

The Glory of God in Logic

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Importance of Logic

All pedestrians can be killed by speeding buses.
I am a pedestrian.
Therefore, I can be killed by speeding buses.

A. Foundations of Logic



Logical Deduction

All dogs are animals.

All collies are dogs.

Therefore, all collies are animals.

true

valid

All dogs are animals.

All collies are animals.

Therefore, all collies are dogs.

true

invalid

Logical Deduction (Invalid)

All dogs are animals.

true

All collies are animals.

Therefore, all collies are dogs.

invalid

All dogs are animals.

untrue

All cats are animals.

Therefore, all cats are dogs.

invalid

Logical Deduction (Valid)

All dogs are blue.

untrue

All mammals are dogs.

Therefore, all mammals are blue.

valid

Validity is logical validity
of the deduction, not saying
whether the premises are true.

Validity

What is Validity?

Validity holds independent of dogs
or being blue.

Validity is independent
of the world

Laws of logic govern validity

Logical Deduction (General)

Premise 1: All Bs are As.

Premise 2: All Cs are Bs.

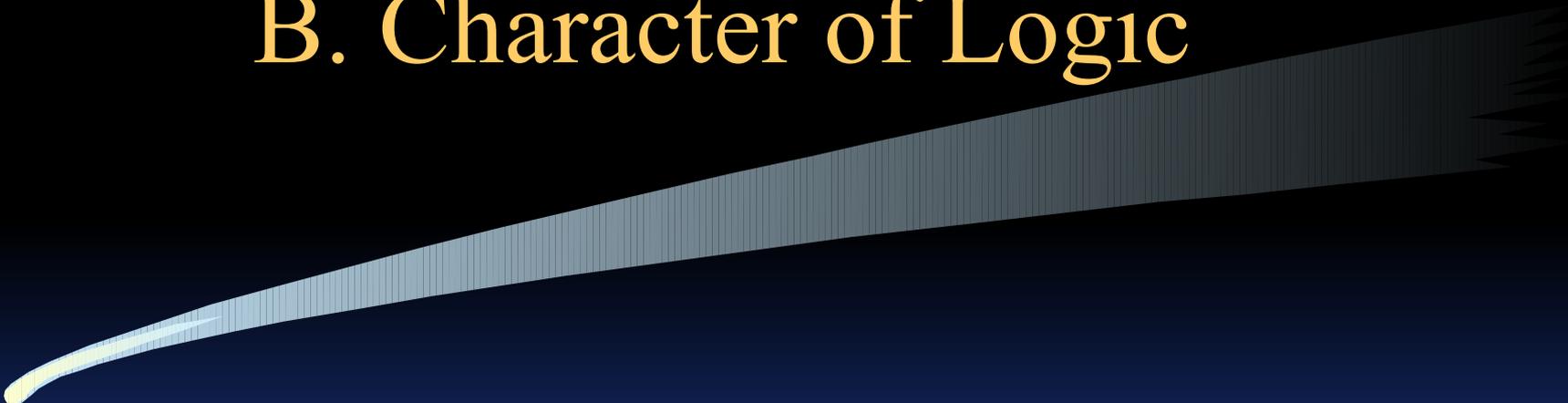
Conclusion: Therefore, all Cs are As.

may or may
not be true

valid

Validity holds independent of dogs
or being blue.

B. Character of Logic



Laws of Logic

all places



omnipresent

all times



eternal

not changing



immutable

Characteristics of Law

- Immaterial
- Invisible
- Omnipotent
- Truthful
- Transcendent
- Immanent



characteristics
of God

Is the Law Personal?

law



law-giver

rational



only persons
can reason

language-like



only persons
use language

Further Characteristics of Law

- Good
- Beautiful
- Righteous

Does God Clearly Reveal Himself?

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. – Rom. 1:20

C. Understanding God's Law



God's Speech (= Law)

Language involves:

speaker

word

breath

power to send
out and effect

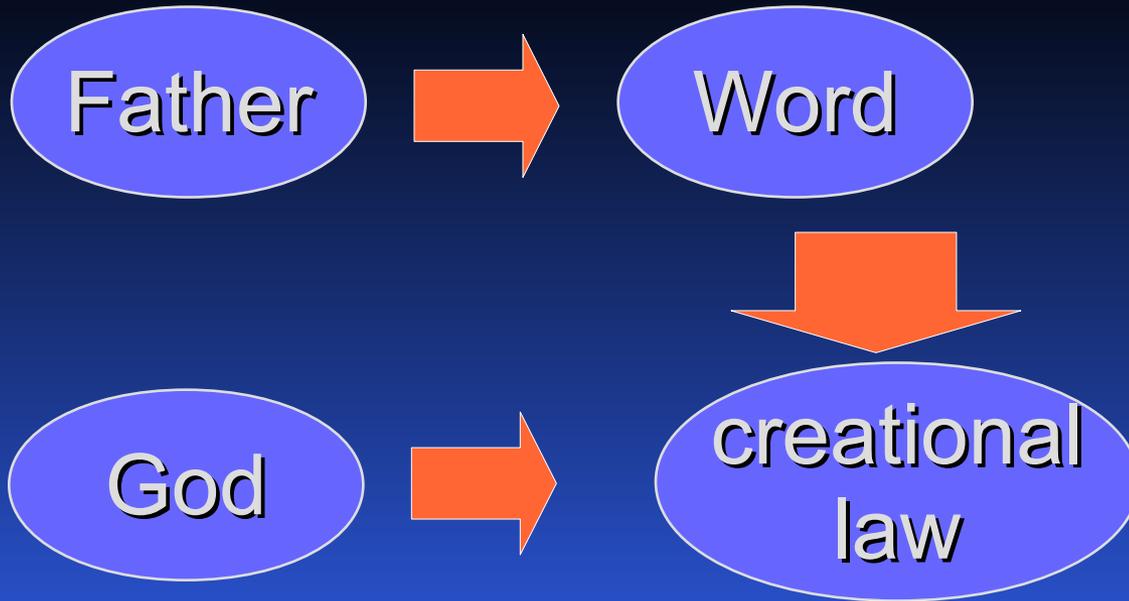
Father

Word

The Word Who Is God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

God Ruling



expression of
the Father in
the Word

rational,
articulate,
harmonious

The Spirit of God

Language involves:

speaker

word

breath

power to send
out and effect

Father

Word

Spirit

Spirit and Breath

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
(Ps. 33:6)

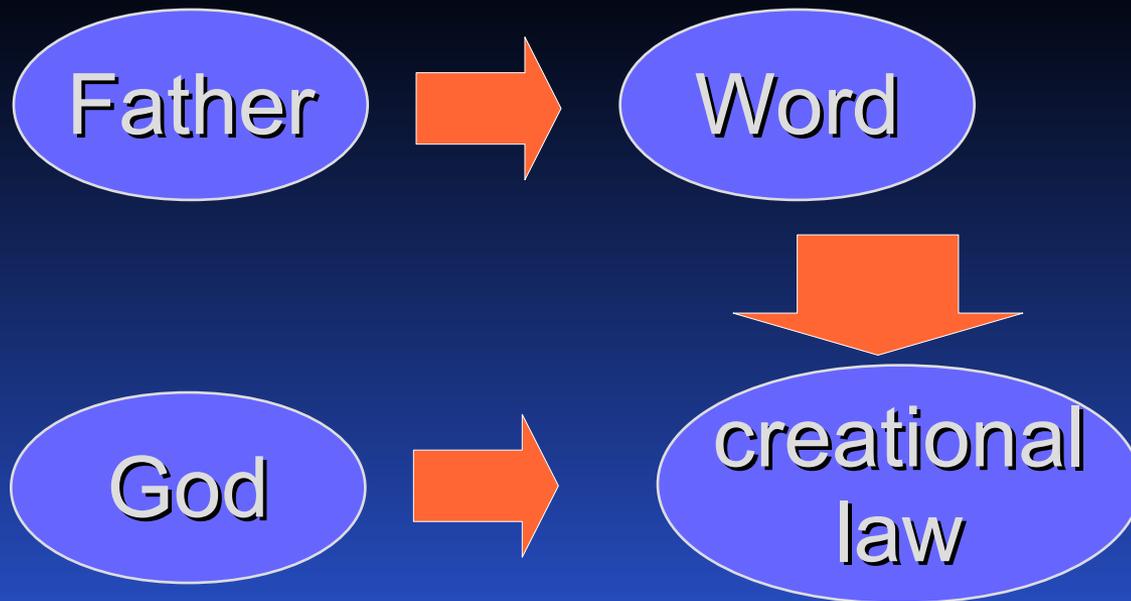


Hebrew:
ruach



also, Spirit

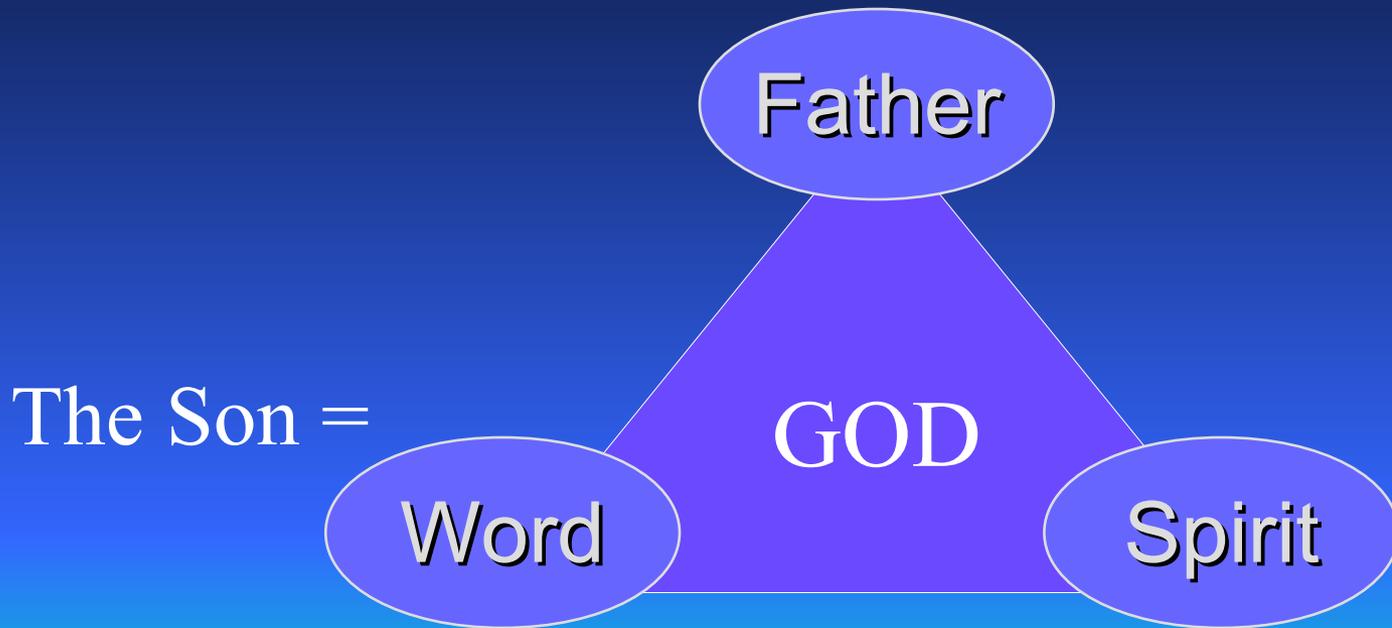
God Ruling through His Spirit



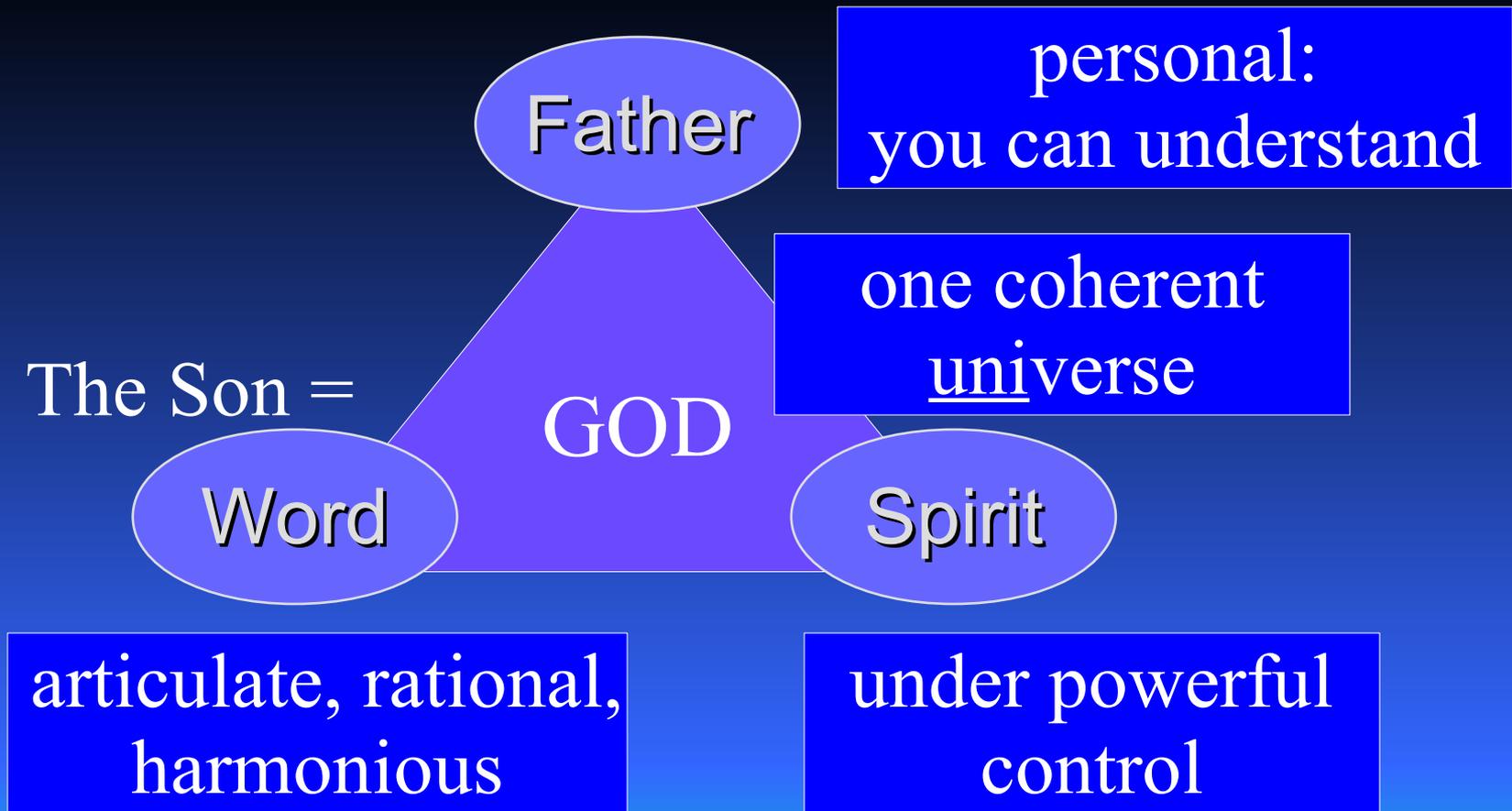
expression of the Father
in the Word
through the Spirit

under
perfect
control

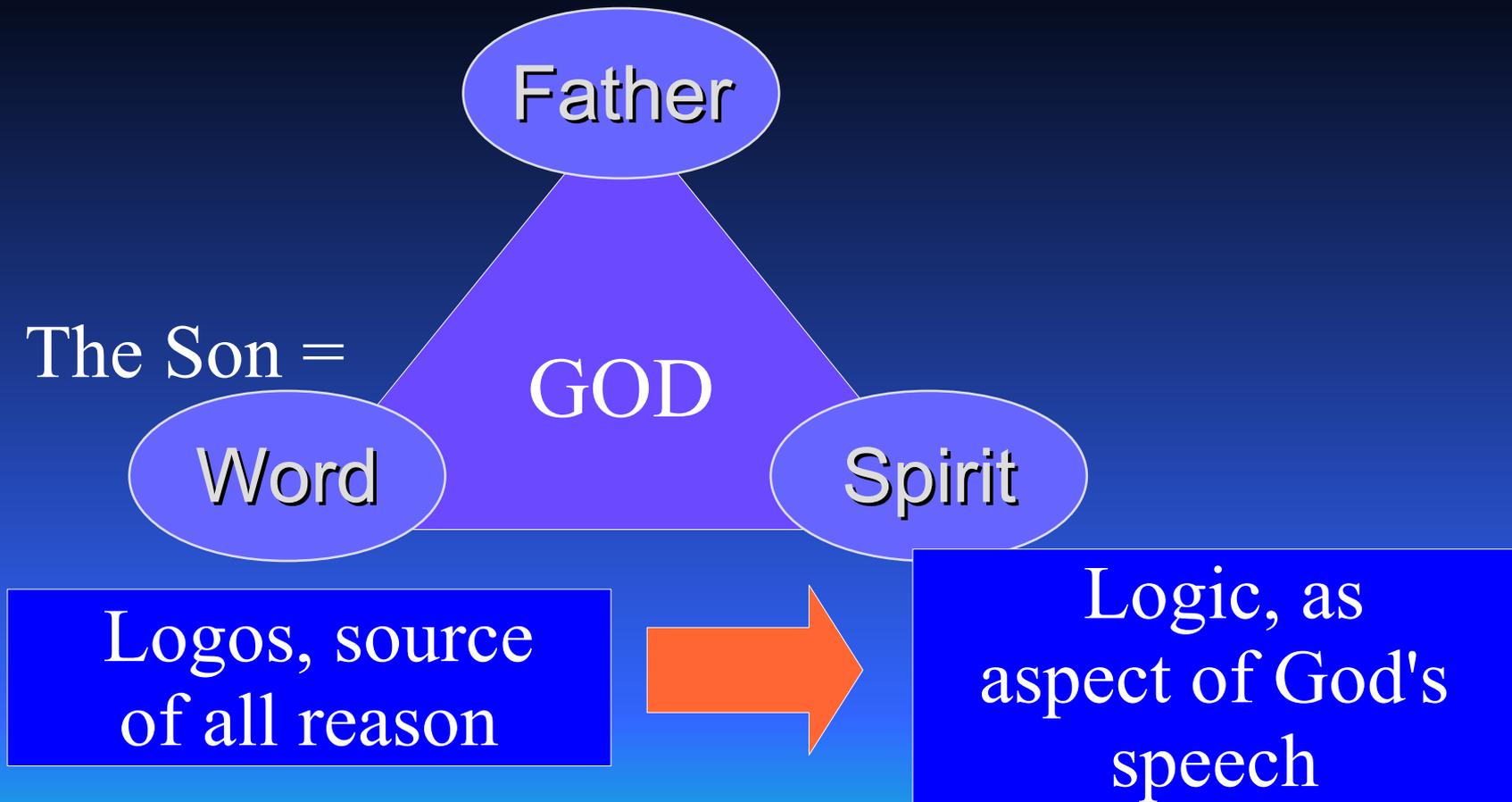
God Exists in Three Persons



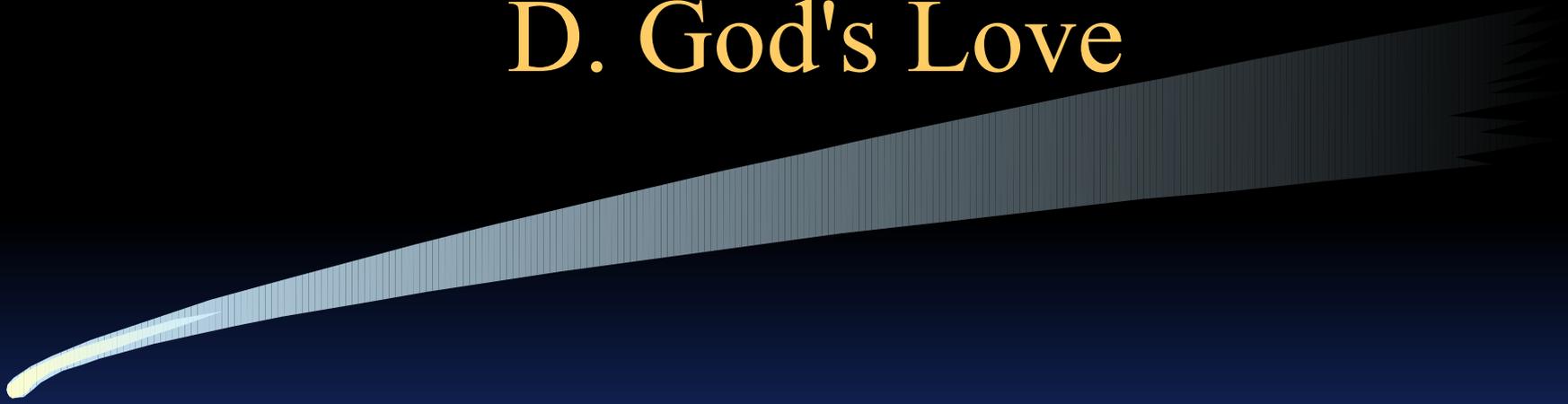
Implications for Logic



Logic and Mystery



D. God's Love



God Revealing Himself in Creation

God



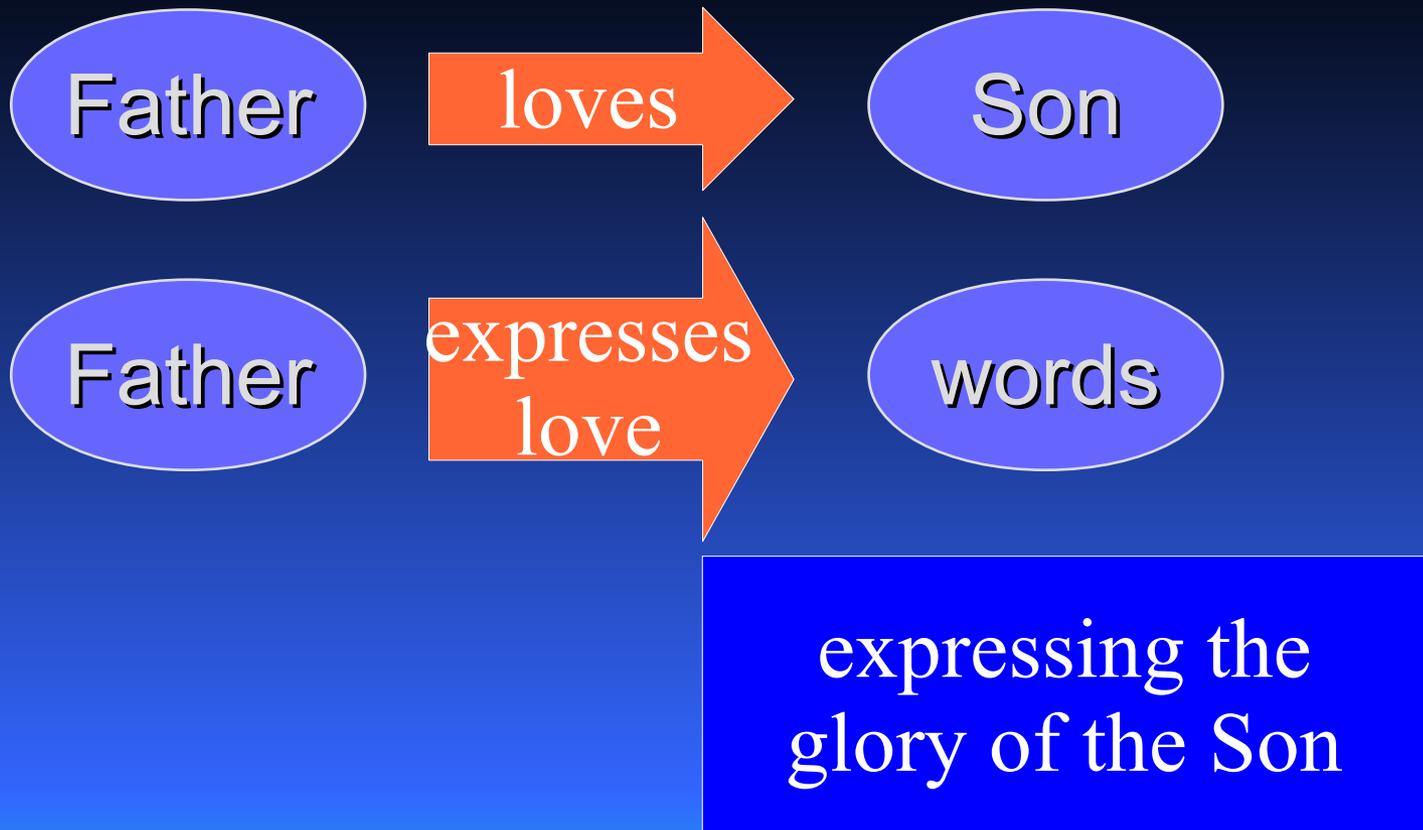
creational
law



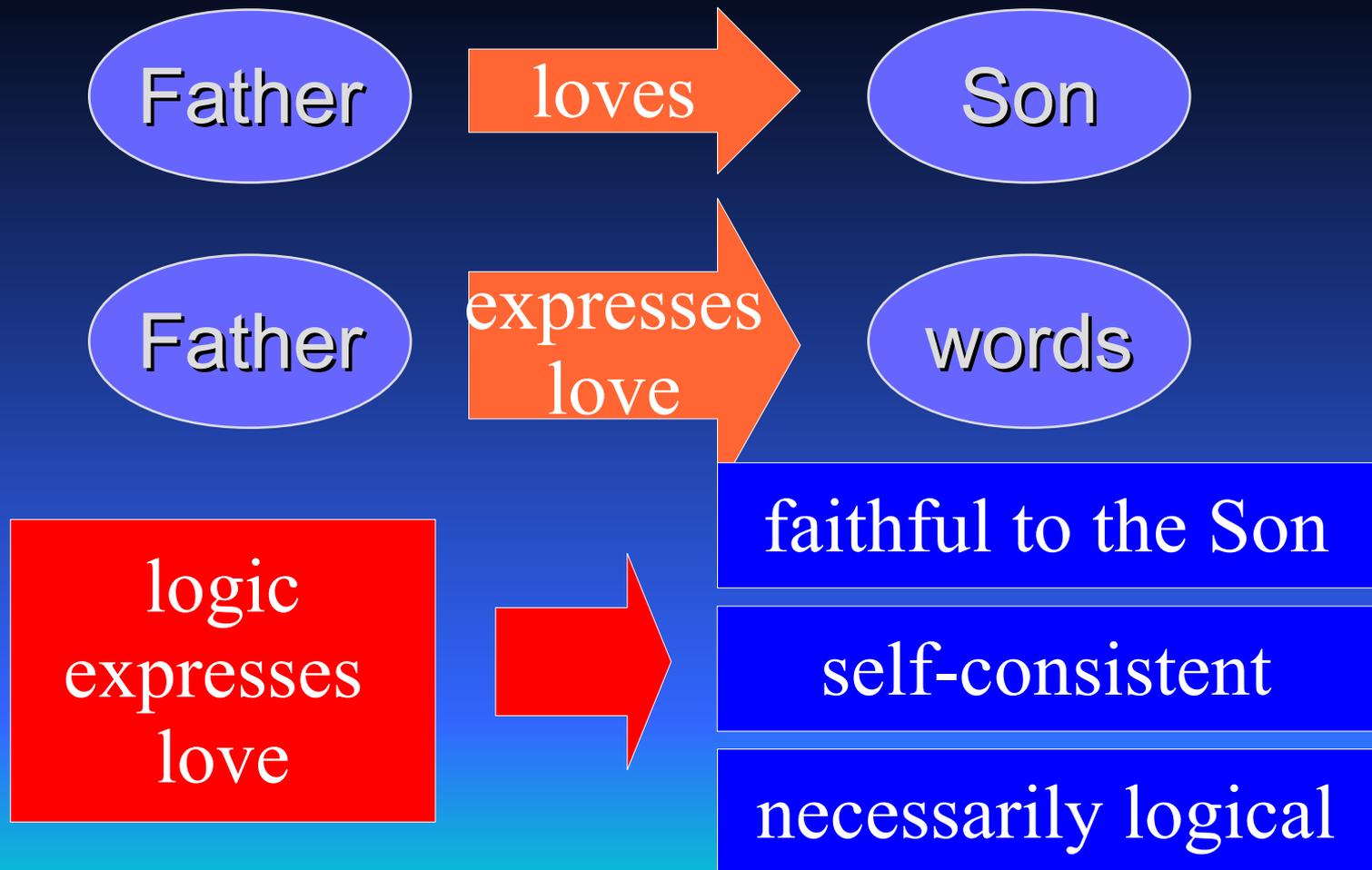
expression of the Father
in the Son
through the Spirit

**reflects the Word;
stimulates worship
of God**

God's Love



God's Love Expressed



Omni-Powerful

- Can God do anything at all?
- "He cannot deny himself" (2 Tim. 2:13)
- Biblical power: "He does all that he pleases" (Ps. 115:3)
- What he wants, consistent with his character.

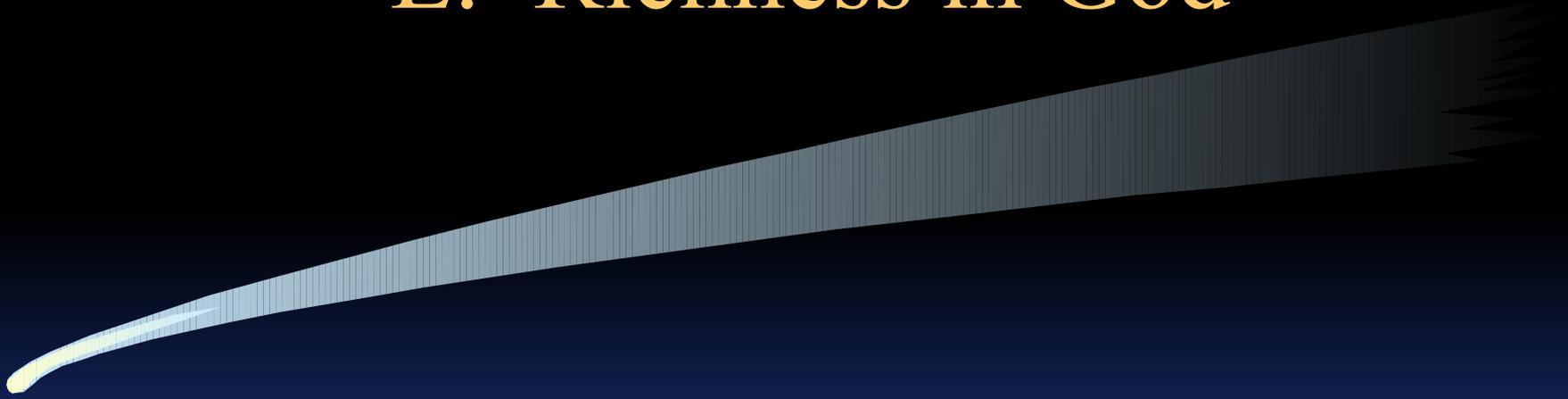
God's Will

All the inhabitants of the earth are
accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will
among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand or say to him,
"What have you done?" (Dan. 4:35)

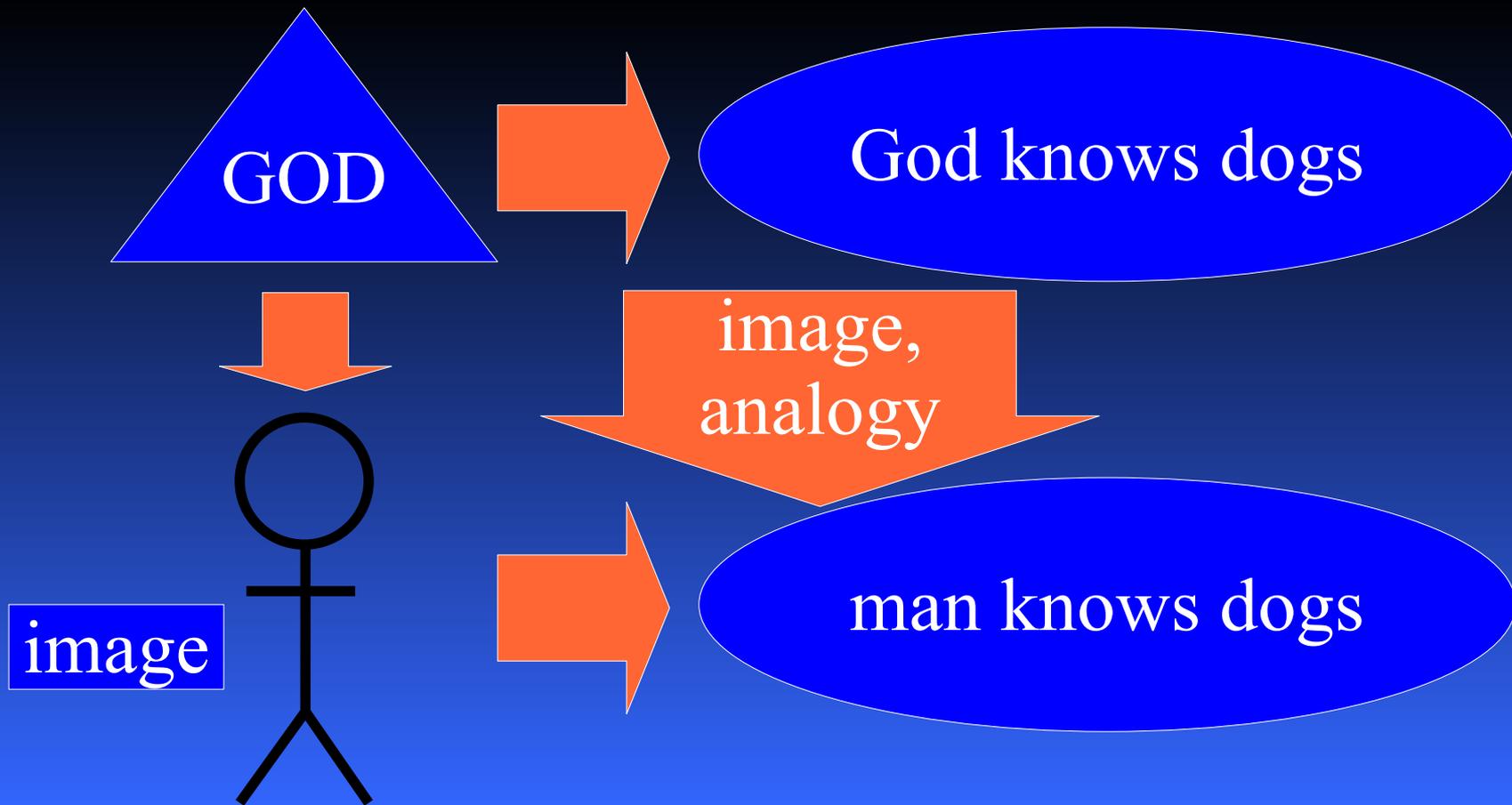
God's Ability

- Can God make a rock so big he cannot lift it?
- No.
- Use a biblical definition of omnipotence.
- Use a biblical conception of God's self-consistency.

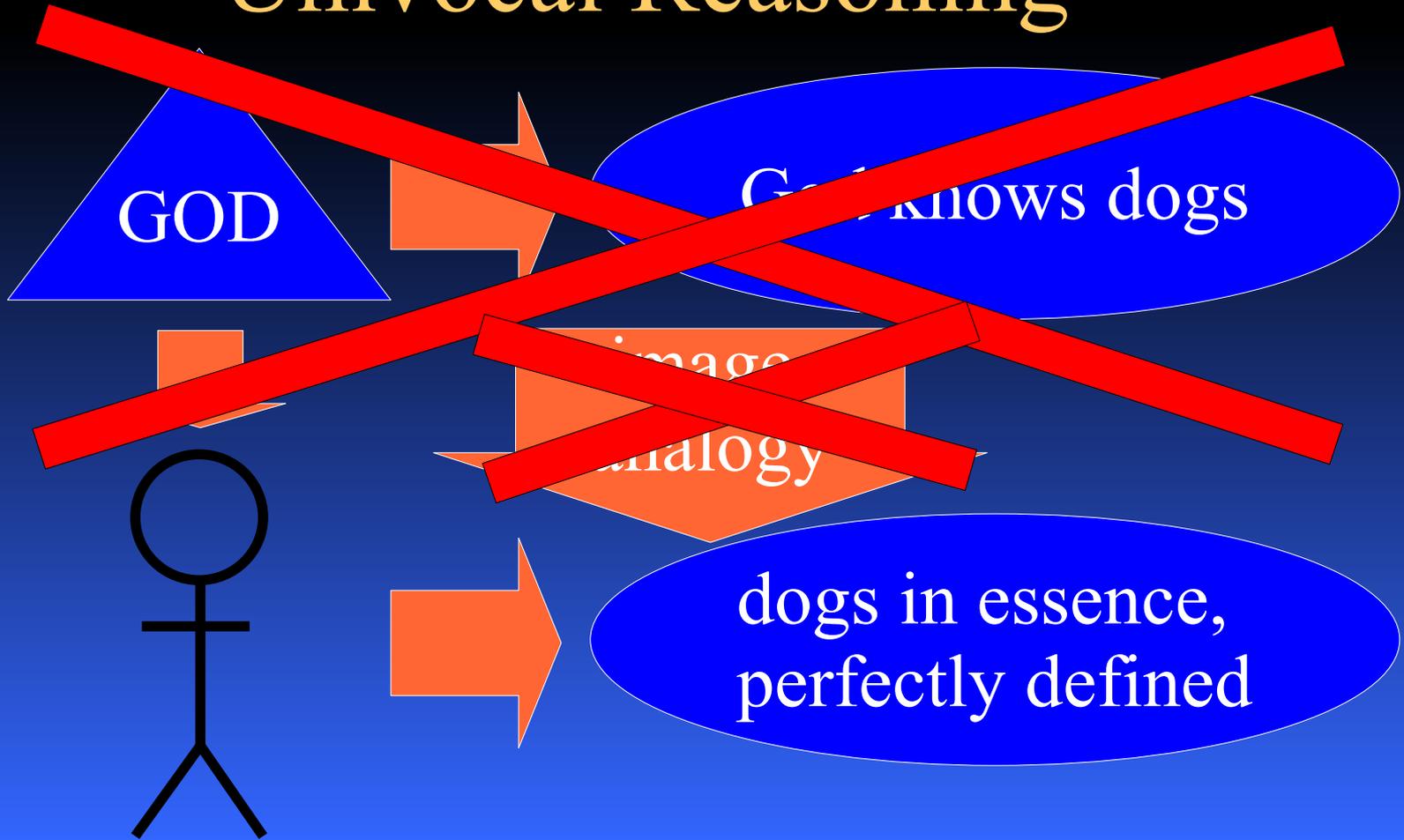
E. Richness in God



Analogy



Univocal Reasoning



Univocal Logic

dogs in essence,
perfectly defined



logic reasoning
on essences

Contrasts in Reasoning

Univocal

- One level
- Man defines
- Man controls
- No mystery
- Autonomous logic

Analogical

- Two levels
- God defines
- God controls
- Mystery
- Christian logic

Difficulty with Language

All **tails** are parts of animals.

The back end of an airplane is a **tail**.

Therefore, the back end of an airplane is a part of an animal.

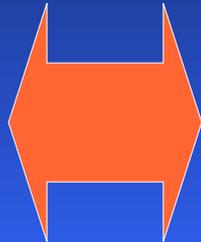
equivocal

analogy
appreciated
by context:
not by pure form

Two Views of Deduction

All designed things have a designer.
The universe is a designed thing.
Therefore, the universe has a designer

univocal,
pure,
controlled,
unmysterious,
formal



analogical,
interlocked,
divinely controlled,
mysterious,
contextual

Two Views of Design

"design"

univocal,
pure,
controlled,
unmysterious

finite designer

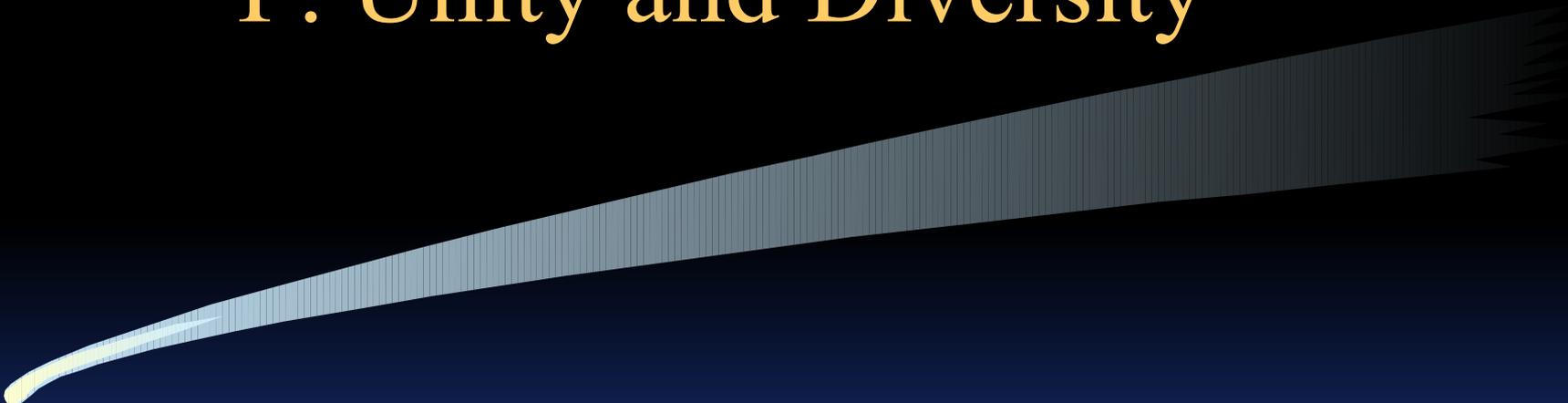


"design"

analogical,
interlocked,
divinely controlled,
mysterious,
contextual

infinite Designer

F. Unity and Diversity



Unity and Diversity

GOD



dog

One God; three Persons

one species;
many individuals

Interdependence

GOD

one species;
many individuals



dog

defined by
known by

dogs

dogs

dogs

dogs

dogs

dogs

defined by
known by

Alleged Pure Abstracts

ideal essence
giving power

dog

diversity
ignored

dogs

dogs

dogs

diversity
subsumed?

dogs

dogs

dogs

Or No Real Unity

unreal;
mere name

dog???

diversity
ultimate

dogs

dogs

dogs

dogs

dogs

dogs

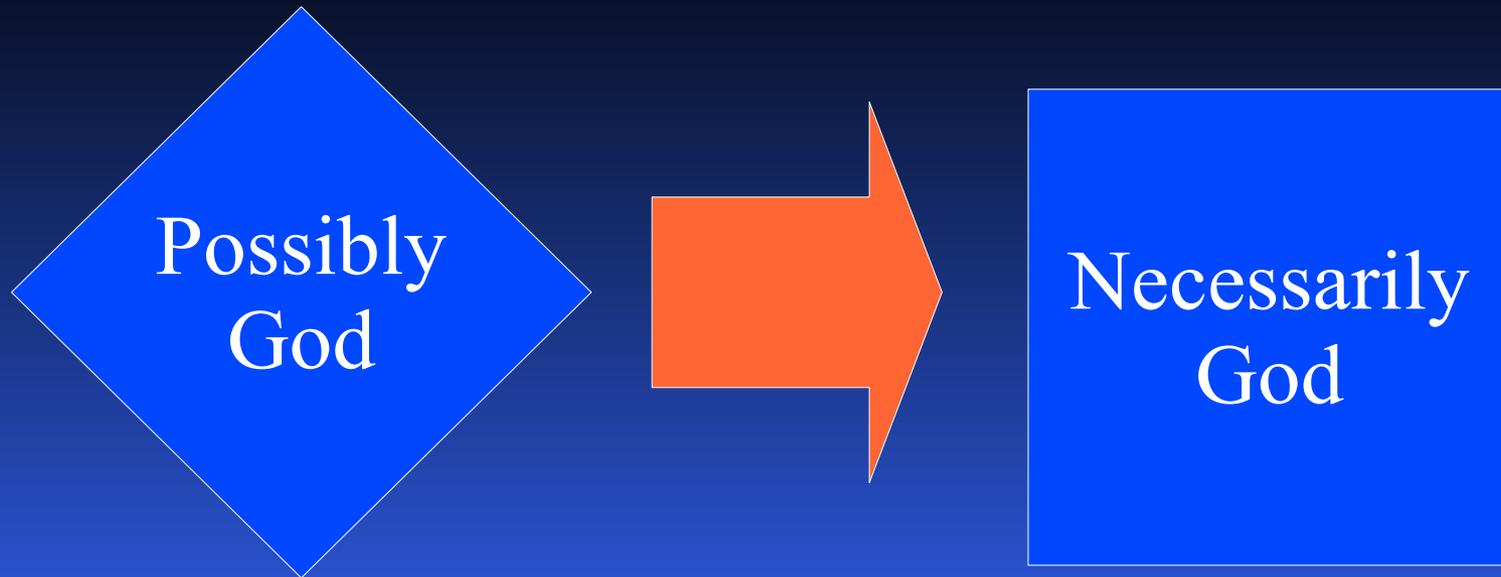
Contrasts in Unity

- Man ultimate
- Creation irrelevant
- Pure unity
- Just "there"
- No mystery
- Logic working on pure unities
- God ultimate
- Creator and creature
- Unity and diversity
- Ordained by God
- Mystery
- Logic recognizing unity and diversity

G. Example from Modal Logic



Proving God?



Steps toward Necessity

- God is a most excellent being
- Who necessarily exists.
- God possibly exists.
- Hence, God necessarily exists.

Dependence on God

- Necessity – God's love and character
- Possibility – God's creativity
- Possible worlds – God's will to create
- Human survey of possibility worlds –
image of God thinking in imitation of God
- Modal logic reflecting God's rationality
- Models imitating God's creativity

Models



Models as Limited



Knowledge of God's Logic

- We know God truly, including God's rationality.
- We know God as creatures.
- God is the standard.

H. God's Recovering Love



God Reaching Out to Us

God's design
for us



loss



recovery

Romans 1:19-20

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

our design

Romans 1:21-23

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

our loss

Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

rebels guilty
of fleeing

the Word, the Son

our recovery

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

the Word,
the Logos

human access

divine wonder

undeserving

our recovery