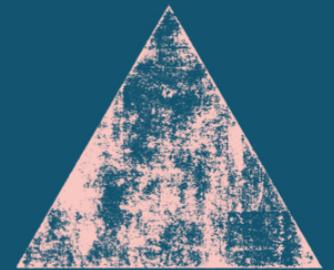
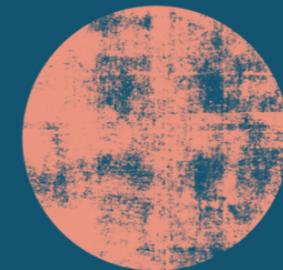
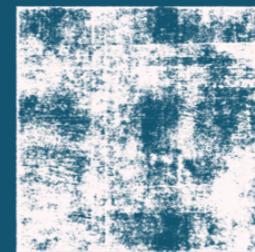


**fundamentals  
of the faith**

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

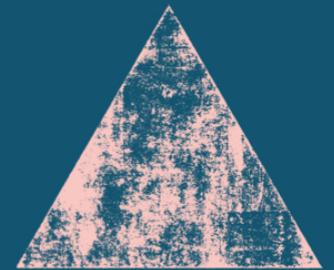
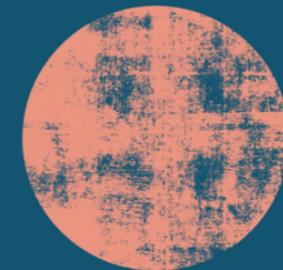
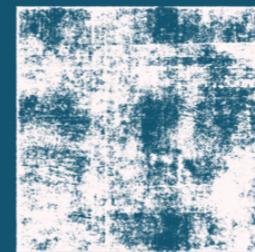
- ▶ "I believe in God the Father, the Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth..."
- ▶ 200's in its basic form
- ▶ Barth: We should put it as the "Apostles" Creed
- ▶ Creed developed as the first centuries worked out (and argued about) what it meant to worship Christ as Lord; therefore, the whole confession should be understood in relation to Christ.



**fundamentals**

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ▶ "Learning how to speak Christian is work, and it is work that the world cannot live without...Such learning is only a burden if we take our unbelief seriously. Only faith [the apostolic faith] is to be taken seriously."
- ▶ Why can the world not live without a people who can speak Christian *well*?



**fundamentals**

---

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ▶ “If we get God wrong, we get everything wrong— our politics, our science, our art, our very lives.”
- ▶ Karl Barth believed the World Wars, particularly the German Christians’ capitulation to and justification of Nazism, were the result of LIBERALISM’S turn to the subject of dogmatics rather than the object.

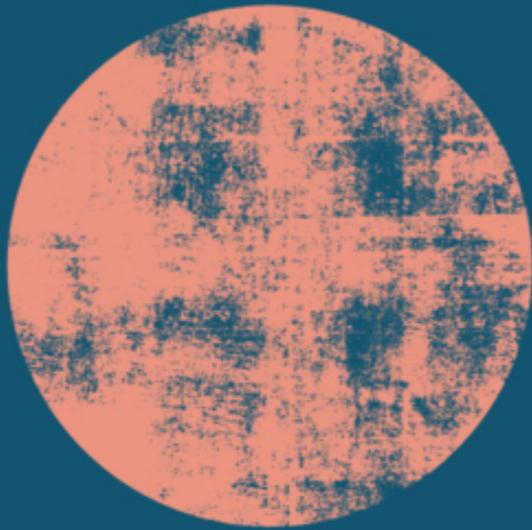


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# THE APOSTLES' CREED

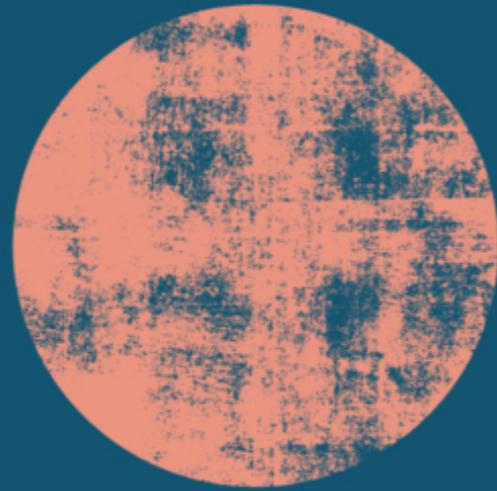
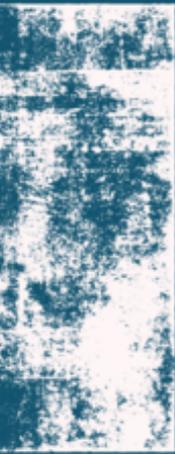
- ▶ Weltanschauung = an all-encompassing worldview
- ▶ “In a Weltanschauung, we start from what is, as being the meaning, in order to step up from the depths to the conception of God; but in Holy Scripture we have to do with Heaven and Earth and with humanity solely in the context of “I believe in God...”





**fundamentals**

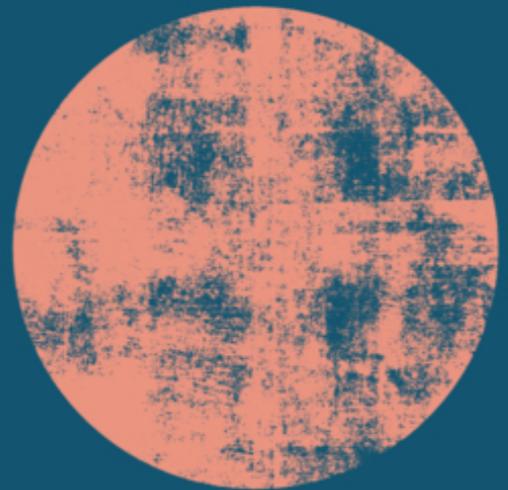
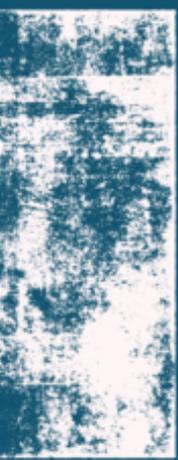
**WHAT DO WE  
MEAN BY “GOD?”**



**fundamentals**

# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “GOD?”

- The object of universal human longing
- The first cause we can deduce from the natural world
- A bigger, better version of ourselves



**fundamentals**

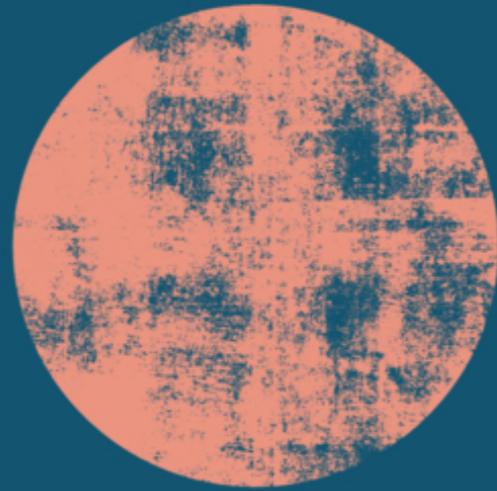
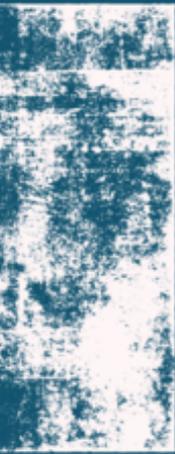
# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "GOD?"

**- Fundamentally  
Other**

**"in excelsis..."**

**-How can you know a God  
who is fundamentally**

**Other?**



**fundamentals**

**HOW CAN WE  
KNOW A GOD  
WHO IS  
FUNDAMENTALLY  
OTHER?**

**-Speculative vs.  
Revealed Religion**

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# SPECULATIVE VS. REVEALED RELIGION

- ▶ **Speculative:** "God is that which nothing greater can be thought."
- ▶ The omnis: God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent...
- ▶ Barth: "God is not an instance within a class."
- ▶ Speculative religion makes God determined by our prior categories and conceptions
- ▶ Barth: Only God can reveal God, and any other god but the revealed God is an idol.
- ▶ God is unsearchable, unknowable, inconceivable...the difference is that between Babel and the Burning Bush

I BELIEVE IN GOD,  
THE FATHER...

“I believe in the God who attests to himself in the Bible.”



fundamentals

# I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER...

**“I believe in the God who attests to himself in the Bible.”**

**This is why the Bible never attempts to prove God.**

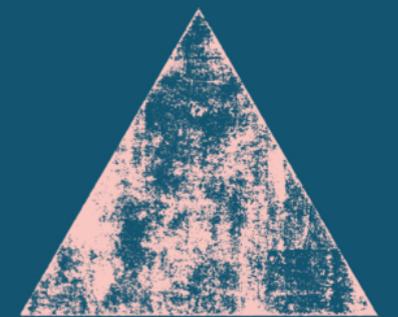
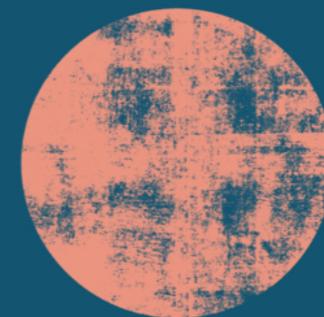
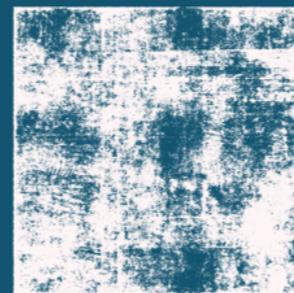


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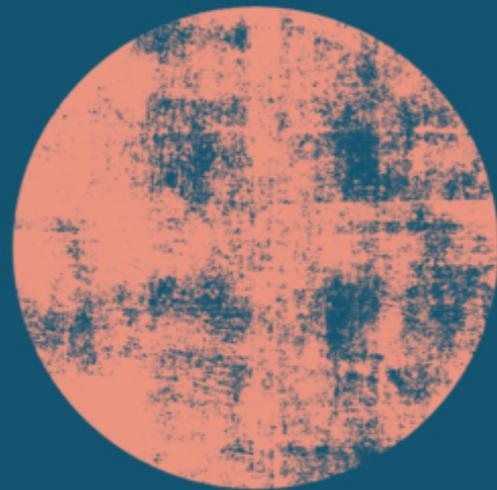
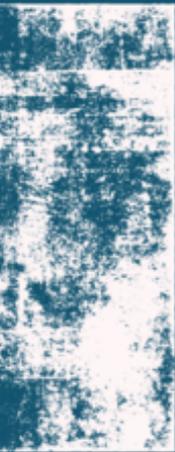
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## I BELIEVE IN THE GOD WHO ATTESTS TO HIMSELF IN THE BIBLE

- ▶ From this, we can make distinctions about how to understand the Bible.
- ▶ If God is the God who reveals himself in the Bible, the Bible is not a book of philosophy or principles.
- ▶ The Bible is a “history” book



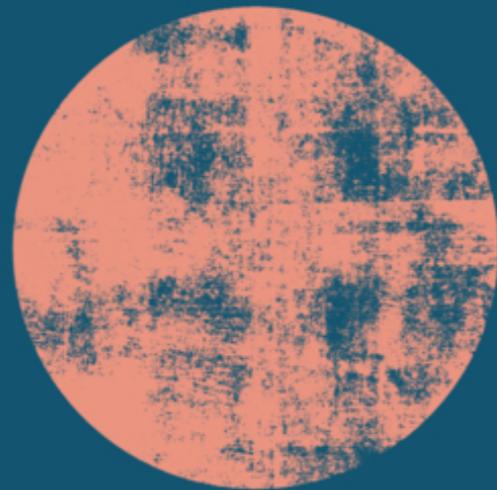
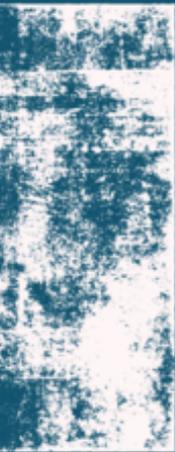
**fundamentals**



**fundamentals**

**THE BIBLE  
WITNESSES TO  
GOD'S WORK IN  
HISTORY.**

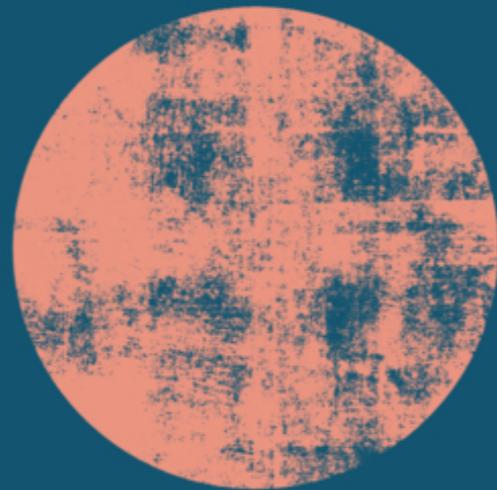
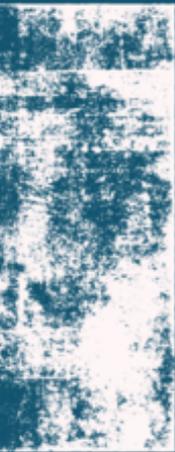
**(SAGA VS. MYTH)**



**fundamentals**

**HISTORY:**

**CREATION  
COVENANT  
CHRIST**



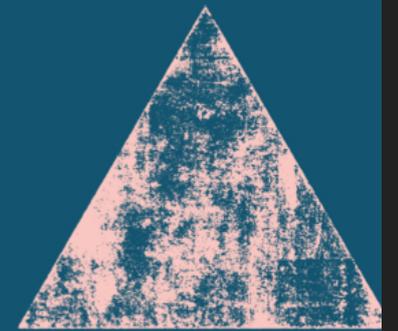
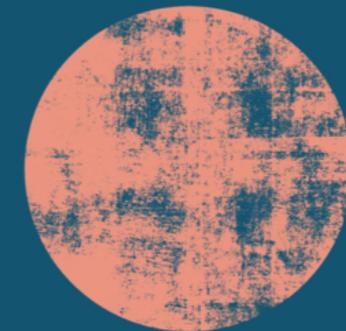
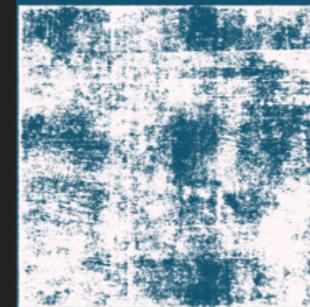
**fundamentals**

# CREATION COVENANT CHRIST

**“THAT WHICH IS  
LAST IS FIRST IN  
INTENTION”**

# LAST IS FIRST IN INTENTION

- ▶ Jesus Christ— and us in him— is the purpose for God’s making Heaven and Earth.
- ▶ In Christ, God elected, prior to creation, not to be God without us. God does love you and have a wonderful plan for your life.
- ▶ Election precedes Creation; therefore, we cannot say “God” without also saying “Jesus Christ.”

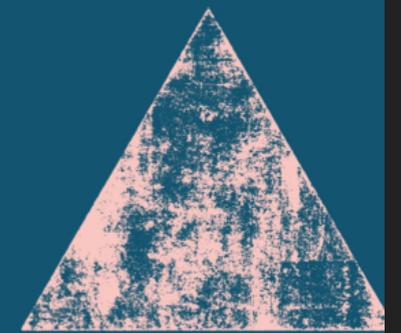
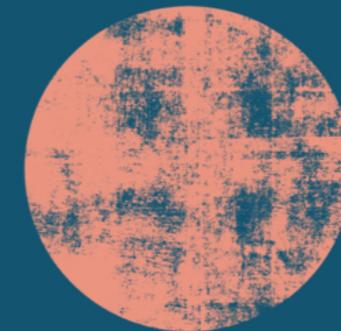
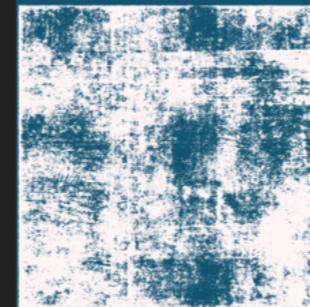


**fundamentals**

# “GOD” = “JESUS”

## PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ There are no general, abstract qualities to God (loving, kind, just) apart from Jesus.
- ▶ “We must always be careful not to tumble from the concrete back into the general.”
- ▶ Our definitions (freedom, compassion, riches, justice, love) all must derive their meaning from God-in-Christ.
- ▶ Versus: “To do justice is to...”

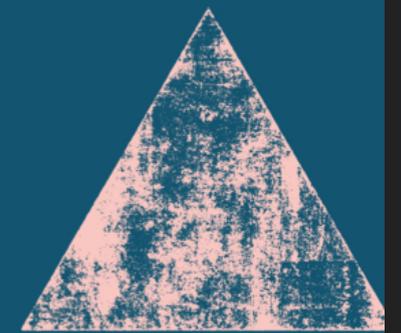
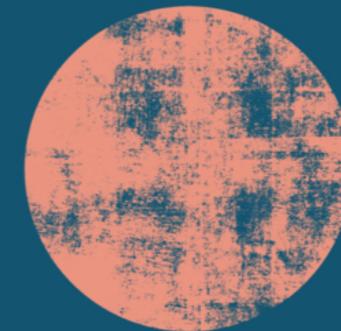
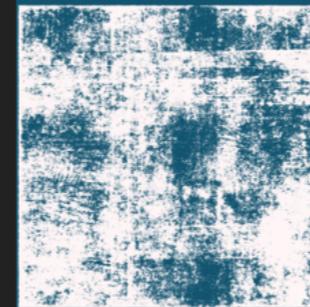


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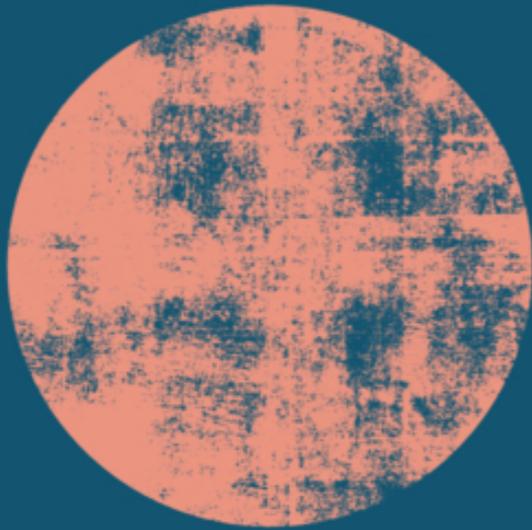
# “GOD” = “JESUS”

## PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ *In excelsis*: God is highest as the Father who sends the Son...
- ▶ “God is highest not in spite of this but in this...his highness is his descending to us as a servant...”
- ▶ “I believe in the God who attests to himself in the Bible” is what the second commandment conveys—God’s revelation is sufficient.

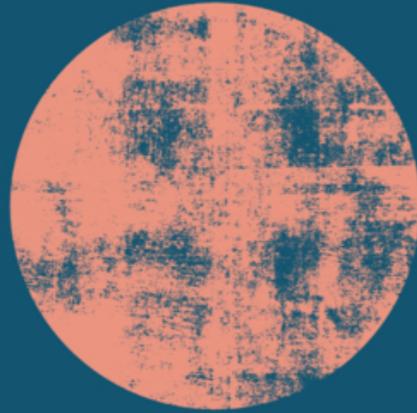
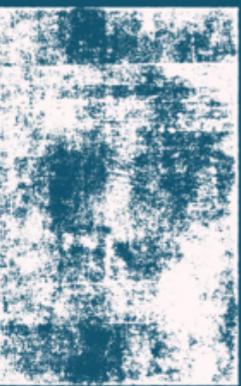


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**fundamentals**

**WHAT DO WE  
MEAN BY  
CALLING GOD THE  
FATHER?**



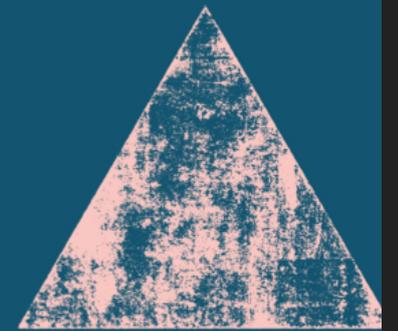
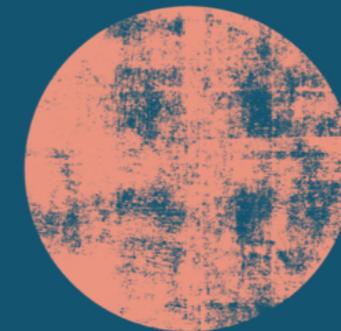
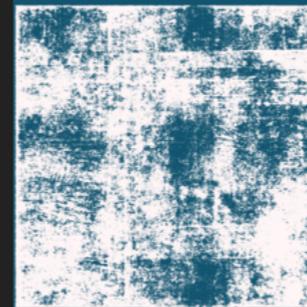
**fundamentals**

**WHAT DO WE  
MEAN BY  
CALLING GOD THE  
FATHER?**

**it's not, our Father  
it's the Father**

# GOD THE FATHER

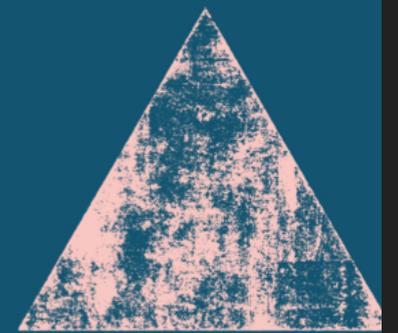
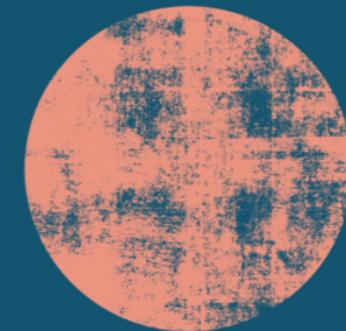
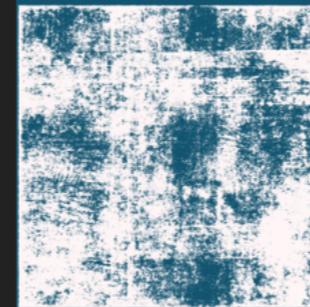
- ▶ Another example of revelation vs. speculation
- ▶ We don't have notions of fatherhood or relationships that correspond in a bigger, better way to God.
- ▶ God has revealed himself to us fully and primarily as the Father of the eternal Son
- ▶ We're creatures of God, after all, not children. We only become children by the Spirit through the Son, ie, baptism.



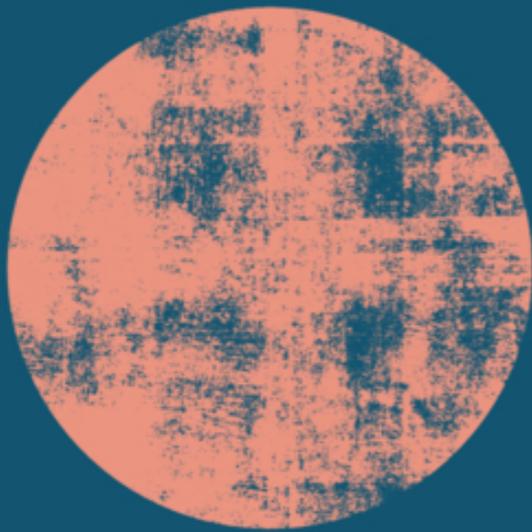
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# GOD THE FATHER

- ▶ “Practically” then, our understandings of fatherhood, relationship, even human nature are derivative of the Father and the Son’s revealed relationship.
- ▶ Trinity:
- ▶ Person = way of being

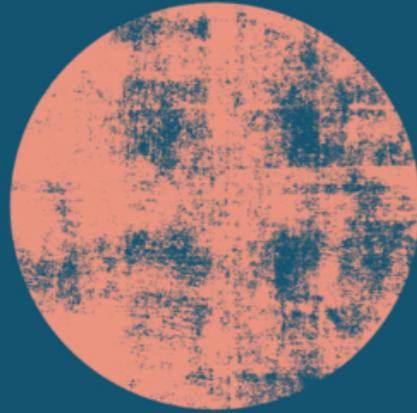
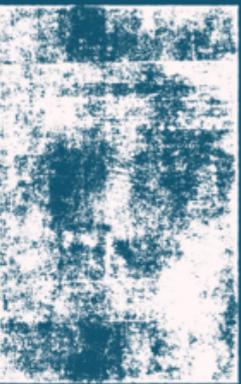


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**WHAT DO WE  
MEAN BY  
CALLING GOD THE  
ALMIGHTY?**



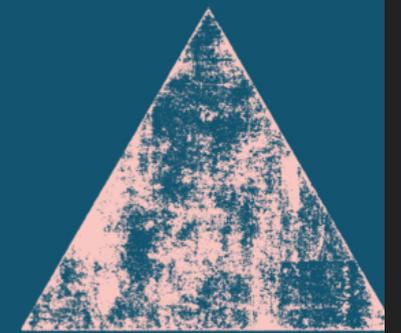
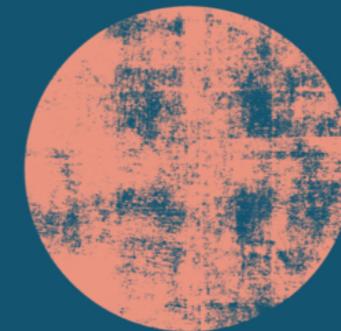
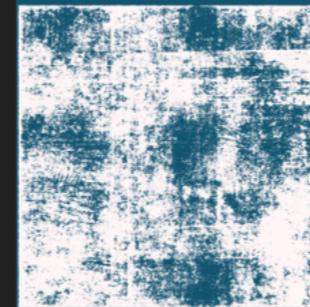
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# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CALLING GOD THE ALMIGHTY?

**The Father comes first**

# GOD THE ALMIGHTY

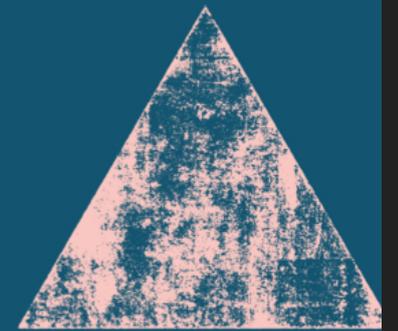
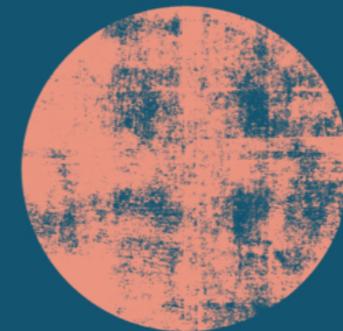
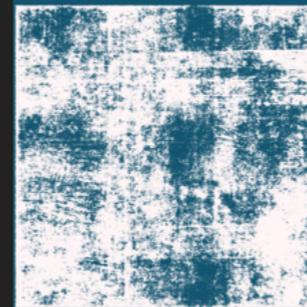
- ▶ God the Father comes first and therefore determines what we understand by Almightyness
- ▶ If God is primarily the Father who has elected to be for us in Christ, then God's Almightyness is his freedom to be gracious.
- ▶ Hitler, notes Barth, loved to speak of God as the Almighty.
- ▶ "We cannot understand from a concept like "power" who God is... power misses God in a terrible way."



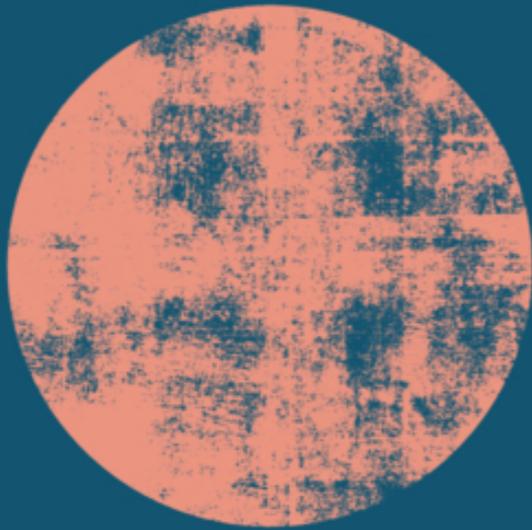
**fundamentals**

# GOD THE ALMIGHTY

- ▶ “The Bible never speaks of God’s power apart from the Law.”
- ▶ The Law is God’s will to be in fellowship with his elect and through them to draw all unto himself; therefore, God’s power is love.
- ▶ The power to lie or to destroy, then, is weakness not power.



**fundamentals**



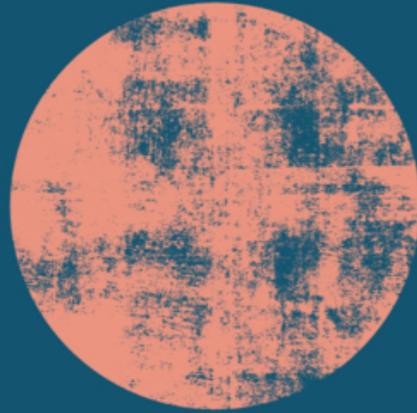
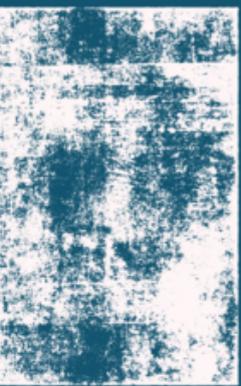
**fundamentals**

**WHAT DO WE  
MEAN BY  
CALLING GOD THE  
CREATOR?**

# THE FIRST ARTICLE IS NOT MORE OBVIOUS THAN THE SECOND ARTICLE

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**“It is not the case that the truth about God the Creator is directly accessible to us and that only the truth of the second article needs a revelation.”**



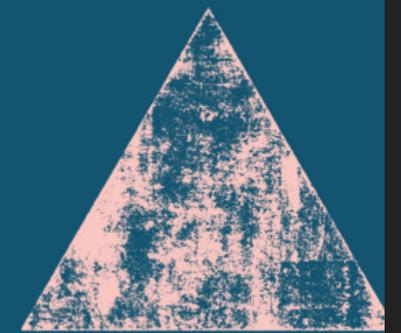
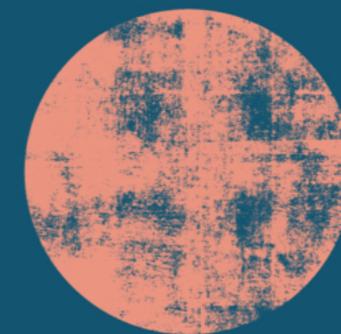
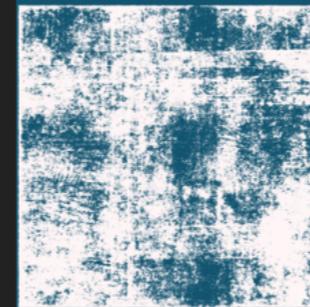
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# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CALLING GOD THE CREATOR?

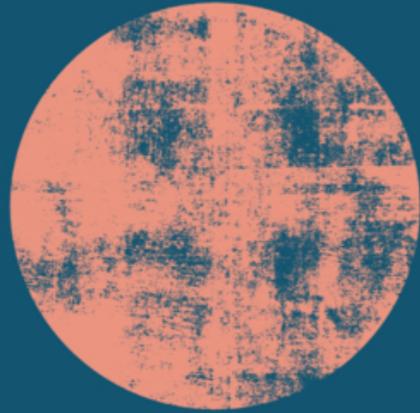
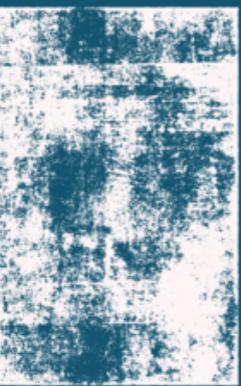
**It's "the Creator" not "I  
believe in the created world  
or the creation."**

# GOD THE CREATOR

- ▶ Origination and Continuation
- ▶ God is the only necessary Being, but there is a reality that is not necessary (God has no need of us!) and is distinct from God (God doesn't beget creation. God speaks into existence from nothingness).
- ▶ Creation = Grace
- ▶ "God is he who does not begrudge the creature its existence."



**fundamentals**



**fundamentals**

# HOW DO WE KNOW REALITY ISN'T AN ILLUSION?

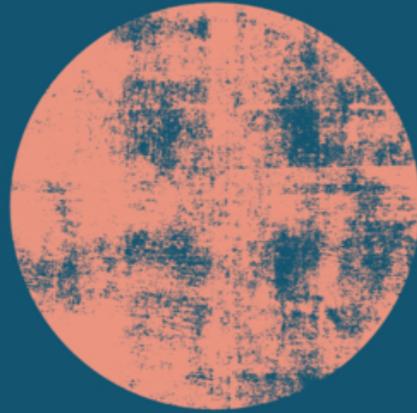
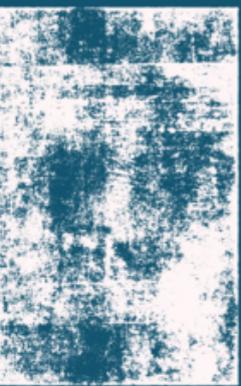
**“Reality is real because God has entered it”**

**“Because God has become man, the existence of creation cannot be doubted.”**

# CHRIST THE CREATOR

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**“The world came into being, it was created and sustained by the little child that was born in Bethlehem, by the Man who died on the Cross of Golgotha, and the third day rose again. That is the Word of creation by which all things were brought into being. That is where the meaning of creation comes from.”**



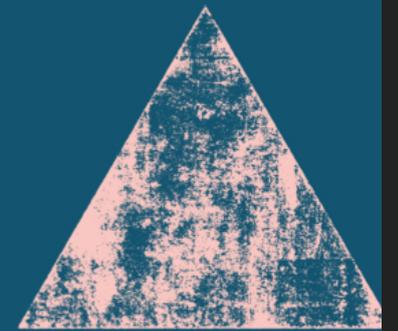
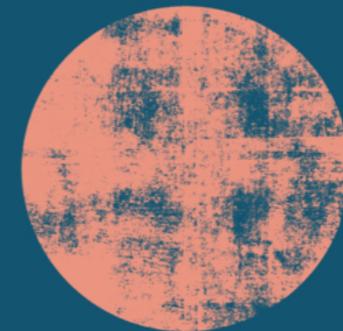
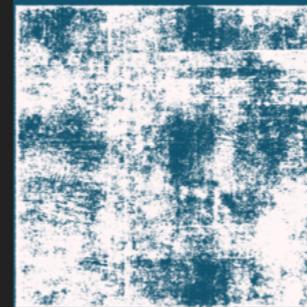
**fundamentals**

# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CALLING GOD THE CREATOR?

**I believe God the Father, the  
Almighty, created ME.**

# HEAVEN AND EARTH

- ▶ Covenant is older than creation; therefore Heaven and Earth are created for the purpose of God becoming the God with us in Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Heaven and Earth are the venue of the event of reconciliation

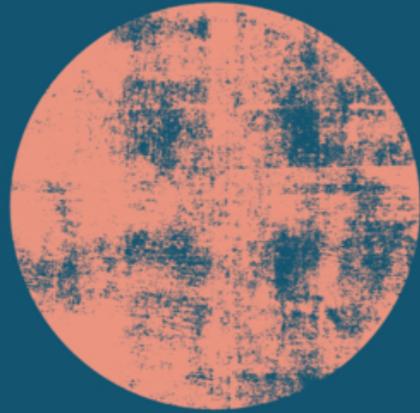
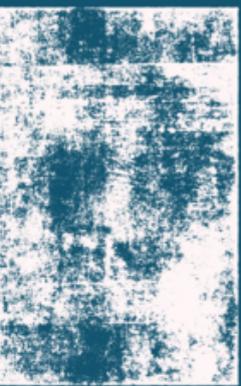


**fundamentals**

# CHRIST THE CREATOR

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**“We would not have said the last decisive word about creation, if we did not add that the covenant between God and humanity is the meaning and the glory, the ground and the goal of heaven and earth and so of the whole creation.”**



**fundamentals**

# WHEN IT COMES TO CREATION, WE ARGUE ABOUT ORIGINS

**For Barth, the End determines  
creation's meaning. All that is bears  
witness to God's gracious  
determination to be God for you in  
Jesus Christ.**