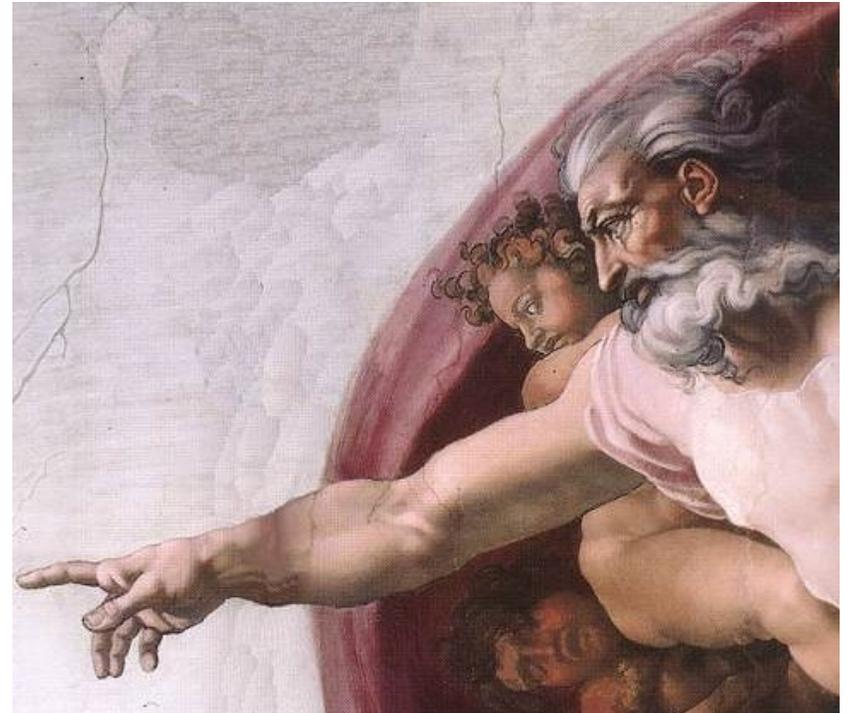


This We Believe

“Awesome God”



Statement 2

Statement of faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America

“We believe there is one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”



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Parts of this publication are taken from the sermon entitled, “Awesome God” by Senior Pastor Doug Wieber of His Place Church June 29, 2003 in Post falls, Idaho.

Tapes and/or CD’s of the sermon, “Awesome God” are available at His Place Church by calling 208-777-9654 or by calling toll free at 800-574-1856.

Unless otherwise noted all scripture quotes are from the *New International Version* of the Holy Bible.

In the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America, statement two says:

“We believe there is one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

This statement has profound implications and must prompt the believer as well as the searcher to contemplate, study, and discuss God. In this pursuit for God one must understand that it is the most important thing of their life, as A. W. Tozer states,

“The most important thing about any individual is what they believe about God because what they believe about God will determine how they live.”¹

As we begin to think about God there are two questions that must be considered. The first is, “Does God exist?” The second is, “Is God worth worshipping?” In this booklet we will discuss these two questions along with providing ample information to study and digest.

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (NIV)

“It’s impossible to please God apart from faith, And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.” (The Message)

DOES GOD EXIST?

Traditionally there are a number of arguments for the existence of God. These arguments may be placed into two categories: Natural arguments and theological argu-

ments.

NATURAL ARGUMENTS

1. Cosmological (cause and effect)

Cosmology is a branch of metaphysics that deals with the nature of the universe. Simply put, it is trying to put the order of events of the origin and structure of the universe together. Because the world and universe exist, simple logic makes us derive that it must be an effect or the result of something. A theist, (*someone who believes in God*) would conclude that there must be a cause for this world we live in and ultimately there must have been an original cause for it to work the way it does. A non-theist would conclude that nothing caused this world to happen, it is simply random chance.

2. Teleological (purpose or design)

We are not only faced with cosmology, (the origins of the world) we are also faced with a world that seems to have purpose. This is where teleology comes in. Teleology is simply the study of evidence of design in nature. The non-theistic explanation of this purpose is that it happens by random chance. But, the question still remains if random “by chance” actions can result in the highly integrated and interdependent systems in the world around us. For instance, if the systems in the human body are all interdependent so that one will not function without the other, how do those systems develop independently of one another and continue to exist? Does not design or purpose strongly imply a designer? The theistic answer is that design or purpose implies a designer and may involve faith, but does it involve more faith than the non-theistic explanation?

3. Anthropological (nature of man)

As we continue in our attempts to answer the question, “Does God exist?”, we must also look at mankind. Anthropology is the study of human nature and character.

- Nature

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If you are interested in learning more on the subjects outlined in this booklet, we recommend the following books for reading.

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1. Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God*. Camp. Hill, Pennsylvania PA: Christian Publishers, Inc., 1948

2. Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York NY: Macmillan, 1952.

Beyond the physical world that exists we must also account for man's nature including his conscience, moral nature, and mental capacities. We all have the ability to reason, to determine, and to make judgments. All these attributes are evidence of personality, intellect, will, and emotion. How does random chance answer these differences between man and the rest of the animal kingdom? Does a chance beginning and a happenstance development adequately explain the metaphysical aspect of mankind? But, we can't stop just there, what about the character of mankind?

- [Ontology \(The character of man\)](#)

While there is a disagreement on specific values, there seems to be a universal understanding that there is right and wrong. C.S. Lewis calls this the law of human nature in his book, *Mere Christianity*. He states, "*Man continually is appealing to some kind of standard of behavior which he expects the other man to know about.*"² Where does this innate moral understanding come from? In addition, human nature seems to have an intrinsic drive to reach out for a higher being. Where does this desire originate from? Was it placed in the nature and reason of mankind, or did it just happen?

There are indeed other "natural" arguments for the existence of God, and there are numerous resources to help in that study. These arguments in themselves do not prove the existence of God, but it is fair to insist that the theistic answer is at least less complex than believing in random chance and therefore takes less faith or presumption to believe.

There is another line of reasoning which for some carries more weight. This line of reasoning goes back to a question derived from statement one of the doctrinal statement. Is the Bible a dependable record from God or not? If it is, then we have to look not only at natural arguments, but

must also look at theological arguments for the existence of God.

THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS

The Bible obviously declares God's existence beginning with the very account of creation. **Genesis 1:1** states, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* The Bible actually uses the natural arguments discussed earlier in its declaration of God's existence.

- **Genesis 1**
- **Psalm 19:1-8**
- **Isaiah 40**
- **Acts 14:17**
- **Romans 1:18-2:16**

Answering the question, "Does God exist?" is very significant, but not sufficient! By itself it is a great beginning, but it is not enough, because answering it in the affirmative simply leads one to be a theist. We must then ask the second fundamental question, "Is God worth worshipping?" To answer this question we must look at God's nature, character and the work He does.

When we begin to answer this question, we begin to study what traditionally are called the attributes of God. These attributes are individual aspects of God's nature and character.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

WHAT IS GOD'S NATURE

When we think of God's nature we are thinking about those things that make Him distinct or separate from us. Ultimately, we are talking about the things that make God, God! The following attributes precede verses on that particular attribute. These passages will help you as you continue to try and understand who God is.

Triune

QUESTIONS

1. Explain Hebrews 11:6 in your own words. What are the two things that a person needs to believe in order to come to God?
2. What are some of the major difficulties people have in believing that God exists? How have you overcome those objections personally?
3. What is God's nature? What is the most overwhelming aspect of His nature for you? Does that cause you to question God or worship Him? Why?
4. What is God's character like? Is He worth pursuing with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? How are you currently involved in that pursuit?

4. Coming King/Judge

King

Matthew 3:2, 6:10, 6:13, 13:43; John 3:3, 18:36; Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 1 Timothy 6:15; 2 Timothy 4:18; James 2:5; Revelation 1:5, 17:14, 19:16

Judge

Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Samuel 2:3; Matthew 12:36; John 16:8; Acts 17:31; Romans 1:32, 3:3-8, 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5; Hebrews 6:2, 9:27, 10:30-31; 1 Peter 1:17; Revelation 6:16-17, 15:3

Hopefully the information in this booklet has helped you better understand the 2nd statement in what we believe. Now as it is with any truth we study, it is up to you to decide whether God exists, and if He is worth worshipping.

Triune simply means three in one. The word trinity is not found in the Bible. For some this may be unnerving. In fact, some cults use this fact to say that it is not a biblical concept. The word trinity is a Latin word that was used to describe the truth that is taught in the Bible. This truth is that there is one God who exists in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

- [There is one God!](#)

Although we consider God to be one (Deuteronomy 4:35, 6:4, 32:21; Isaiah 45:18,21-22, 46:9; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Ephesians 4:3-6; James 2:19), there is a plurality in his nature (Genesis 1:26-27, 3:22, 11:7).

- [The Father is God!](#)

This point is seldom questioned or debated. Those who would deny the concept of the trinity would simply state that God the Father is God (John 6:27; Peter 1:2).

- [The Son is God!](#)

Here lies the great debate. Is Jesus God? The following verses will describe Christ's claims that He has the attributes of God, how He demonstrated the attributes, that He claimed to be God Himself, and accepted worship (Matthew 9:4-8; Mark 2:1-12; John 8:58, 10:30, 20:28). Not only did Jesus claim to be God himself, but there are other references in the Bible that claim that Jesus is God (John 1:1-14; Revelation 1:8, 17-18).

- [The Spirit is God!](#)

The Bible also declares that the Holy Spirit is God (Psalms 139:7; John 3:5-8; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 3:16).

- [All three are linked to the Godhead!](#)

Now it is also important to point out that the Bible links the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit to the Godhead. Here are some verses that may help with your

understanding of this truth (Matthew 3:16-17,28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).

Spirit

John 4:24; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17

Holy

Exodus 3:1-6; Leviticus 19:2; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 99:1-9; Isaiah 6:1-13, 57:15; 1 Peter 1:15; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 4:1-11

Eternal/Infinite

Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:2; John 1:1-5; Acts 17:22-31; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 1:8

Immutable

Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 46:9-10; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17

Omniscient

Psalm 147:4-5; Ezekiel 11:5; Matthew 11:21-23; Acts 15:18; Romans 11:33-36; Hebrews 4:13

Omnipresent

1 Kings 8:27; Job 11:7-9; Psalm 139:7-16; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:22-31

Omnipotent

Genesis 1:1, 17:1; Psalm 33:9-11, 115:3; Matthew 19:26; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 19:6

Sovereign

Job 38:1-41:34; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:34-35; John 6:37-44, 10:29, 19:11; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 8:28-11:36; Ephesians 1:11

WHAT IS GOD'S CHARACTER?

The Bible depicts God's character in several ways. These verses are all representations of God's character.

1. Good

Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 25:8-10, 100:1-5; Romans 8:28-29; James 1:17

2. Just/Righteous

Genesis 18:25; Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 19:9, 116:5, 145:17; Jeremiah 12:1; Nehemiah 9:32-33; Acts 17:31; Romans 3:21-26, 9:14-33

3. True

Romans 3:4; John 14:6

4. Love

John 3:16; 1 John 3:16, 4:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; John 17:24

5. Merciful

Psalm 103:8; Exodus 20:2; Luke 1:50; Ezekiel 18:23-32

6. Gracious

Romans 3:24, 4:16; Titus 3:7; 2 Corinthians 9:9; Ephesians 2:8-9

7. Faithful

Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 7:9, 32:4; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Timothy 2:13; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 2:17

WHAT DOES GOD DO?

How has, and is God involved in this world and our lives? We will look at several verses that will show He is the creator, sustainer, and redeemer. We will also look towards the future and see His coming, or return to this world.

1. Creator

Genesis 1; Psalm 33:1-9, 104:24-26; Jeremiah 10:1-16; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3

2. Sustainer

Job 38:1-41:34; Daniel 4:34-35; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 11:33-36; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 2:13-15; 1 Peter 1:18-20

3. Redeemer

Matthew 20:28; Acts 20:28; Romans 3:24-26, 7:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 6:20, 7:23; Colossians 1:13-14, Titus 2:14; Hebrews 2:13-15; 1 Peter 1:18-20