

**Our Relationship with God
in 2018:
Estranged or Intimate?**

Shall I Bow to My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

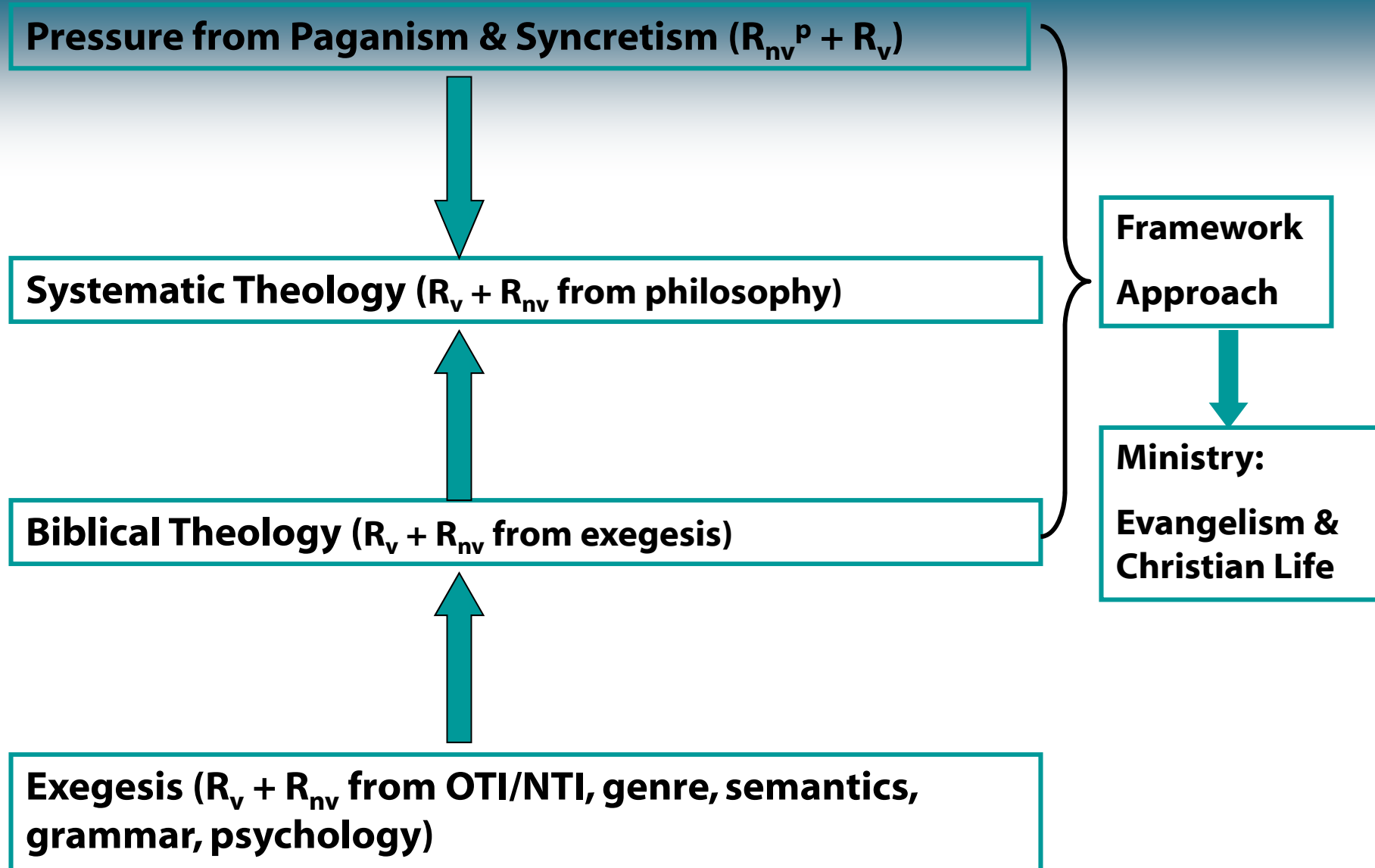
- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization



Examples of God's "Sacred Spaces"

“The Angel of the LORD appeared to [Moses] . . . called to him from the midst of the burning bush. . . . ‘Do not draw near to this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground’ ” (Ex 3:2–5)

“All the people witnessed the thundering, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. . . . Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear, but let not God speak with us lest we die.’ ” (Ex 20:18–19)

**“Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter. . . .”
(Ex 40:34–35)**

“Full View” Incarnation

“The Son of Man . . . His head and hair were white like wool . . . His eyes a flame of fire . . . feet like fine brass . . . His voice as the sound of many waters . . . out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword . . . His countenance like the sun shining in its strength . . . When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.” (Rev 1:13–17)

Jesus in His Human Nature Had to be Sanctified

“Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered . . . For it was fitting for Him for whom are all things and by whom are all things . . . to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Heb 5:8; 2:10)

God's Righteousness Incentivizes Self-Examination & Confession

“This is the message which we have heard from Him . . . that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” (1 John 1:5–6)

“Let a man examine himself and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup for he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.” (1 Cor 11:28–29)

Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian:



Pagan:



The False & True Instruments of Justice

“Do not avenge yourselves . . . ‘Vengeance is mine. I will repay,’ says the LORD. . . . Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. . . . he doesn’t bear the sword in vain, for he is God’s minister, . . . to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” (Rom 12:19; 13:1–4)

Eternal Discrimination!

**“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city, but outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”
(Rev 22:14–15)**