

Systematic Theology



Last Time

- Divine Foreknowledge
- Sovereignty of God
- Human Free Will
- Hypothetical Knowledge
- Middle Knowledge

Application of Omniscience

- What difference does it make in our lives?
 - Basis for total trust in God's guidance in your life.
 - Source of comfort in God's knowledge of your heart.
 - Source of security in God's love.

Total Trust in God's Guidance

- He is all-knowing =
 - He never makes mistakes.
 - He never changes his mind because a lack of foresight.
 - Never overlooks anything.
 - Nothing catches him by surprise.

Which is which?

- Cats are mammals.- Necessary Truth
- Cats are amphibians.- Falsehood
- Cats have claws.- Contingent Truth

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

ESV

God's Knowledge of your heart

- Others misunderstand or mistake motives.
- God knows our heart.

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

ESV

As a father shows compassion to his children, so
the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
For he knows our frame; he remembers that we
are dust.

Psalms 103:13-14

ESV

Security in God's Love

- No new information about you that could affect God's love for you.
- "He knows us thoroughly, and yet he loves us unfailingly."

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and
reassure our heart before him; for whenever our
heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart,
and he knows everything.

1 John 3:19-20

ESV

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

ESV

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Psalm 32:3-7

ESV

Conclusion

➤ Questions on omniscience?

Volitional: Omnipotence

- Volitional deals with things connected to God's will.
- Not simply what he knows, but what he wills.
- Omnipotence is almighty or all-powerful.

Scriptural Data

- God is almighty.
- This power is best seen in creation.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,

Genesis 17:1

ESV

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns."

Revelation 19:6

ESV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and
the earth.

Genesis 1:1

ESV

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded,
and it stood firm.

Psalm 33:9

ESV

as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Romans 4:17

ESV

God can do all things

➤ Plain and simple

Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:14

ESV

'Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17

ESV

Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:1-2

ESV

But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:26

ESV

And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Mark 14:36

ESV

Systematic Summary

- Paradoxes of Omnipotence
- Omnipotence Defined
- Application

Paradoxes of Omnipotence

- Can God create a stone too heavy for himself to be able to lift?

Questions

- Can God act in ways that are contrary to his own nature?
- Logical impossibilities? A square circle?
- Descartes said yes- most disagree.

Problem with Descartes

- Universal Possibilism
 - There are no necessary truths.
 - Isn't that statement itself a necessary truth?
 - Self-defeating.

Actual Impossibilities

- Things that are logically possible but they are actually impossible to bring about.
 - Humans always choosing to do the right thing. Sin is not necessary.
- God cannot unilaterally decide which possible world will result.
- Logical vs infeasible worlds.

Bottomline

- It is logically impossible to make someone freely do something.
- While it might be possible for a world without sin, it is not actualizable by God.

Omnipotence Defined

➤ “...God is able to bring about any state of affairs which it is logically possible for anyone in a situation to bring about. ... God cannot do things that are logically impossible. God cannot act contrary to his nature or bring about infeasible worlds. But he can bring about a state of affairs in which it is logically possible for someone in his situation to bring about.

Application

- You are a walking stick of dynamite!
 - God's power is at work within you.
- Nothing can defeat God's purposes for you
- God's omnipotence means that God is adequate for all your needs.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

ESV

Next time

➤ Read:

➤ Defenders 2-3- 18: Doctrine of God, pg. 130-43
Personal- Moral: Holiness

Questions?

