

## *Seminar:*

# *The Untying of the Enlightenment Knot*

A new chance to present the Gospel to the world?

Song: *Meekness and Majesty* by Graham Kendrick

1. Meekness and Majesty, manhood and deity, in perfect harmony, the Man who is God, Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity, kneels in humility and washes our feet.

**Refrain:**

O what a mystery, meekness and majesty; Bow down and worship for this is your God.

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence, yet learns obedience to death on a cross. Suff'ring to give us life, conquering through sacrifice; And as they crucify prays "Father forgive."

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible; Love indestructible in frailty appears, Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly; Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.

# The History of Modern Thought

Time

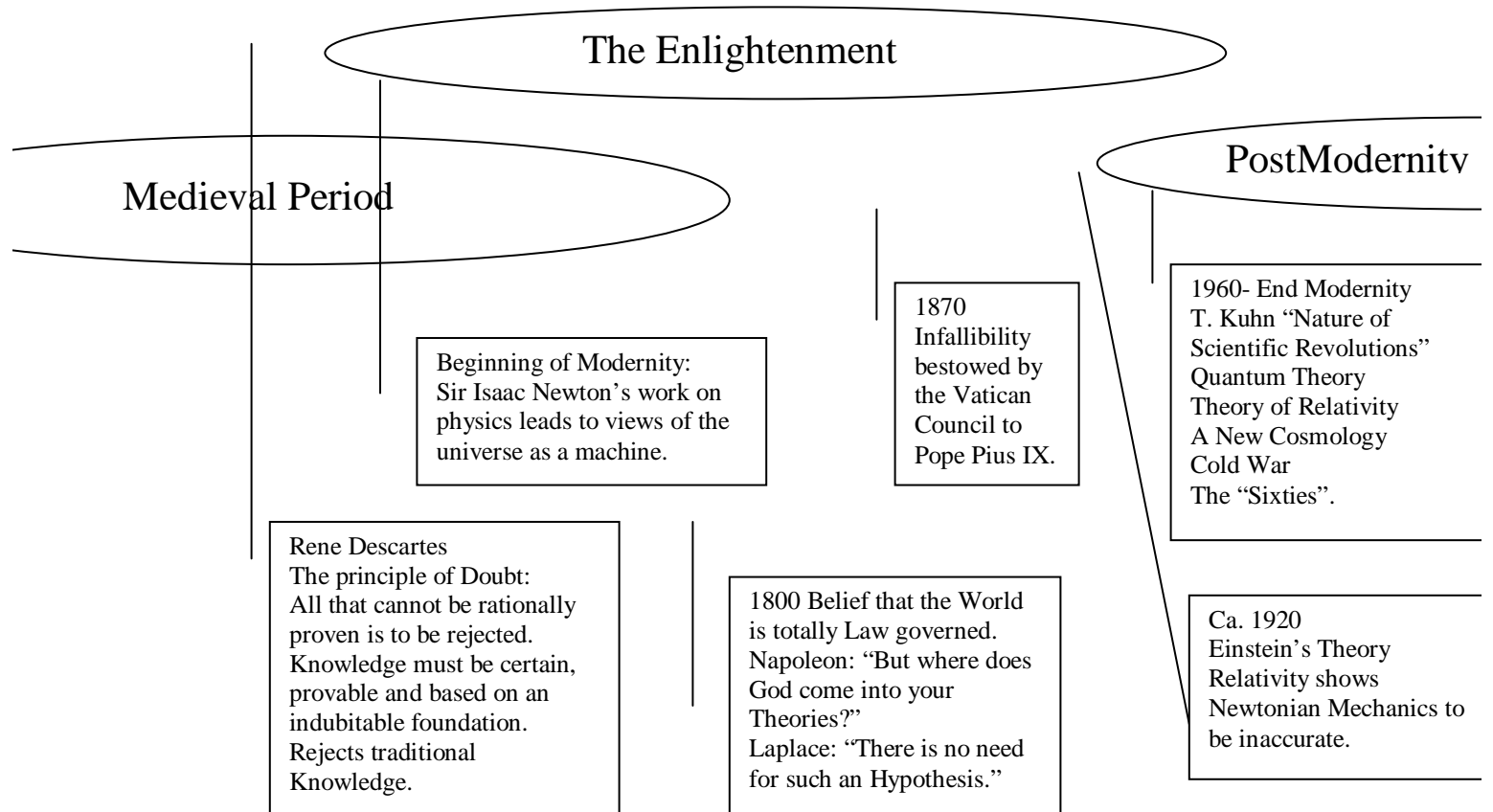
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## Characteristics of the Enlightenment

- ❑ The Principle of Doubt and the Rejection of Traditional Knowledge
- ❑ The drive for Certainty of what we know
- ❑ Every person can evaluate the truth and falsehood on his own by reasoning from a God-given foundation of knowledge.
- ❑ Eternal, universal laws are governing the world
- ❑ God made those laws
- ❑ Language is about communicating information, which can be true or false.

### Consequences for the Christian Faith:

- ✓ God cannot violate the laws he has created. Thus God does not intervene in the World. Therefore miracles do not exist. God is eternal and unchanging. Why would he create a law and then violate it?
- ✓ Our knowledge is certain. No need to have faith by believing in God's word.
- ✓ Individualism: Everyone is competent and everyone is on his own evaluating what is right and wrong. The connection of Christians through the Holy Spirit to the Body of Christ is denied.
- ✓ Miracles are not real. Talking about God's actions is therefore not something that is real. It is imaginary and not communicating any real information. It might express emotions.

A believer says:

*"God said: You shall not kill"*

An enlightenment thinker understands:

*He does not like it when persons are killed.*

**God is gone!** (Deism: God created the world and left us alone).

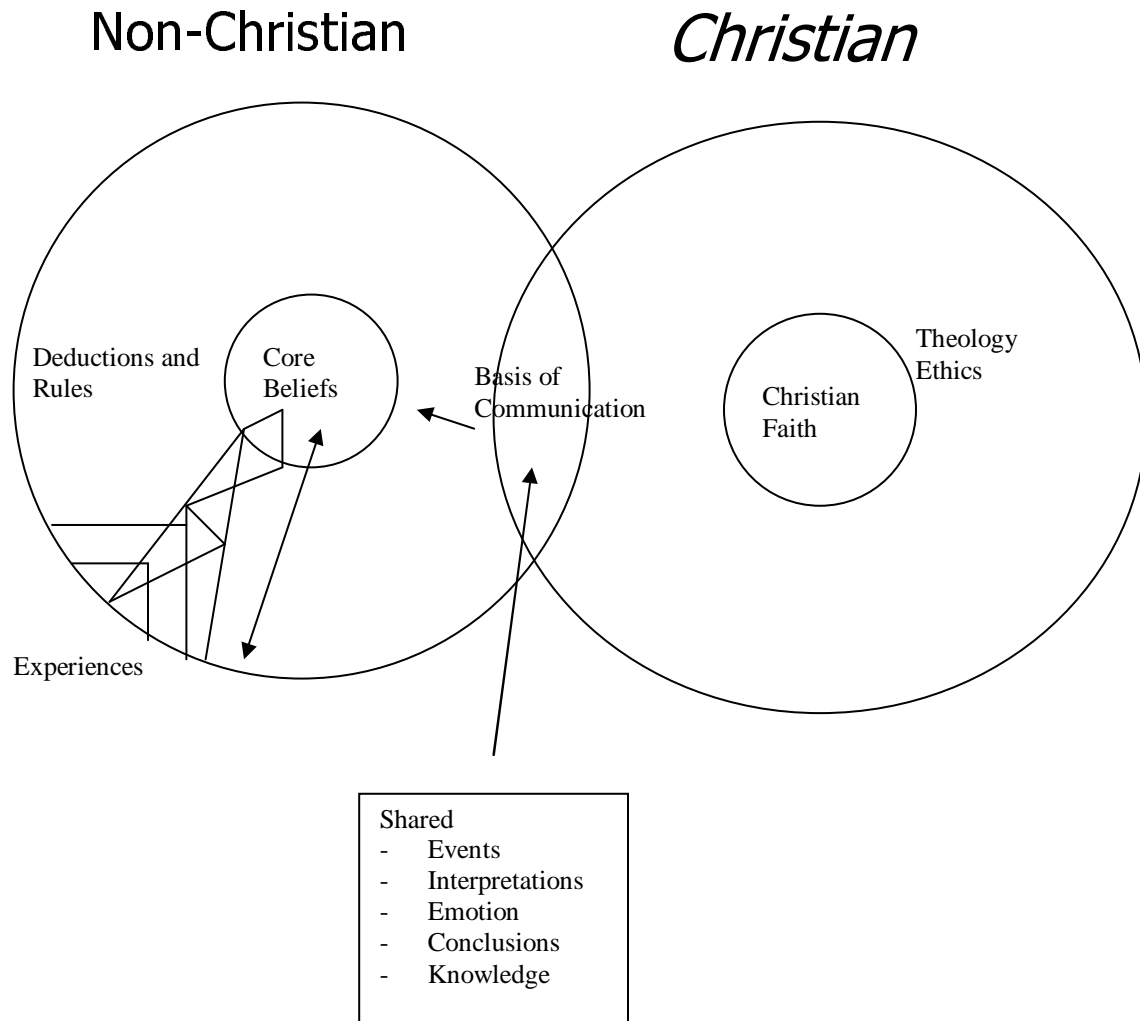
**Nietzsche's expression: God is dead!**

## *Postmodernity*

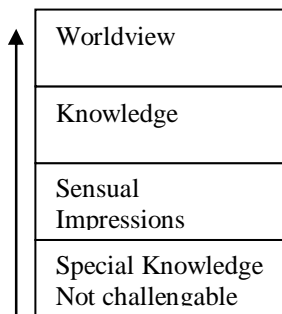
The Modern Period = Enlightenment

The Post-Modern Period = The period after the Enlightenment.

# Paradigm-Shifts or Conversion



## Enlightenment Scheme



## Liberal Christian

