

## Theology Proper — God's Spirituality

### I. SCRIPTURAL — *Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.*

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (Jn. 4:24)

- A. GOD'S TRUE WORSHIPERS KNOW GOD'S TRUE CHARACTER.
- B. GOD'S TRUE WORSHIP CORRESPONDS WITH GOD'S TRUE CHARACTER.
- C. GOD'S TRUE CHARACTER IS SPIRITUAL.
- D. GOD'S TRUE WORSHIP MUST, THEREFORE, BE SPIRITUAL.
  - 1. WORSHIP IN SPIRIT
  - 2. WORSHIP IN TRUTH

### II. DOCTRINAL — *Summarizing the teaching of Scripture as a whole.*

- A. DOCTRINAL THESIS: *God's essence is SPIRITUAL; that is, IMMATERIAL.*
- B. DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIONS
  - 1. DIVINE ESSENCE, NOT DIVINE PERSON(S)
  - 2. DIVINE ESSENCE, NOT DIVINE IMAGE
  - 3. NARROW SENSE, NOT BROADER SENSE

### III. POLEMICAL — *Addressing relevant questions and controversies.*

- A. DO BODILY DEPICTIONS OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE IMPLY A MATERIAL DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)
- B. DO BODILY APPEARANCES OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE IMPLY A MATERIAL DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)
- C. DOES CHRIST'S STATUS AS THE IMAGE OF GOD IMPLY A MATERIAL DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)
- D. IS THE HOLY SPIRIT ANY MORE OR LESS 'SPIRITUAL' THAN THE FATHER OR THE SON? (We Deny.)

E. DOES MAN'S CREATION IN GOD'S IMAGE IMPLY A MATERIAL DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)

F. IS MORMONISM'S BELIEF IN A MATERIAL DIVINE ESSENCE A DAMNABLE HERESY? (We Affirm.)

G. IF MAN'S SOUL, RATHER THAN HIS BODY, BEARS THE DIVINE IMAGE, DOES THIS MAKE THE BODY UNIMPORTANT TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE? (We Deny.)

H. DOES SCRIPTURE FORBID MATERIAL IMAGES OF OUR IMMATERIAL GOD? (We Affirm.)

### IV. PRACTICAL — *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” (1 Jn. 5:21)*

- A. WORSHIP GOD SPIRITUALLY, AS DEFINED BY GOD'S TRUTH.
  - 1. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM MATERIAL IMAGES OF GOD.
  - 2. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM MATERIALISTIC WORSHIP
  - 3. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM GNOSTICISM.
- B. LIVE FOR GOD SPIRITUALLY, AS DEFINED BY GOD'S TRUTH.
  - 1. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM MATERIALISM.
  - 2. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM ASCETICISM.