will abide with him
- 14:24 - those who do not love Christ do not keep his words, and the words are not Christ's only, but God's
- 14:28 - if they, apostles, loved Christ, they would rejoice that he was returning to the Father
- 16:27 (2x - p) - you have loved me
God's Love In John

Jesus' love for man
- 11:3 (p), 36 (p) - for Lazarus
- 11:5 - for Martha, Mary and Lazarus
- 13:1 (2x) - for his own, disciples/apostles, to the end
- 13:23; 19:26; 20:2 (p); 21:7 - disciple whom Jesus loved
- 15:9 - as the Father loved Christ, so Christ loved the apostles, therefore keep my commandments
God’s Love In John

**Jesus' love for man**
- 15:13 - no greater love than to lay down your life for one's friends
- 17:26 - the Son's love may be in the disciple's
- 21:15 (p), 16 (p), 17 (p) - Jesus questioned Peter about his love for the Christ
God’s Love In John

Jesus' teaching about the disciples' love

- 13:34 - love one another, as I have loved you, love one another
- 13:35 - world will recognize you as my disciples if you love one another
- 15:9 - continue in my, Christ's, love
- 15:10 - if you keep my commandments, you, apostles, abide in Christ's love
- 15:12 - love one another, as I loved you
God’s Love In John

Jesus' teaching about the disciples' love
- 15:13 - no greater love than to lay down life for one's friends
- 15:17 - we are commanded to love one another
- 17:26 - the love of God & Christ in them teaches/compels the disciples to love
- 21:15 (p), 16 (p), 17 (3x p) - Peter affirmed his love (p) for the Christ
God’s Love In John

God's love for man

- 14:21 - God loves you because you love me and keep my commandments
- 16:27 (2x p) - God loves you because you loved me and believed I came from God
- 17:23 - God loves you as he loves me
- 17:26 - the Father's love may be in the disciples
- 3:16 - God's love for mankind
God’s Love In John

God's love for man

- Equals God’s love for the Son
- Equals the Son’s love for the Father
God's Love In John

**Principles - #1**

- Unlimited/infinite love cannot be diminished - always full
- The love of Father/Son existed “before the foundation of the world” (from eternity)
- The love of Father/Son continued to exist “in time”
- What God is **now** (re love) is what God has **always** been
God’s Love In John

Principles - #2

- God’s love before the foundation of the world implies
  - Divine communication from eternity
  - Divine demonstration from eternity
  - Divine benevolence from eternity
God’s Love In John

Principles - #3
- God’s love before the foundation of the world implies
- Divine communication from eternity “into time”
- Divine demonstration from eternity “into time”
- Divine benevolence from eternity “into time”
God’s Love In John

**Principles - #4**
- God’s love before the foundation of the world implies
- Divine communication from eternity “to eternity”
- Divine demonstration from eternity “to eternity”
- Divine benevolence from eternity “to eternity”
God’s Love In John

Questions

- God’s **love** before the foundation of the world implies ... ?
- God’s **wisdom** before the foundation of the world implies ... ?
- God’s **mercy** before the foundation of the world implies ... ?
- God’s **holiness** before the foundation of the world implies ... ?
- God’s **singularity** before the foundation of the world implies ... ?