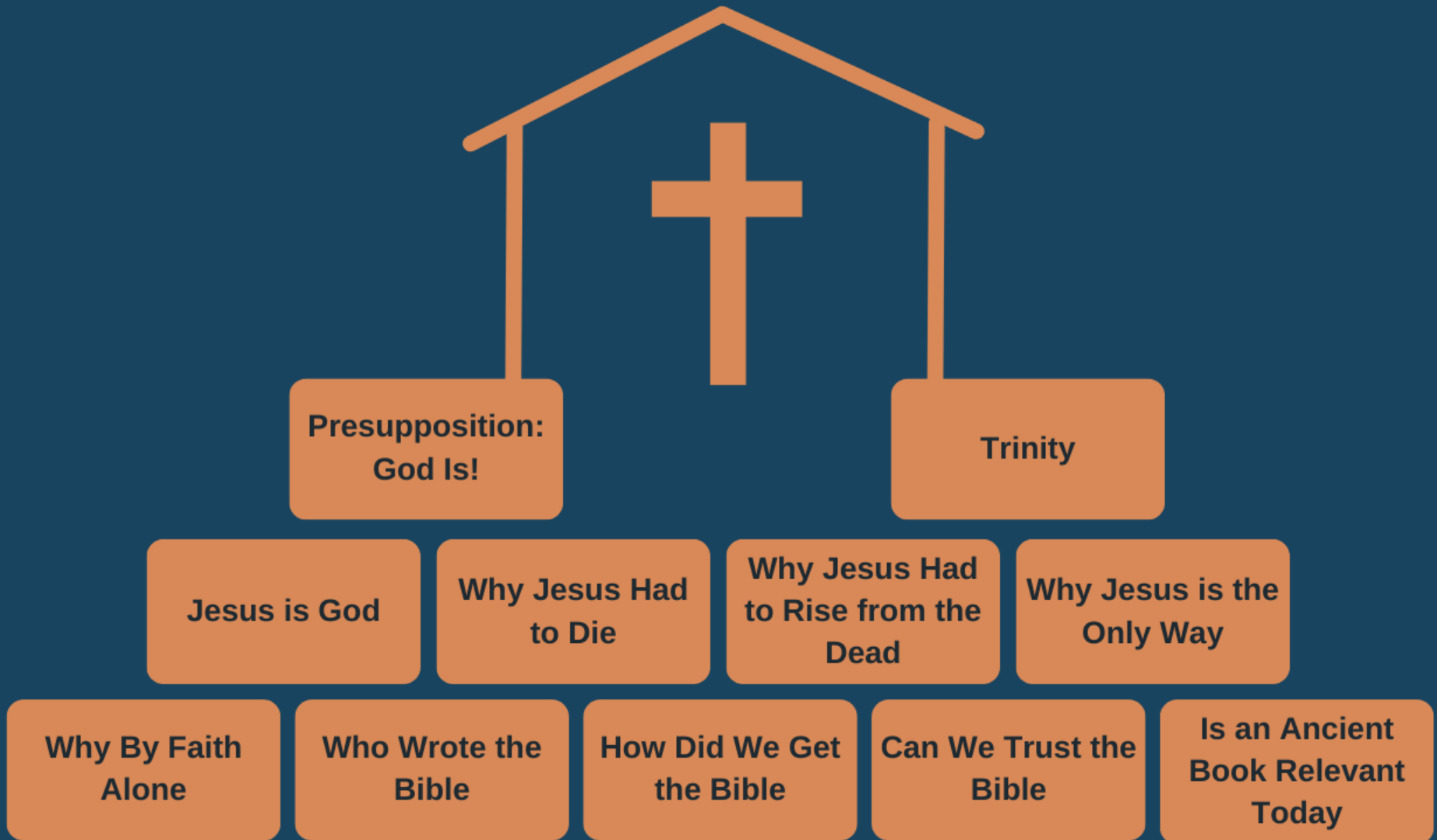


REASONABLE

FAITH



FOUNDATIONAL BLOCKS



TWO OPPOSING WORLDVIEWS

Theistic Worldview

**God is the
origin of
human beings**

Naturalistic Worldview

**Human
beings are
the origin of
God**



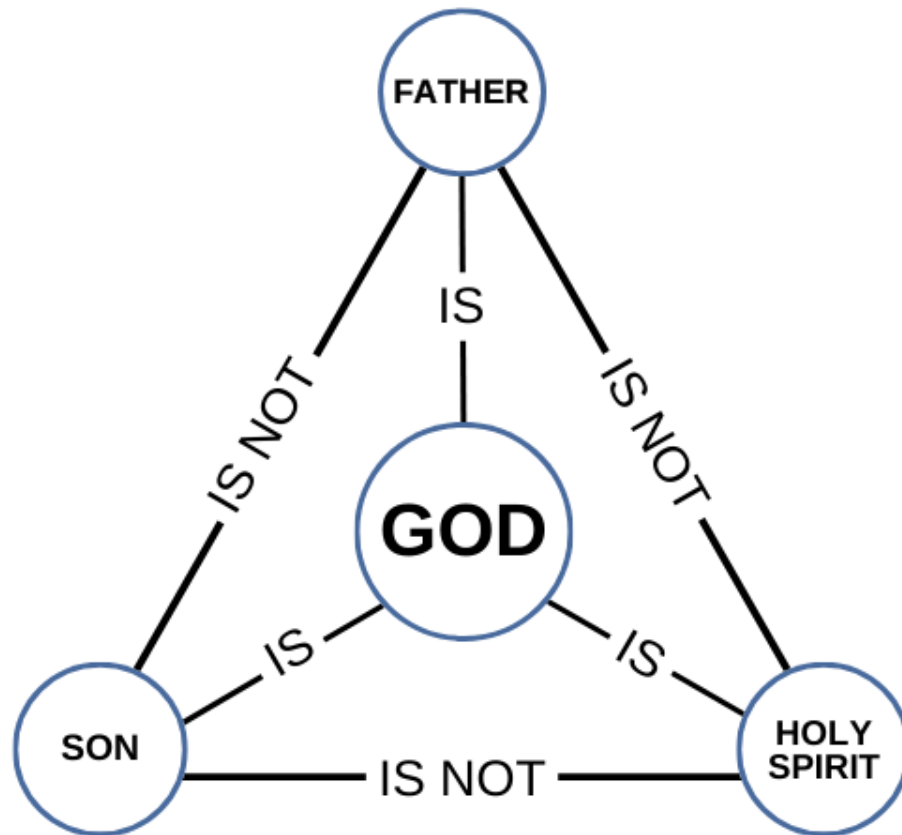
KEY CONCEPT

Although those holding a naturalistic worldview may claim irrefutable proof for their position, they do not have it. We do not need to argue with them. We do need to remember that it is reasonable to believe in God!

Trinity



Common Diagram of the Godhead



Jesus Christ: the God-Man

*Fully God and fully
man in one person*





KEY CONCEPT

**If Jesus is not fully man,
He would not have been
able to die. If Jesus is not
fully God, His death would
not have been able to pay
for our sin!**

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

*God is Holy and
Righteous!*





KEY CONCEPT

**God's holiness and
righteousness demands
that sin be punished if
people are to ever be in
right relationship with
Him.**



KEY CONCEPT

Jesus, the God-Man is the only suitable substitute that could die for the sin of humanity because there is no sin in Him! Jesus never sinned!

Why Did Jesus Have to Rise from the Dead?

**“... Paul shows that everything
stands or falls with Christ’s
bodily resurrection”** (Henry Thiessen, Lectures
in Systematic Theology, pp. 89-90).





If Jesus did not rise from the dead, **we have no hope.** Our lives are wasted. There is no Gospel. We are fools.



Based on the historical record of events provided by the Bible, **it is reasonable to believe** that Jesus did indeed die and rise from the dead.

Why is believing
in Jesus the
Only Way to Be
Right with God?





**Asking why Jesus is the
only way ultimately
brings us back to the
question, “Who is God?”**

Built By Me

Today's culture says:

“I can build God the way I want God to be. I can add the features of God that I like, and I can remove the features of God that I do not like!”

BUILT BY ME

BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER OR BOWL

1. SELECT YOUR BUN OR BOWL

Brioche Bun
Wheat Bun
Gluten Free Bun +\$1
On Fresh Greens

2. PICK YOUR PROTEIN

Angus Beef
All-Natural Chicken Breast
Chicken Fingers
Vegan Veggie
Impossible™ Burger SINGLE +\$3.99 | DOUBLE +\$6.99

3. CHOOSE YOUR CHEESE

Cheddar | Pepper Jack
American | Swiss | Blue Cheese

4. ADD YOUR TOPPINGS

Mixed Greens | Lettuce Blend | Tomatoes | Jalapeños
Pepperoncinis | Red Onions | Pickles | Cucumbers
Carrot Strings | Sautéed Red Peppers
Sautéed Red Onions | Tortilla Strips | Pico De Gallo
Applewood Smoked Bacon | Sautéed Mushrooms
Guacamole | Fried Egg

5. SELECT YOUR SAUCE

BUILT™ Sauce | Garlic Aioli | Chipotle Aioli | Sriracha Aioli
Hickory BBQ | Buttermilk Ranch | Dijon Balsamic
Honey Mustard | Sweet Sriracha | Olive Oil & Vinegar
Mayo | Mustard | Ketchup

But what if . . . ?



What if God is above me and I am not above Him? What if God is who He is and I cannot design Him the way I want Him to be? What if it is not up to me to decide how a person can be right with God?



What if God has
revealed who He is
and I keep pushing
Him away?





KEY CONCEPT

Jesus, the God-Man is the only suitable substitute that could die for the sin of humanity because there is no sin in Him! Jesus never sinned!



**Jesus is the only
way to be right
with God.**

Matthew 7:13-14,

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it” (NLT).



John 14:6,

**“Jesus said to him, ‘I am
the way, and the truth,
and the life; no one
comes to the Father but
through Me”** (NASB).



1 Timothy 2:5,

**“For there is only one
God and one Mediator
who can reconcile God
and people. He is the
man Christ Jesus”** (NLT).



1 John 5:11-13,

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life” (NASB).





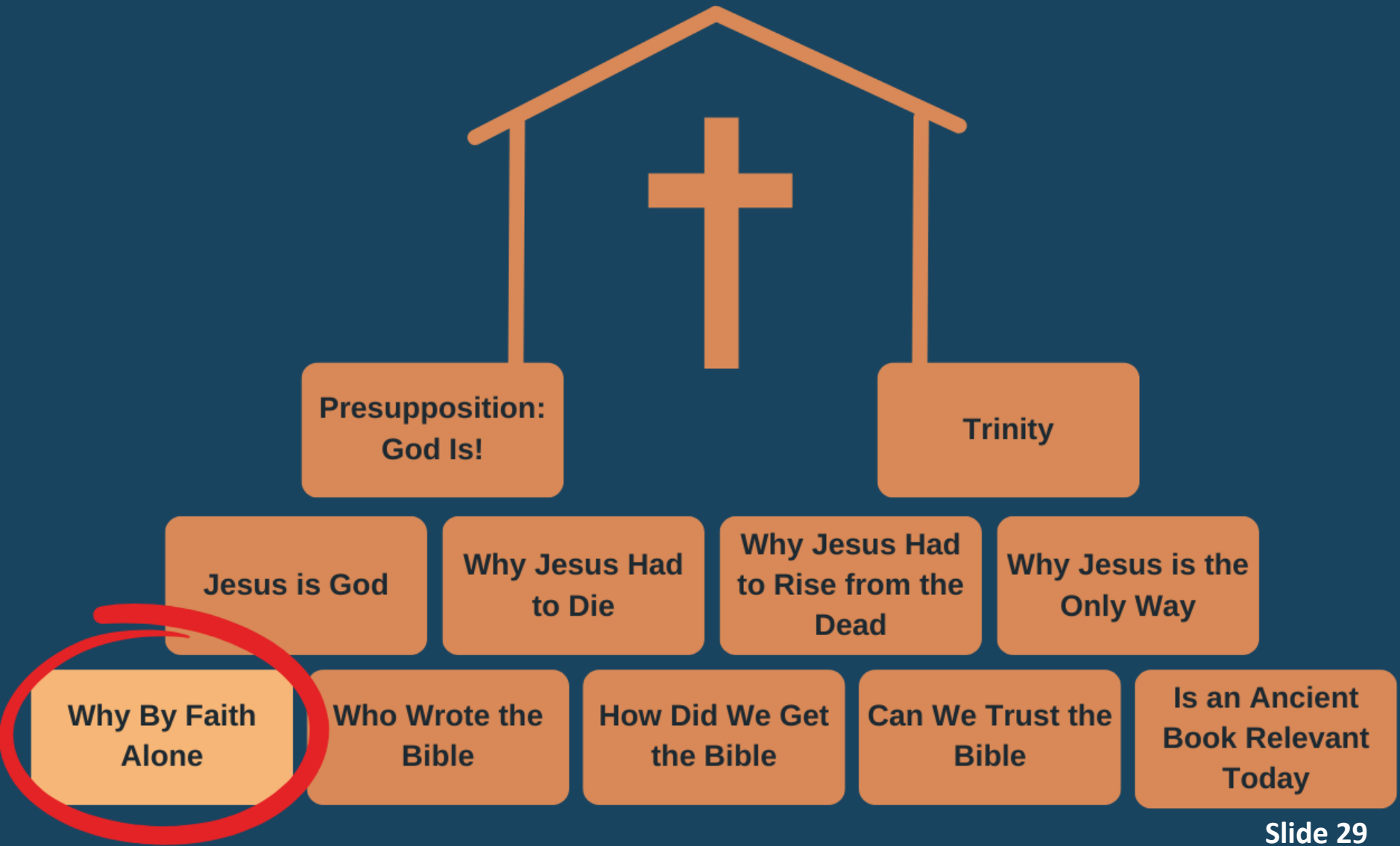
**Jesus is the only
way to be right
with God.**

REASONABLE

FAITH



FOUNDATIONAL BLOCKS



A Common Statement of Faith:

- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe the Bible to be the only infallible word of God.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto eternal life with God, and they that are lost unto judgment and separation from God.



Wait!! That all sounds right!

Yes, it does!!!!

But



**We need to look for
what this
statement of faith
does not say!**



- We do believe in Jesus' "vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood."
- We do believe "that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential."
- **But how?** How is Jesus' payment for sin credited to the account of someone's life? How does a sinful person experience justification?



**This statement is
trying to throw a
wide lariat!!**

*This statement was
drafted to include
people who believe a
variety of things about
HOW Jesus' payment
for sin is credited to a
person's life.*



The wide loop of HOW Jesus' payment for sin is credited to a person's life:

- The sacrament of baptism
- The sacrament of communion
- By faith alone



“Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are generally referred to as ordinances today, though some groups prefer to call them sacraments. . . . Thus groups that prefer to call these rites of the church sacraments usually connect with them some mysterious power or actual conveying of grace. . . . By contrast, ‘ordinance’ . . . Does not incorporate the idea of conveying grace but only the idea of a symbol”

(Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p. 309).



The question of how the
“... vicarious and atoning
death through His shed blood”
is made effective for an
individual is a key distinction
between different groups
identifying as Christian.



How is Jesus' payment for sin credited to the account of someone's life?

How does a sinful person experience justification?





**Faith is the means of
justification in the Old
and New Testaments**

Justification =
To Declare Someone
Right with God





**Faith is the means of
justification in the Old
and New Testaments**

Key Old Testament Verse:

Genesis 15:6, “Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness”

(NASB).



Key New Testament Verse:

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (NASB).



“... salvation is truly of God’s grace and does not originate or result from the efforts of humans.”

“Only on the basis of grace are people delivered from their desperate situation of sinfulness which separates them from God.”

(Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary, pp. 340-41).



“Whereas ‘grace’ is the objective cause or basis of salvation, ‘through faith’ is the subjective means by which one is saved. This is important, for the salvation that was purchased by Christ’s death is universal in its provision, but it is not universal in its application. One is not automatically saved because Christ died, but one is saved when one puts trust in **God’s gracious provision”** (Harold W. Hoehner,

Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary, p. 341).



“Salvation is either by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, or it is not. There is no middle ground. Salvation by grace plus works is not by grace alone. Making any aspect dependent upon works is a heretical position” (Nathan Holsteen and Michael

Svigel, General Editors, [Exploring Christian Theology](#), Vol 2, p. 195).



“If humans are born sinners, if we are guilty of Adam’s sin, if we have rebelled against God, then we’re in need of salvation. Nothing we could possibly add can undo the damage we have done by our sin and rebellion against God. We can only contribute our desperate need” (Nathan

Holsteen and Michael Svigel, General Editors, Exploring Christian Theology, Vol 2, p. 195).



**Why
By Faith
Alone?**

***Let's take a
deeper dive***



**The New Testament teaches that
faith is the necessary and only
channel of salvation:**

- Ephesians 2:8
- John 3:16
- John 5:24
- Romans 4:2-5
- Romans 10:9-11



Ephesians 2:8,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves *it is* the gift of God; not as result of works, so that no one may boast” (NASB).



John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (NASB).



John 5:24,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (NASB).



Romans 4:2-5,

“for if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.’ Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness” (NASB).



Romans 10:9-11,

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED’” (NASB).



Inconsistency of trying to earn a right relationship with God by doing good works verses a right relationship through faith:

Ephesians 2:8b-9, “. . . And that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (NASB).





**You cannot earn that
which is only available as a
free gift. Faith is the only
way to be declared right
with God!**

Faith requires a choice. It is volitional. Faith requires a decision to be made to put one's trust in Jesus Christ:

John 4:10, “Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink,” you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water’” (ESV).



REASONABLE

FAITH

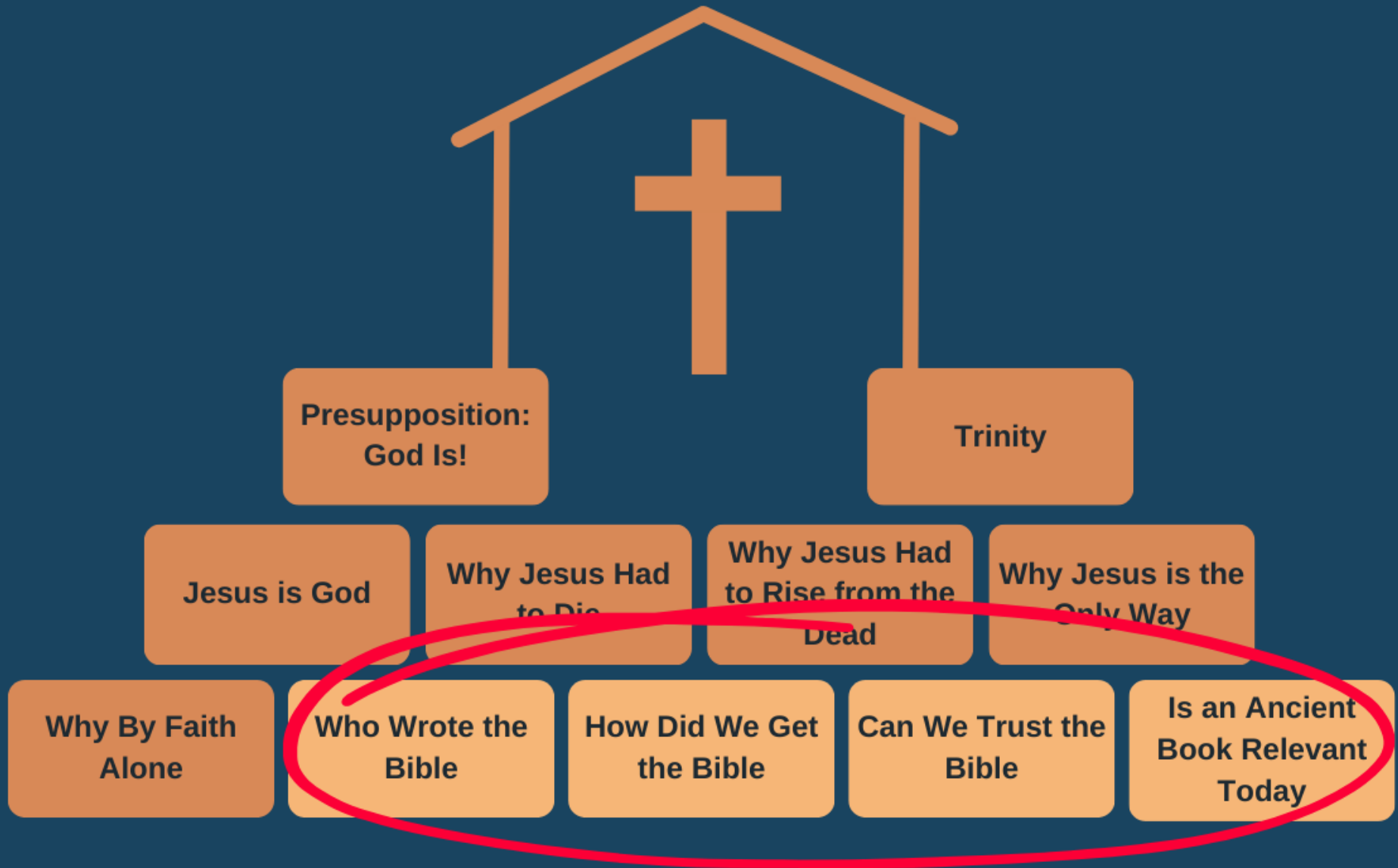


It is reasonable to believe that:

- God is
- The Trinity
- Jesus is the God-Man
- Jesus had to die
- Jesus had to rise from the dead
- Jesus is the only way
- Being right with God is by faith alone



FOUNDATIONAL BLOCKS



REASONABLE

FAITH

