

Vocabulary Builder

agnostic	belief that God may exist, but that He is not “knowable”
angelology	study of Angels, Satan, demons, evil spirits
animism	belief in the existence of spirits that inhabit (or “animate”) natural objects and phenomena, such a rocks, trees and mountains
anthropology	study of Mankind
anthropology	the study of man
atheism	faith in the belief that God does not exist
attribute	quality or characteristic
bibliology –	study of the Bible
Christology	study of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ
contrite	humble, penitent, expressing regret for sin
cosmology	the nature and structure of the universe (cosmos)
covenant	a solemn agreement
creed	a belief (from Latin “credo”, I believe)
deism	belief in a God who created the universe but does not exercise control over life or natural phenomena, and does not give supernatural revelation
depravity	moral corruption (through sin)
dichotomy	made up of two parts; in a theological sense = spirit/soul and body
doctrine	belief/teaching. - not to be confused with “doctrinaire, which means to be inflexibly attached to a practice or belief without considering its practicality
dogma	belief - not to be confused with “dogmatic”, which means arrogantly asserting beliefs
Dreamtime	in Australian aboriginal culture, the time before history, when spirit ancestors created the world
dualism	the view that the world consists of two opposing forces: spiritual and physical, that the spiritual side of perfect and the physical side is corrupt, sinful (much of ancient Greek philosophy was dualistic)
ecclesiology	study of the Church
eschatology	study of the Last Things
eugenics	Improving the races by controlling breeding for desirable inherited characteristics. Focused on whether race or other factors make a difference in terms of intelligence, power, the nature and structure of society.
ex nihilo	out of nothing
exclusivity	claiming to be exclusive, eg the single source of truth
exegesis	detailed interpretation of Scripture
flesh	in theological terms, our humanity, the “natural” us
foreknowledge	knowledge of something before it happens
forensic	using knowledge and techniques to dig deeper in understanding things, eg truth or claims
gnostic	belief system in New Testament times that emphasised hidden intellectual or spiritual “knowledge”
hamartiology	study of Sin
inanimate	not having life
incarnation	being made in human flesh

intelligent design	design of the universe by an intelligent being (God)
kinship	connection by blood, marriage, or adoption; eg family relationship
mandate	authority, command, instruction
monogenism	belief that all members of the “human race” descended from one man (Adam)
monotheism	belief that there is only one true God
occult	lit. “hidden” from comprehension. Usually used in relation to supernatural influences.
omnipotent	all-powerful
omnipresent	present everywhere
omniscient	all-knowing
orthodox	conforming to established beliefs a branch of Christianity that had its origins in Greece and subsequently spread to Russia, Ukraine, the Balkans and beyond
pantheism	belief that everything in the universe is part of God.
pantheon	all the “gods”
personification	figure of speech in which someone or something is represented as a person
pluralistic	made up of groups that are distinctive in ethnic origin, cultural practices, religion, and so on
pneumatology	study of the Holy Spirit
polygenism	different lines of descent separate the different “races” in humanity
polytheism	belief in many gods
predestination	belief that actions and events have been “pre-ordained” by God.
pre-existential	existed previously
proponent	supporter
Providence	an old word to describe God, as the guiding power of the universe
psychosomatic	effects of the soul (psyche) on the body (soma). in medical terms, this term sometimes refers to disorders having physical symptoms but originating from mental or emotional causes
rationalism	reliance on reason instead of God
Rationalism	reliance on the exercise of reason, rather than revelation
realm	a sphere, eg an area over which a sovereign rules, or an “area” in our lives
regeneration	re-birth, being born again
revelation	lit. “unveiling” of something not previously known
righteousness	uprightness, justice
sanctification	holiness, being “set apart”
secular	worldly
secular	world, non-religious, non-spiritual
soteriology	study of Salvation
sovereign	supreme, greatest, having the highest position
teleology	study of design and purpose (eg of nature)
theology	study of God
Traducianism	belief that the soul is inherited from parents along with the body.
trichotomy	made up of three parts; in a theological sense = spirit, soul and body
unitarianism	a Christian who does not believe in the Trinity