

# The Beauty/Glory of God.16

(Whole Truth/Goodness/Beauty of the Eternal Logos (John 1))

## John 1 : 14

And the Word was made 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.

<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>

Crossway

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal/Spiritual Mental Framework

## Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful!)

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

**P.R. - 32**

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology

Metaphysics -11

History-8

Reality –Logic 32,  
 Truth 32

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the **truth** in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18)

For they exchanged the **truth** of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen (Rom 1:25).

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the **truth**; (1 John 1:6 )

“You shall know the **truth** and the truth shall set you free” (Jn 8:32).

Only Total Truth that frees a person. Modern man has just about lost any desire for Total Truth. Most only want truths that are coherent, pragmatic, and that give them a nice existential tingle. Most only want experiential truths. This is due in no small part to influence of the philosophies of romanticism, existentialism, and narcissism.

To move into whole truth is to move into God’s beauty and become a winner believer. One cannot see the true beauty of the Lord apart from whole truth. Whole truth with whole person to whole God.

Regarding whole truth and logic, consider the truths on the left.

**Stage 3**

**Stage 2**

**Stage 1**

### Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician

- The believer who becomes a Christian metaphysician has a totally new mindset with regard to the nature of ‘Ehyeh/Esse and the transcendentals.
- Only in metaphysics can a believer really understand Bible & the attributes of God

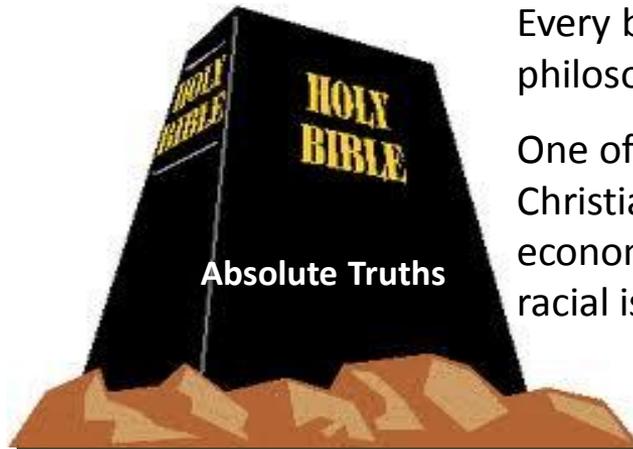
### Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer

- Through BD, this believer has gained a great deal of divine viewpoint in his soul regarding God and the spiritual life. However, he continues to have some pagan views about God’s *nature* due to lack of metaphysical development.
- He is stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence.

### Stage 1 – Christian baby

- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to the problem of pagan horizon of meaning.
- All baby believers are tossed here and there by the kosmos, Eph 4:14.
- For baby believers it is all about pragmatism or personal encounter with truth. If it works or feels good , they think it must be true.

# The need for philosophical/theological foundation of philosophical realism



Every believer has the right and duty to oppose any and all philosophies that run counter to God's inerrant Holy Word.

One of the easiest things to illustrate is how culture influences a Christian's thinking more than the scriptures (e.g., government, economics, labor unions, abortion, homosexuality, marriage, and racial issues. We need to jettison all unbiblical "Miriam ideas."

Of the 5 areas, metaphysics is the most difficult both conceptually and in reference to history of philosophy.

**5- Hermeneutics – how do we understand that which is?**

**4- Linguistics – how is that which is communicated?**

**3- Epistemology –how do I know that which is?**

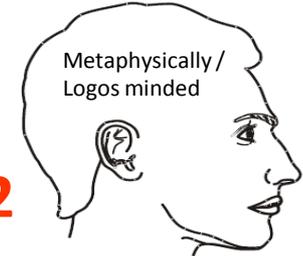
**2- Metaphysics – what is that which is? Being as being.  
(11-Transcendentals)**

**1- Reality – that which is (Logic 32, Truth 32)**

PR 32

# Foundations: Metaphysics

Philosophical Realist:  
Understands Esse,  
esses, and the  
metaphysics of the  
Bible.



Seeker of Whole Truth

## TWO-FOLD GOAL IN THE STUDY OF METAPHYSICS

#1

Philosophical history is one long discussion of Being/Esse and beings/esses—the nature of ultimate reality.

#2

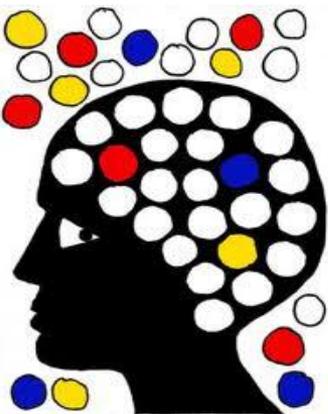
Develop a logos and metaphysical mindset so the believer will have capacity to “see” Being and beings as per biblical/philosophical realism and thus see *Esse* (and God’s existence, eternal nature, beauty, personality, justice) in natural revelation, and understand metaphysical concepts in the Bible.

אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה  
'Ehyeh asher 'Ehyeh

### 11—The Transcendentals.21

- 8-10 Being-Becoming
- 7-Satan’s attack on metaphysics
- 6-Integration of 4 causes
- 5-Act of existence = “to be”
- 4-Act and Potency/potential
- 3- Four causes
- 2-Being *qua* being
- 1-Introduction

## Science of Metaphysics 11



Fragmented

Anti-realist, anti-metaphysical, Fideist, Freudian, religious/superstitious mindset, deistic, devotionalistic, existentialist, narcissistic, anthropocentric—all this leads to suppression and distortion of truth and the reshaping of God and reality.

Expose the modern problem by examining historical discussions of Being and beings in the history of philosophy (cf., next slide).

# Philosophical history is all about discussion of Being and beings (metaphysics)

Exod. 3:14; Psalm 19:1-3; Rom. 1:18-32; Acts 17:28; Col. 1:17

The Ancient Period (624 B.C. - A.D. 270): Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Zeno the Eleatic, Protagoras, Gorgias, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Pyrrho, Epicurus, Zeno the Stoic, Epictetus, Plotinus.

The Middle Ages (354-1349): Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Erigena, Avicenna, Anselm, Al-Ghazali, Peter Abelard, Averroes, Maimonides, Thomas Aquinas, Eckhart, John Duns Scotus, William of Ockham.

The Modern Period (1466-1900): Erasmus, Copernicus, Luther, Bacon, Galileo, Hobbes, Descartes, Pascal, Spinoza, Locke, Newton, Leibniz, Berkeley, Voltaire, Rousseau, Hume, Kant, Schelling, Fichte, Hegel, Marx, Bentham, Comte, Mill, Darwin, Kierkegaard, Marx, Engels, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche.

The Contemporary Period (1900-): Charles S. Peirce, James, Freud, Husserl, Bergson, Dewey, Whitehead, Russell, Einstein, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Carnap, Ryle, Sartre, Beauvoir, Quine, Ayer, Austin, Kuhn, Foucault, Derrida, Richard Rorty.

All of philosophical history is but a discussion of Being and beings. While it is not important to understand the elaborate philosophical systems of each player, it is crucial to grasp their main ideas for two reasons: first, to be able to grasp the metaphysics of Esse and esses; second, to be able to see all of the anti-biblical philosophies that we have all absorbed over the years. Metaphysics not only opens up reality and the Bible, it brings us face to face with apodictic proof of God.

To reject philosophical realism and classical metaphysics is to dig your own grave of agnosticism, skepticism, fideism, existentialism, or atheism. Kant's (1724-1804) destruction of classical metaphysics has done horrendous damage throughout Christendom in both liberal and conservative camps. Among the liberals, it led to deconstruction of reality and the Word of God. In conservative camps (Bible and doctrinal churches), it led to fideism and anti-intellectualism with its existential and psychological (personal and narcissistic) approach toward the Word of God.

## The Transcendentals-21

Review of the metaphysics of the true, good, and beautiful.

Beauty is found in the Form; Form is grasped by the intellect (with its N&S)



## The Transcendentals-21

What would you have to *know* before you could call this beautiful?



## The Transcendentals-21

What norms and standards come into play in assessing beauty?



# The Transcendentals-21

Beautiful? Why? How do you know? What is the relationship to the T & G?



## The Transcendentals-21

1. Apart from biblical metaphysics, the believer will have a distorted view of beauty resulting in being preoccupied with fake beauty—e.g., looking a certain way or being attracted to what is not true (things or doctrines) rather than growing in capacity to see true beauty. Consider the power of culture with its billions of dollars spent in promoting the lie that cosmetics can make anyone beautiful. A false view of beauty results in lack of attraction to God and the things of God.

1 John 2:15 Do not love (Μὴ ἀγαπᾶτε) the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

## The Transcendentals-21

2. Apart from biblical metaphysics and total truth, the believer will end up deconstructing the Word of God. Consider the power of kosmos diabolicus and man's ability to suppress and exchange God's truth for some lie (half-truth).

1 Peter 3:3 And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

## The Transcendentals-21

2. Apart from biblical metaphysics and total truth, the believer will end up deconstructing the Bible. Consider the power of kosmos diabolicus and man's ability to suppress and exchange God's truth.

1 Corinthians 11:7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. 8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

## The Transcendentals-21

3. Satan's lies are laced with prettiness. He is constantly seeking to rip the transcendentals asunder. He pushes the pretty apart from the real and goodness. Through kosmos diabolicus, he pushes the artificial for the real, evil for the good, and pseudo-beauty for true beauty. Only the Christian can truly see beauty in all of its wholeness. Only he is destined for absolute beauty (Rev. 21-22). The number one motivation for young people waiting to have sex until marriage is their view of God and the plan of God (i.e. a view which sees God and His plan as true, good, and beautiful). The current decadence is due suppression of God and His Word. Satan has done a tremendous job brainwashing contemporary society through his kosmos diabolicus.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

### 3. Satan's lies are laced with prettiness.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light;  
And reproofs for discipline are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil  
woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress. 25 Do not desire her  
**beauty** in your heart, Nor let her catch you with her eyelids. 26 For on  
account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, And an adulteress  
hunts for the precious life. 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, And his  
clothes not be burned?

## The Transcendentals-21

4. Through the transcendentals Christians can *properly* see the finite beauty of creation/beings and how it points to infinite beauty of God/Being. The transcendentals enable us to see the beauty of God in the light of all that is true, good, and beautiful. It gives us new capacity to appreciate the beauty of God, the incarnation, the spiritual life, and Bible doctrine.

# The Beauty of God.16

## John 1 : 14

And the Word was made 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.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

We are on a journey of discovering the beauty, the glory of God. Apart from grasping the beauty of God, all of the mechanics of the spiritual life are never going to produce the love and worship demonstrated in the life of the apostles (cf., 1 John 1; Galatians 2:20; 2 Cor 5:14; Philip. 3). Paul's and John's aesthetic realm is far beyond the life of gnosis. The only way beauty/glory can truly be seen is in its wholeness and form. This necessitates that we must look at all of these passages: [Gen 1-3; 3:24; 6:2; 12:11](#) [Exod. 2:2; 25:8, 22; 29:43-46; 33:18-22; 40:34-38](#); Job 38-39; [Psa. 19:1-2; 27:4; 32:1-11; 34:8; 145:8-17](#); Prov. 4:5-9; 2 Chron. 26; Isa. 3:18; [5:20-21; 6:1-8; 42:18-20](#); 48:4; 64:6; 53; [Jer. 7:24-26](#); [Matt. 5:8; 11:25-30](#); 6:22-23; [13:13-14](#); 15:12-14; 27:36; Mark 10:45; Luke 1-2; 4:6-13; 21:5; **John 1**; 2:11, 16; 3:13, 16-17; 4:6, 10, 14-18, 31-34; 5:17-27, 30, 36-37, 44; 6:33-48; 7:18, 28-30, 37-38; 8:12-14, 28, 31-42, 50, 58-59; 10:7-11, 14-18, 28-30, 38, 12:27-28, 32-50; 13:1-34; 14:6-31; 15:1-6, 8-19, 24-26; 16:7-15; 17:6, 24; 19:23-30; 20:28-31; 21:19; Acts 3:2; 20:28; [Rom. 1:18-32](#); 3:9-19, 21-26; 5:1-2, 6-11; 10:15; 1 Cor 1:18, 23-31; 2:8-9; 2 Cor 3:6-4:6; [5:18-21](#); 8:9; [Gal. 3:1-5](#); 3:13-14; 4:4-5; Eph. 1:6; 2:10; 5:25-32; Col. 2:9, 13-14; [Philip. 2:5-11](#); 3:10-14; 3:13-14; 4:4-8; Titus 3:4-6; [1 Pet. 1:8; 2:21-25; 3:1-5](#); 2 Pet. 3:16; [Heb. 1:1-3](#); 2:11-18; 5:5; James 1:11, 17; [1 John 1:1-4](#); 2:1-2; 3:2-3, 16; 4:9-10, 20; Rev. 5:9-14; 12:3, 7, 9; [21:1-22:5](#).

# The Beauty/Glory of God-16

John 1:1-3.

1. Christ is the Logos, the 'Ehyeh, the source of all truth, goodness, and beauty. He is the creator who brings into existence all things with their structure and beauty throughout the universe. They all came from the one intellect of the Logos. Bible teaches that we can see the invisible glory of God through visible creation. The closer we look the more we see His glory
  - Consider the mind boggling, stunning wonders of human cell. We have about 100 trillion of them, which are made up of one hundred thousand million atoms. Each is like a highly complex city complete with proteins that monitors and guards the walls, ribosomes which are factories for reproducing new cell parts, lysosomes for recycling, mitochondria for powerhouses of energy, DNA for the blueprint with its coded instructions, and more. A single cell contains more information content than all 30 volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* taken together. This far exceeds anything man has even come close to creating. Oh, by the way, each of these vastly intricate microcities is capable of replicating its entire structure within a matter of a few hours. One has to be an engineer to really see and appreciate the various functions.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-16

John 1:1-3.

2. The depth and vastness of the metaphysics contained in John 1:1-3 are truly mind boggling; time precludes us from plumbing its depths. However, there are a couple of things that are critical. One deals with the implications of John 1:3 in regard apodictic proof of the existence of God. The believer who grasps this proof is able to move out of fideism and be more certain of the existence of God than any other existence he experiences in life.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-16

John 1:1-3.

3. Proofs that there is a God are not based on the Bible. Don't let people duck the issue by rejecting the Bible. The study of the existence of God is a philosophical, not a "religious" issue.
4. The Bible presupposes that there is a God.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

5. Since the existence of God is obvious, and can be proved with apodictic, causal, and rational certainty (cf. Aquinas's 5 ways), why are there atheists? There are four main reasons there are atheists.
  - a. Epistemological errors regarding truth (rationalism, empiricism, skepticism, mysticism). This has enormous bearing on what one rules out as evidence, e.g. Empiricism's "show me" or methodological naturalism (i.e. only mechanistic/atheistic explanations are allowed). Everyone has a epistemology that determines what you accept and reject.
  - b. Factual errors regarding truth. Many brilliant men are really wrong.
  - c. Logical errors regarding truth. Even the most brilliant minds have dark and foolish places in them (e.g., Russell).
  - d. Psychological errors regarding truth (all atheists and negative believers). It is not a matter of brilliance. It is a matter of prejudice. Consider the prejudice in the media and politics.

## **The Beauty/Glory of God-16**

6. The question of the existence of God is loaded with psychological baggage on both sides. However, the psychology on the part of the believer or the unbeliever does not prove or disprove the existence of God one way or the other.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

7. Consider the powerful vested interests of the theist regarding the question of God (cf. Feuerbach; Kant, animists).
8. Consider the powerful vested interests of the atheist regarding the question of God: God stands as the greatest obstacle to his autonomy; if there is a God, he can no longer do what he wants with impunity; consider the issues of ultimate accountability, peers, guilt, culpability, and the desire for total freedom to do one's own thing (Sartre). The atheist has a strong interest in there not being a righteous and just God. Then he can be free to be his own god with no accountability whatsoever.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

9. Again, as far as proving God, a person's desire for God or against God has absolutely no bearing—psychology has nothing to do with proof. So discussions of “I don't need a God” have absolutely nothing to do with the evidence. Any discussion about the existence of God must come from the evidence. All discussions regarding what people want should be tabled since both the theist and the atheist have baggage. All of these discussions of needing a crutch need to be tabled because there are “crutches” on both sides. It is evidence that counts!

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

10. Although atheistic psychological factors do not disprove the existence of God, they certainly explain motives for rejection of God. If the existence of God is so certain, absolutely certain, then why are there any atheists at all?

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

11. The Bible does address the psychological profile of unbelievers as well as negative believers. The bottom line regarding the unbeliever and the negative believer is found in the pathology of autonomy: they will not have God in their thinking. Their minds are darkened with prejudice against God because they do not want God in their thinking or life. God is the biggest obstacle to doing what they want.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

12. The issue in all spiritual maladies—be they on the part of the unbeliever or the negative believer—is suppression of truth: for unbelievers, see Rom. 1:18-32; for negative believers, consider Lot, the Exodus generation, David (in reversionism), Saul, Solomon, Judas, Demas, Alexander and Hymenaeus, the Corinthians, Galatians, Hebrews, and 1 Tim 1:5-6, 18-20; 4:1-3; 6:9-10, 20-21; 2 Tim. 4:1-15.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

13. God hates suppression of truth, there is no excuse for it, Rom. 1:18-20— every single person knows God exists. Consider the nature of suppression and repression (κατεχόντων) of truth as it holds down, stifles, represses, suppresses, and pushes down Truth, only to change it into something else as it resurfaces.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-16

14. However, this suppression and repression takes work and always manifests itself in a person's attitude toward God, self, others, and reality. This repression parlays into strong emotional biases against God by unbelievers because of accountability issues. Repression by the negative believer parlays into hostility toward Bible doctrine and whole truth. The repression is parlayed into psychological and narcissistic views of truth.