CONFESSION: A proclamation of statement of held beliefs

TRINITY: God: a mystery of love, dwelling in three persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit, related to each other as Begotten, Begotten & Breathed forth. United in three equal personal selves of giving-love so intimate as to be an “Indwelling” (penetrans)

NOTIONAL THEOLOGY: Knowledge of God attained through God’s revelation in nature & available to human reason; Schleiermacher

COMMON GRACE: God’s universal, non-saving grace in which blessings are given to humanity for physical sustenance, pleasure, learning, beauty—expressions of God’s goodness

ARCHITECTURAL THEOLOGY: a theological concrete for the ecology rooted in the recognition of God as creator who calls humans to care for the earth and its resources in responsible and just ways.

CREATION EX NOILHO: "creation out of nothing" view of God created all things out of nothing—really creating re-fashioning

ELECTION: God’s choosing of a people to enjoy the benefits of salvation and to carry out God’s purposes in the world

PROVIDENCE: doctrine that God somehow directly cares for the world, that all things are in God’s hands & God is leading the world to an appointed goal.

PREDESTINATION: God’s sovereignty over all. "Behind every event in the universe is the face of God" (Migliore), "everything is in God." God and creation are distinct parts of an ontological whole. God is infinite in both power and love with the human person. God is immanent and transcendent

SCEPTICALS OF SCRIPTURE: Calvin’s belief in the biblical witness to revelation is like a pair of spectacles that enable us to see God, the world, and ourselves in a radically new way

HERMENEUTICS: the rules by which we decide what the meaning of a passage is

CID: view that after creating the world God is no longer a part of it. (like1 believer). Total transcendence

THEISM: the world emerging from a single source out of nothing with some aiding relationship to creation. God is transcendent & immanent. (also belief in God or belief in only one God as monism)

PARENTHEM: teaching that “everything is in God” and God creation are distinct parts of an ontological whole. God is infinite in both power and love with the human person. God is immanent and transcendent

PENTHEM: teaching that everything is under the source, all things are one with God. Deist ontological difference between God and creature. Total transcendence...
**IDOLATRY:** God is love, that mends the broken relationship between God and the created. It may be breaking God’s law, falling to do what we want, or rebelling; it needs God’s forgiveness. (Crazy Talk: Why & how people such)

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH:** orthodoxy: what one believes; dogma: what one wants; heresy: what one says; schism: what one does; apostasy: what one sells

**THEODICY:** This is a problem of evil. We see the suffering in the world and ask, “if God is good, if God is love, why is there pain?” The problem of evil is an existential problem: we are so naturally connected to God, feeling His love, that any separation from God is so traumatic for us. We have a right and expectation of God’s providential care and wisdom. (Revelation 21:3–4)

**JUSTIFICATION:** In Latin: “justificat” reckoning or counting as righteous; God’s gracious pardon and acceptance of us as if we were our own and an account of our own virtue or good works, but solely because a divine person with the divine grace embedded in Jesus Christ and received by faith.

**PERFECTIONISM:** The view that human perfection is possible whereby man can make himself a perfect person, divine & human nature, Christ’s humanity is coeternal with God’s divinity. As Christ rules from heaven as head of the visible church, so Christ rules from earth as head of the invisible church.

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