

God, Man, Freedom and Works

	<u>Theism</u>	<u>Pantheism</u>	<u>Deism</u>	<u>Materialism</u>	<u>Existentialism</u>
<u>Theology</u> (study of God)	Creator is personal – has a will, dispenses justice, mercy, grace, is loving, approachable, controls all by providence.	Nothing is uniquely created, all is led by random outside forces. God is in the world and the world is God.	God has created all things but is personally unknowable. “God is placed outside the doors of his own house, and is not allowed to intervene in the life and acts of [man] who is now sovereign in that house.” (Hoeksema)	Denies existence/relevance of a God Religion is psychological and benevolent	God is unknowable and, therefore, cruel and distant. He is to blame for the presence of evil and misery.
<u>Science</u> (presuppositions)	The duty of man before God – to manipulate creation and re-create for the glory of God and the benefit of man.	Man is just part of the mystery, the “wave of the ocean”, a small part of the whole. Discovery and development of the world ultimately irrelevant.	Man is able to discover all things	All that can be discovered, developed, employed for preservation/benefit of the many over against the needs/value of the few. (Survivor mentality)	
<u>Cosmology</u> (study of the universe)	created order is <i>opus dei</i> . Creation reflects God’s moral character, but is separate & distinct from created order. Created order has an unchangeable purpose and destiny, a beginning and an end.	No Creator, no purpose - what exists is from a mysterious and chaotic storm/crisis where even complex things have come by happenstance and the unexplainable (superstition).	Order is from an amazing and traceable chain of events over a measured period of time leaving a distinguishable pedigree; order is also free to be manipulated.	Purpose/meaning is what man imposes upon it, otherwise it is meaningless.	
<u>Epistemology</u> (study of knowledge/reality)	Man’s reason, as well as creation, is cursed and, therefore, flawed. Good and bad exist in relation to the moral nature of God, creation and the gospel of redemption.	Good/evil is only experience; fairness is the natural balance between the two. Any and all wisdom comes through mysticism and experience.	Man possesses the “gifts” of reason/feelings – he is in the noble position of manager of the universe & uses both “gifts” to guide his thinking. World is rational, subject to examination yielding facts, principles, laws.	world/reality is logical, closed, and available.	
<u>Anthropology</u> (study of man)	man is made in God’s image and has an eternal soul. Man is responsible/accountable to God. He is not sovereign in his freedom. All perceived truth, absolutes, values, and morals are measured against God’s attributes, laws and purposes.	All value ultimately unknowable: true for you, true for me; “whatever”; world is irrational, therefore: “anything goes”.	Man is top of evolutionary food chain but is subject to predetermination, calculable odds, value is considered sociologically.	Man is a bag of chemicals determined by nature/nurture.	Man exists. He rebels against God and hates him. He is not bound by any laws for righteousness, good or responsibility. His will becomes power.
<u>Sociology</u> (study of society)	Law based on unchanging character of the Creator; the “one” is just as valuable as the “many”; Society is to have productive/accountable form and function.	no objective standard, just cultural convention, tradition; might makes right; no substantial basis for law – no order in the universe, therefore, no basis for law/order in society	Man is the measure of all things. He is absolutely free. Reality is “democratic” in favor of the “common good”, but rule is left to the capable few – the “experts”, the philosophers, the oligarchs.	He is subject to power and being victimized. All “rights” and equality are his but only through strength and manipulation of others.	
<u>Culture</u> (religion externalized)					