

Comprehending God

Aspects about God that are hard for man to fully understand

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Veritatem Cum Mica Salis

There are things about God that seem paradoxical to man but there are ways for us to better understand them. This is a short list of analogies to better help us understand some of God's attributes that are difficult to explain by themselves, and attributes that seem to contradict each other.

Attributes	Description	Analogy
Trinity	The concept of God being three in one.	Time
Mercy Grace Wrath	The concept of God being merciful and full of grace but at the same time pouring out His wrath on the unrepentant.	Gravity
Omniscience Omnipotence Love Justice	The concept of God being all-knowing and all-powerful but at the same time still being loving and just. (The question of God's will and sin)	A Coin
Omnipresence Simplicity	The concept of God being everywhere. (Hell being a place void of God's love)	Darkness
Aseity Necessity Eternality	The concept of God's self-existence, the inability to not exist, and the idea of having no beginning.	A Dream
Humanity Eternality	The concept of Jesus being 100% man and 100% God.	Light
Transcendence	The concept of incomprehensibility, things like God being referred to like a man, and creating man in His image, but being neither man nor woman but more; His He-ness transcends gender.	The Universe

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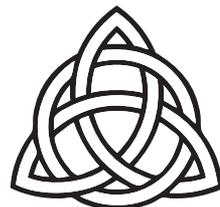
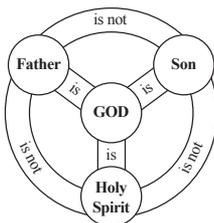
The Trinity

The concept of God being three in one is not an easy concept for one to wrap his mind around. In fact, there are some who claim Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not God or that the three Persons of the Godhead were just different manifestations of God at different times. The term “Trinity” is not actually in the Bible but the idea is clearly seen many times throughout Scripture. This is an analogy that can help in thinking about the Trinity, although it is not a perfect analogy.

Explanation: Time

Past	Present	Future
Father	Son	Holy Spirit

Any given point in time can be, is, or was all three (past, present, and future) but it is never all three at the same time. Yet all forms of time itself (past, present, and future) exist at the same time. Keep in mind that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not the same but they are all the same God.



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God's Mercy & Grace vs. Wrath

The concept of God being merciful and full of grace but at the same time pouring out His wrath on the unrepentant. Many have a hard time accepting the idea that God would allow people to spend eternity in hell simply for not following Him but the Bible clearly teaches that this is the case. And some people even believe that God is not justified in allowing bad things to happen. This page offers an example of how this can be explained.

Explanation: Gravity

Two things must first be understood;

1. God cannot just allow sin because He is holy.
2. And for God to truly show love, He gave mankind free will.

So when it comes to mercy, grace, and wrath, God is a lot like gravity. Gravity keeps people on earth from floating away. It allows us to go about our days and live our lives. Gravity makes it possible for life. On the other hand, those who break the law of gravity are hurt and killed. The same law that allows life also allows death. Just like we are free to break the law of gravity, we are free to break God's law and not accept Him. God gives us this freedom to choose because He made us in His image and because He loves us. Sadly the downside to this freedom is the result of sin on earth and in eternity.

$$F_g = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$$

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God's Omniscience & Omnipotence vs. Love & Justice

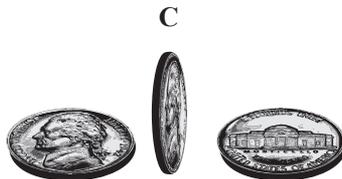
How can God be all-knowing and all-powerful but at the same time still be loving and just. This page does not attempt to explain why God doesn't stop all bad things from happening (see page 2). We know from the Bible that God is somehow all of these things and this page illustrates an idea about how they can work together.

Explanation: A Coin

Answer this riddle: If you toss a coin on the ground one time, which side is it least likely to land on?



The answer is option C (the 3rd side of the coin). If one side represents God's power and knowledge while the other side is His love and justice, most people don't even consider this to be a possibility even though it was right under their noses from the very beginning. All it really takes to understand is to look at the options from a different angle. It's not that these attributes are completely opposite things, God's omniscience, omnipotence, love and justice are part of the same coin, so why can't they both be possible at the same time?



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God's Omnipresence & Simplicity

A common belief within Christianity (and a Biblical one) is that God is everywhere, but there seems to be an issue when considering hell. Many believe hell is a place where the unrepentant spend eternity without God but these two concepts seem to contradict each other. The other option is that God is present in hell in the form of His wrath but His love and everything good about God is obviously not in hell which seems to imply that God can be divided by finite human terms and thus, God would not be indivisible which contradicts His simplicity.

Explanation: Darkness

Since God is indeed everywhere and is indivisible, it could be that His attributes are more concentrated in some places than others according to His will which seems to solve both problems. Another possibility is that like darkness is not a tangible thing, hell may just be the exception to the rule meaning God is everywhere except in hell. Since we live in God's presence every day, from the moment we are born to the moment we die, we do not know what it truly means to be apart from God, if we did no one would choose to be. We can experience small glimpses of what hell would be like when we lose loved ones or lose the love of the ones we love, so God's ultimate wrath may just be granting the desires of those who choose separation from Him making hell the only place God is not.



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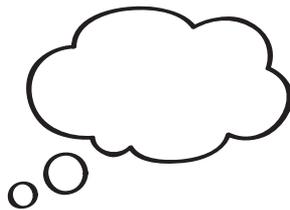
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God's Aseity, Necessity & Eternality

The concept of God's self-existence, the inability to not exist, and the idea of having no beginning are all difficult to understand. Of all the aspects of God, these are some of the most mind-boggling, and because of this, the following analogy for them may not be the most satisfying. Regardless, this explanation could be helpful to some.

Explanation: A Dream

No one knows why we dream. Scientists have theories about dreams but the fact is that dreams are mysterious things. A dream just is. It often exists without much or any explanation for what was dreamt. It is also not known for sure if we need dreams but rest is required for a healthy mind and there are some scientists who believe that it's the dreams during rest that are what the mind requires, even if the person dreaming cannot recall what was dreamt. Also, most people don't even know they are dreaming until after they wake up. During the dream, there is no beginning to signify you have started dreaming, you are just part of something that is existing and has been existing.



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Jesus' Humanity & Eternality

The concept of Jesus being 100% man and 100% God seems somewhat illogical. One may try to make sense of the idea that Jesus was God and man by thinking of Him as half God and half man but this was not the case, He was completely God and completely man. Jesus was not a man that became God and He was not God sometimes and man other times, He is God who came down to earth and became the God-man to become a sacrifice to save the lost (you and I). This paper attempts to make this idea a little more fathomable.

Explanation: Light

According to Quantum mechanics, light behaves as both a particle and a wave simultaneously. This idea goes completely against our understanding of known physical laws but it has been observed and tested over and over again by scientists and the results are always the same; light is both a particle and a wave. This duality is possible because the Newtonian laws of physics break down on atomic and subatomic levels. So in a similar way, Jesus being more than a physical man would have been operating on a different level as well - metaphorically, spiritually, and physically.



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God's Transcendence

By definition, transcendence has to be on this list. It's incomprehensible, things like God being referred to like a man, and creating man in His image, but being neither man nor woman but more; His He-ness transcends gender. Things like this and many others are not fully understandable to us because of the limits of the human mind. When people cannot fully understand something they tend to reject it as being possible but there are many things we know that cannot be fully understood, even by scientists.

Explanation: The Universe

We live in our universe. It is tangible, in the sense that we can perceive that it exists in the physical realm. Technology has allowed us to see farther than we could ever have seen before, over 13 billion light-years away. Even at this great distance no edge of the universe has been discovered because in all likelihood it probably doesn't exist. The vastness of the universe is beyond human comprehension but the universe is real, it is tangible. So just because something cannot be fully understood doesn't mean it is not real.

