**02 - Who is God?**

Society and God – Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.

2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.

3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.

4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.

5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

Other misconceptions:

God is just a powerful being within the universe

Animism is the belief that certain spirits inhabit animals, plants, rivers, mountains and trees in the physical world.

God is the first cause.

God is singular, there can be no other like Him.

God is creator and sustainer.

God is perfection.

God cannot be other than who He is.

God can be deduced from nature, for His mark is on nature.

Bible: In the beginning, God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God creates by His “word” – He thinks, and it is.

“If God had drawn the world from pre-existent matter, what would be so extraordinary in that? A human artisan makes from a given material whatever he wants, while God shows his power by starting from nothing to make all he wants.” - St. Theophilus of Antioch, Ad Autolycum II (c.175 A.D.)

It is important to acknowledge that God was in no way constrained to create: He has existed from all eternity as infinite blissful communion between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is wrong to imagine that God needed to create the universe because He was lonely or to increase His glory or otherwise suffered some lack. He would have been just as blissful, loving and glorious had He chosen never to create at all.

God is father, even though He is neither male nor female.

The father comes from the “outside,” and the mother welcomes the father into herself.

The ovum produced by the mother awaits the father’s sperm cell, and the union of the two produces the child’s body. The child then grows up with her mother, unable to see her father’s face until birth.

God also plays a “Fatherly” role in every conception – coming from outside of all creation to breathe a spirit, an intellectual soul, into the child at the instant of his/her physical conception.

All of God’s actions come from “the outside” so to speak, and in this way are Fatherly. The Church on the other hand – and the individual souls that make it up – is the part of creation that has received God into itself and allowed him to bring forth new supernatural life.

In this analogy, whether biologically male or female, each human soul resembles the feminine. This explains why Scripture refers to the Church as Christ’s Bride (Eph.5:22-23), and the Mother of the faithful (Rev.12:17).

Scripture and Tradition affirm that God is intimately involved in the affairs of the world and, furthermore, that He continually holds the world in existence at every second.

As Job stated, “If He should take back His spirit to Himself, and gather to Himself His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust” (Job 34:14-15).

Because God is supremely good, everything He creates is good, as an effect always bears a resemblance to its cause, and God, who is Goodness, is not able to bring forth anything evil.

Thus, all things created by God are good, insofar as they exist and are made by Him.

As St. Thomas Aquinas says, “Every being that is not God is God's creature. Now every creature of God is good and God is the greatest good. Therefore, every being is good” (STh I, 5, iii).

God is beyond any description that we could give – the minute you describe God, you have limited Him in ways that He is not limited.