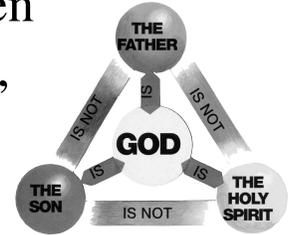


# The Incarnation

**“The Word became flesh”**

John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”



## The vulnerability of God

1.

**He exposes Himself**

to the scrutiny of empirical reason.

2.

**He empties Himself**

of His rights and becomes the least among us.

3.

**He exhibits Himself**

as a guilty sinner for the redemption of His people.

1.

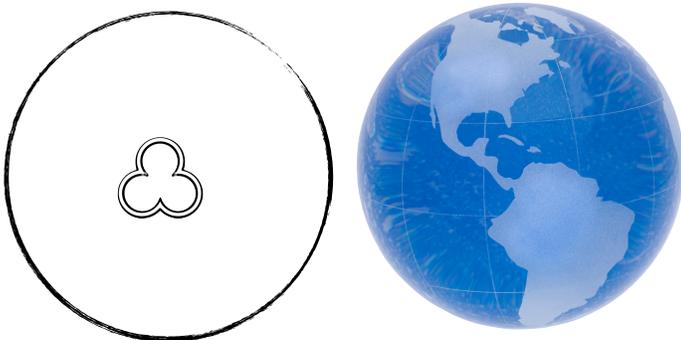
**He exposes Himself**

The living God opens Himself to the empirical world of space, matter, and time and appeals to our rational senses.

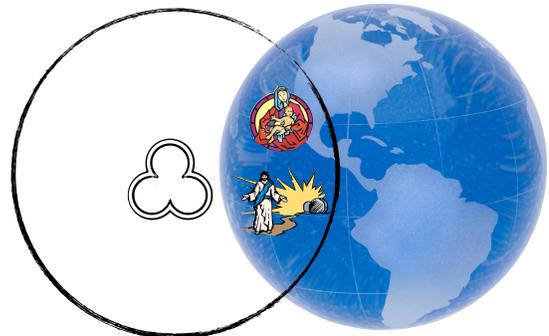
Romans 1:20

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

***The material world and the spiritual world are different spheres of reality.***



***The material world and the spiritual world overlap in the Biblical story.***



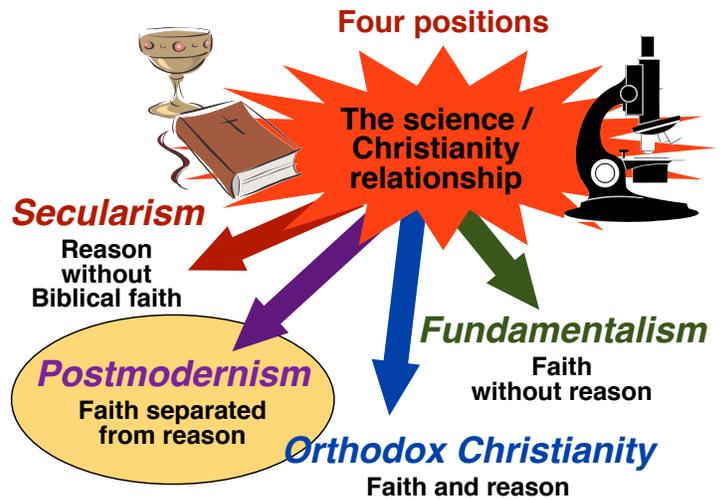
**Christianity and Judaism are unique in that they are rooted in historical events that are open to “rational and empirical” examination.**

**Private experience**

Ethics  
Symbols  
Ceremony  
Philosophy

**Public exposure**

Events  
Miracles  
Incarnation  
History



The “faith” world of subjective values and religion



The “factual” world of objective, natural science, and reason



*When Christianity retreats from this world and reason, it gives up too much.*

The Verification of Christianity

**Christianity is not an escape from reason.**

2.

**He empties Himself**

The living God became a bond-servant to the human race.

**Philippians 2**

“<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

*Don't confuse method with message.*



# The Focus of Ministry

**The incarnation shows us our method not our message.**

3.

## He exhibits Himself

The living God puts Himself under the Law with its curse.

Galatians 4

“<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law. <sup>5</sup> in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”



Ephesians 2:15

“ . . . by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances,”

## What did Jesus do with the Law?



**He elevated its standard**

“You have heard it said, but I say . . .”

**He raised the bar so that all would be humbled.**

**He embraced its sanctity**

“I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

**All that it demanded was fulfilled by Him.**

**He eliminated its sting**

“abolishing in His flesh the enmity”

**He set all believers free from the Law's Covenant curse.**

**Above the Law**  
(Libertines)

**Free from the Law**  
(Christians)



**Outside the Law**  
(Gentiles)

**Under the Law**  
(Jews)

## The Dignity of Man

**In bearing our cross we exchange the power of one kingdom for that of another.**