

# Classical Theism (Part 7 – ‘Ehyeh, the Trinity, and the Incarnation)

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

I AM

The image features the words "I AM" in a large, bold, black serif font. The letters are set against a vibrant, abstract background of swirling colors including purple, pink, blue, and green. In the center of the background, a dark brown cross is visible. The overall aesthetic is ethereal and spiritual.

**Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful )**

T/G/B

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology
- Natural Theology

**Psalm 73:24-26; Philip. 4:4-9:** The bottom line as far as winner believers and loser believers comes down to spiritual/theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. However, modern Christian views of faith, hope, and love differ significantly from classical Christianity. The classical view is that these virtues have robust intellectual support, as per “faith seeking understanding.” Today, these virtues are viewed more in terms of psychological goods. Psychological Christianity speaks more of relationship with God than interest in the mind, creeds and orthodox Christianity, but the relationship is nominal without understanding. This nominal Christianity finds its roots in Kierkegaard’s view of faith.

**Preparation for the Word of God and fellowship with the God-man, 1 John 1:7. Cleansing by walking “in” the light.**

**3 Parts to Bible Class: The need for a revival of classical theism and classical Christianity in evangelicalism.**

- Part I: Spiritual basics: Intrinsic and extrinsic analogical predication and God’s love.
- Part II: Philosophical foundations. POL: Frege and his distinction between sense and reference.
- Part III: Doctrinal development: Classical theism 7: purposes of the Incarnation.

**Part I: Basics: Spiritual foundations: God-talk and love (1 Cor. 13; Gal 5:13-15; 22-23).**

1. We have been noting that all language used of God is analogical. Univocal language creates a god in our image. Equivocal language makes any knowledge of God impossible.
2. In analogical predication, there are two categories: extrinsic and intrinsic attribution. Extrinsic attribution only applies to one analogate (healthy food and healthy man) and so will not work. The proper method is intrinsic attribution (God is goodness & man is good). Both have goodness, even if on totally different orders.
3. God’s creative love.
  - a. Recall that goodness and being are convertible terms metaphysically, cf. Genesis 1-3.
  - b. Evil does not exist as a thing. It is always a privation of a good. For something to be totally evil would mean that it does not exist at all. There is good in anything that exists, even Satan. Consider his intelligence and power. The positing of evil as a thing leads to forms of dualism.
  - c. While man’s love is dependent upon objects of love, God’s love is the creative cause of all objects of love. His love creates all things and keeps all things in existence. Every creature in its being and action is a sign of God’s continued action of love in the world, since none could exist or act apart from His abiding influence as the source of all being and actuality.
  - d. While God is the primary cause of all things, He uses secondary causes in His work of creation, 1 Cor. 3:9. We have the privilege of working with Him. We are His hands/means of reaching out with His love and grace.
  - e. Though God’s love reaches out to all according to its being, He reaches out most especially to his human creation for whom God wills nothing less than His own goodness.
  - f. God has a special love whereby He draws rational creatures to Himself as demonstrated at the Cross.
  - g. God wishes the eternal good of all men, but especially for believers upon whom He has placed a dignity above all other beings. He desires believers to be more like Him.

5: Hermeneutics
4: Language-87
3: Epistemology 32 - Existence 50 - History 50
2:Metaphysics 32 - Trans. 50
1: Reality - Logic 32, - Truth 32

## Part 2: Philosophy of Language (87)

### Outline

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ What is philosophy of language?
- ✓ Theories of meaning
- ✓ Plato's *Cratylus*
  - Hermogenes
  - Cratylus
  - Socrates
- ✓ Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- ✓ Transition to modern philosophy of language
- ✓ Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913)

### Gottlob Frege (1848-1925)

Bertrand Russell  
(1872-1970)

Ludwig Wittgenstein  
(1889-1951).

Martin Heidegger  
(1889-1976).

W. V. O. Quine (1908-2000).

Noam Chomsky (1928-)

Realist view of meaning.

Foundation of meaning.

Communication of meaning.

Elements of language.

Function of language

Meaningful God-talk.

Analytic Philosophy

Conclusion.

Analogy.

Metaphysical analogy.



**Gottlob Frege**  
1848-1925

1. He was a German mathematician noted for 2 major influences: logic/mathematics and language.
2. His work in logic/mathematics was a success. Computer language and modern logic textbooks became possible because of his work in logical theory.
3. However, his work in philosophy of language was a failure (cf., Russell).
4. In mathematics, he was dissatisfied with basic premises.
5. He attempted to ground mathematical basic premises in logic. He said that all numbers and sets are parts of logic.
6. His work in math with concept notation, *Begriffsschrift*, took math from being one dimensional to being two dimensional.
7. His influence in POL was in his distinction between sense and reference (cf., morning star and evening star), which have the same referent but different senses.
8. His failure in POL, like all failures in POL, is failure in metaphysics of abstraction.
9. His POL inaugurates the linguistic turn (cf., Wittgenstein), which heavily influences modern philosophy and philosophy of mind.

1. God, the Word, “becomes” a man!! The problem of immanence and transcendence now resolved. Note His love: He did not come here for His own comfort or benefit! There is but one God, but three persons in the one God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

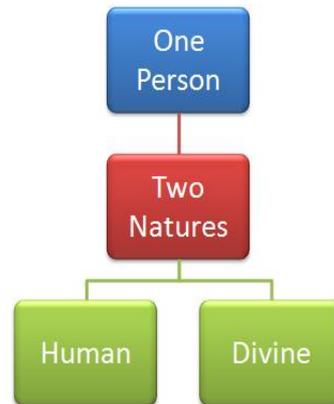
Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

2. The God who added to Himself a human nature is none other than the present Creator and Sustainer of all that exists. Recall that existence is a judgment and not a concept.

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things exist (συνέστηκεν).



3. The Eternal Son of God added to Himself a human nature in order to provide an eternally worthy substitute sacrifice for our sins. Recall that this means that God bore the penalty for all sins.

**John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

**John 3:17** "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

**Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

**Hebrews 10:5** Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

**Hebrews 10:14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

**1 Peter 2:24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

**2 Corinthians 5:15** and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

4. The eternal Son, who is always in the presence of the Father, added to Himself a human nature to conquer sin and death for us.

**1 Corinthians 15:19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. <sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. <sup>24</sup> Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

5. The eternal son of God added to Himself a human nature in order to destroy the works of Satan, Heb. 2:14-15 (cf., Gen. 3:15).

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

**Hebrews 2:14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

6. The eternal Son of God who eternally comes from (generation from) the Father took on a human nature to redeem man, to buy him back from the slave market of sin.

**Mark 10:45** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**1 Timothy 2:5** For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

7. The eternal son of God added to Himself a human nature in order to redeem the earth and establish His kingdom. He is coming back to bust heads and take names as the lion of the tribe of Judah.

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**Luke 1:31** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Revelation 5:1-9** And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>4</sup> So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>5</sup> But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." <sup>6</sup> And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

**Revelation 11:15** Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

**Revelation 19:11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

**Revelation 20:1-5** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. <sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

8. The eternal Son of God became incarnate to demonstrate God's love and righteousness, Rom 3:21-26. The drama of the incarnation is a theater featuring God's love and righteousness. It shows how much He hates sin and how much He loves human beings.

**Romans 3:21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates (Συνίστησιν) His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9. The eternal second person “became” a man to propitiate the absolute righteousness of God, Rom 3:25.

**Romans 3:25** whom God set forth *as* a propitiation ( ἱλαστήριον) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

### 10. The eternal Son of God “became” man to be our High Priest.

**Hebrews 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 7:23** Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. <sup>24</sup> But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

11. The eternal Son of God added human nature to Himself to establish an example for us.

**1 Peter 2:21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

**1 John 2:6** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

12. The eternal Son of God became incarnate to reveal the invisible God.

**John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared (ἐξηγήσατο) *Him*.

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His nature (χαρακτήρ τῆς ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ), and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

13. The eternal Son of God became incarnate to fulfill prophecy.

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.“

**Isaiah 7:14** "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 53

**Micah 5:2** "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting."