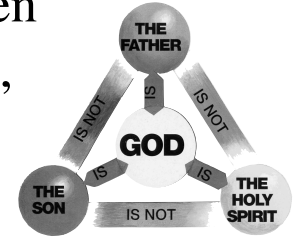


The Incarnation

**“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.

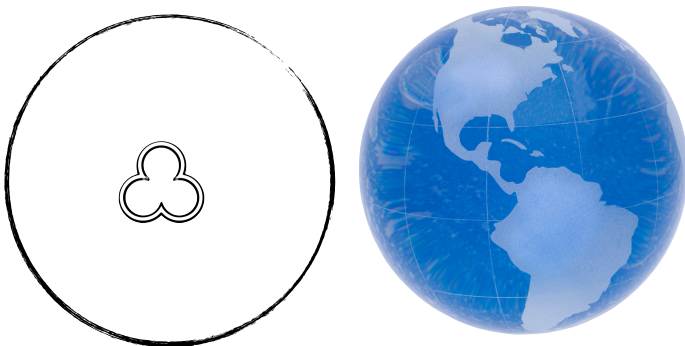
He exposes Himself

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

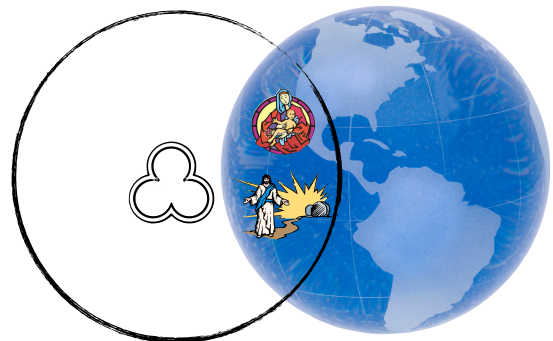
Romans 1:20

“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.***



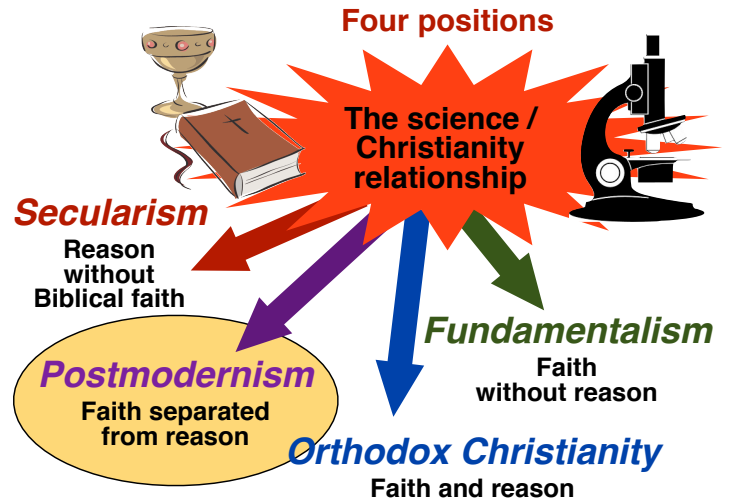
Christianity and Judaism are unique in that they are rooted in historical events that are open to “rational and empirical” examination.

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

“^s Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ 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.

Method
Christmas

Identification with sinners
humility and sacrifice

Message
Easter



The Word of the Cross
redemption from sin

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

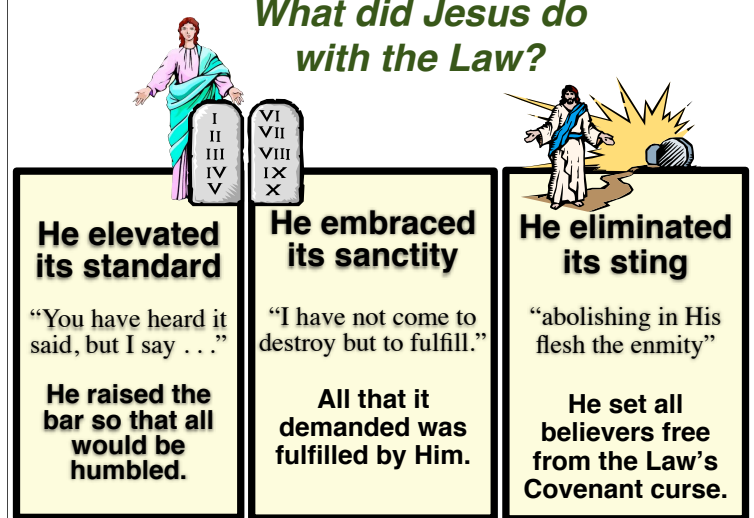
“⁴ But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law. ⁵ in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”



Ephesians 2:15

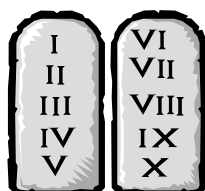
“ . . . by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances,”

What did Jesus do with the Law?



**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.