



How do we describe God?

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Classical proofs for God

- Ontological argument
- Cosmological argument
- Teleological argument
- Moral argument

Ontological argument

- Implanted in human beings mind is the idea that God exists
- Anselm (1033-1109)
- Rene Descartes (1596-1650)

Cosmological argument

- Creation's majesty, order and wonder
- There must be a cause adequate to account for the universe
- Plato
- Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Teleological argument

- Appearance of developing purpose in the universe
- Newton

Moral argument

- The voice in the heart of human beings calling them to do right
- Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

The “omni” attributes

- Omniscient
- Omnipotent
- Omnipresence

Do the “omni” attributes distort our understanding of God?

- They “owe their existence to abstract analysis and deductive logic about what God ‘must be in order to be God.’ . . . Is such a God a philosophical construction, the idealistic invention of human minds rather than the living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?”
 - Michael Lodahl

If the Incarnation is true, then . . .

- “Divine power is not a ruling fist, but an open, bleeding hand” -- Michael Lodahl

Alan Tippett describes God

- Methodist missionary and anthropologist
- “I had not been very long on the mission field before I saw that . . . over-intellectualized religion had to go.” (1984)
- Tippett described God in ways other than with the “omni” doctrines. He says . . .



I believe in . . .

- God
- a living God
- a saving God
- a communicating God
 - a God who knows and can be known
- a providing God
 - a God who makes life meaningful

How do we describe God?

(end)

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