



## Blueprints for Belief

Laying the Theological Foundations for Constructing Your Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith 2.1-2 – March 19, 2025

**2.1 There is but one only** (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4,6), **living and true God** (Jer. 10:10; John 17:3), **who is infinite in being and perfection** (Job 11:7-9; Ps. 145:3), **a most pure spirit** (John 4:24), **invisible** (1 Tim. 1:17), **without body, parts, or passions** (Deut. 4:15-16; John 4:24; Acts 14:11,15), **immutable** (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17), **immense** (1 Kings 8:27; Jer. 23:23-24), **eternal** (Ps. 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17), **incomprehensible** (Ps. 145:3; Rom. 11:33-34), **almighty** (Gen. 17:1; Rev. 4:8), **most wise** (Rom. 16:27), **most holy** (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8), **most free** (Ps. 115:3), **most absolute** (Ex. 3:14), **working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will** (Eph. 1:11), **for His own glory** (Prov. 16:4; Rom. 11:36); **most loving** (1 John 4:8,16), **gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth** (Ex. 34:6), **forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin** (Ex. 34:7); **the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him** (Heb. 11:6); **and withal, most just and terrible in His judgments** (Neh. 9:32-33; Heb. 10:28-31), **hating all sin** (Ps. 5:5-6), **and who will by no means clear the guilty** (Ex. 34:7; Nah. 1:2-3).

**2.2 God hath all life** (John 5:26), **glory** (Acts 7:2), **goodness** (Ps. 119:68), **blessedness** (1 Tim. 6:15; Rom. 9:5), **in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient** (Acts 17:24-25), **not standing in need of any creatures which He hath made** (Job 22:2-3), **nor deriving any glory from them** (Job 35:7-8), **but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them** (Rom. 11:36; Rev. 4:11). **He is the alone fountain of all being** (Acts 17:28), **of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things** (Rom. 11:36); **and hath most sovereign dominion over them** (Dan. 4:25,35), **to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever Himself pleaseth** (1 Sam. 3:18; Matt. 20:15). **In His sight all things are open and manifest** (Heb. 4:13); **His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature** (Rom. 11:33-34; Ps. 147:5), **so as nothing is to Him contingent or uncertain** (Acts 15:18; Ezek. 11:5). **He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands** (Ps. 145:17; Rom. 7:12). **To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them** (Rev. 5:12-14).

### Summary of Doctrine

- There is ONE living and true God.
- God is spirit.
- God possesses certain incommunicable and perfect communicable attributes.
- God is not dependent upon any created thing, but rather absolutely independent of and sovereign over all.

## Objections from Other Religions

- **Hinduism and Pantheism:** Hindu and pantheistic traditions see divinity as either encompassing all things or being an impersonal force. WCF 2.1's assertion that God is a distinct, self-existent being contradicts pantheism. God is not part of creation but sovereign over it.
- **Deism:** Deism teaches that God created the world but does not intervene in human affairs. WCF 2.1 is very actively involved in the world He created. Matthew 10:29-30 says that not even a sparrow "will fall to the ground apart from your Father." Hebrews 1:3 says that God "upholds the universe by the word of his power."
- **Mormonism:** Mormon theology teaches that God has a body and was once a man. This directly contradicts WCF 2.1's affirmation that God is "a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions." John 1:18 states, "No one has ever seen God," and Numbers 23:19 says simply, "God is not a man."

## Objections from Other Branches of the Church

- **Roman Catholicism:** Roman Catholic theology generally agrees with divine simplicity (God being without parts), but there are some minor distinctions regarding God's attributes.
- **Open Theism:** Open theists argue that God does not fully know the future because of human free will. However, WCF 2.2 insists on God's absolute omniscience, citing passages like Isaiah 46:9-10. The biblical view of God's knowledge is not merely foreknowledge but foreordination (Ephesians 1:11).
- **Theistic Personalism:** Some object to the idea that God is "without passions," arguing that the Bible portrays Him as experiencing emotions (e.g., anger, love, compassion). However, WCF 2.1 follows classical theism in asserting that God's emotions do not change Him or make Him dependent on creation. His "anger" and "love" are revealed to us in human terms but do not indicate fluctuation in His being.

## Small Group Questions for March 26

1. How does knowing that God is the "one living and true God" (Deut. 6:4) shape your worship and daily life? Are there any "false gods" (idols) that compete for your heart?
2. God is infinite, immutable, and sovereign over all things (Ps. 145:3, Mal. 3:6, Dan. 4:35). How does this truth provide comfort in times of uncertainty or suffering? How do you struggle to trust this in your own life?
3. WCF 2.1 describes God as "a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions." How does this challenge or correct the way we sometimes imagine God in our minds or prayers?
4. Because God is self-sufficient and does not need creation (Acts 17:24-25), our worship does not "add" to His glory but manifests it. How does this affect your motivation for worship, prayer, and obedience?
5. God's knowledge is infinite and infallible (Ps. 147:5, Rom. 11:33-34), meaning nothing surprises Him. How should this truth shape the way you respond to your own fears, anxieties, and decisions?
6. WCF 2.1 describes God as "most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth" (Ex. 34:6). How have you personally experienced these attributes in your life, and how can they shape your relationships with others?
7. If God alone is worthy of all worship, service, and obedience (Rev. 5:12-14), what are some ways you can grow in giving Him the devotion He deserves? What distractions or excuses hold you back?