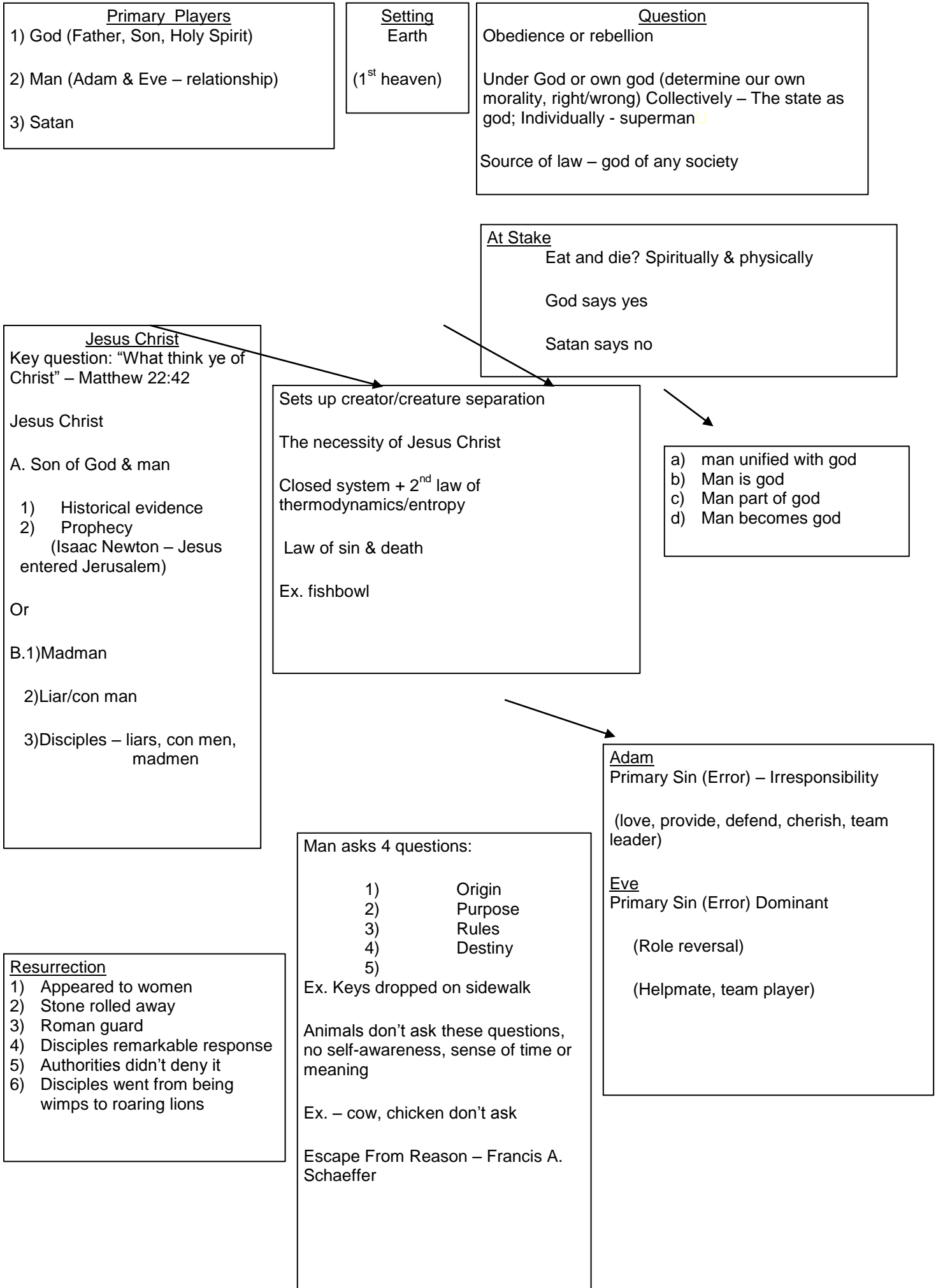


The Essence of Christianity

"I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by me." John 14:6



Primary Players

- 1) God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- 2) Man (Adam & Eve – relationship)
- 3) Satan

Setting

Earth
(1st heaven)

Question

Obedience or rebellion

Under God or own god (determine our own morality, right/wrong) Collectively – The state as god; Individually - superman

Source of law – god of any society

At Stake

Eat and die? Spiritually & physically

God says yes

Satan says no

Jesus Christ

Key question: "What think ye of Christ" – Matthew 22:42

Jesus Christ

A. Son of God & man

- 1) Historical evidence
- 2) Prophecy
(Isaac Newton – Jesus entered Jerusalem)

Or

B.1) Madman

- 2) Liar/con man
- 3) Disciples – liars, con men, madmen

Sets up creator/creature separation

The necessity of Jesus Christ

Closed system + 2nd law of thermodynamics/entropy

Law of sin & death

Ex. fishbowl

- a) man unified with god
- b) Man is god
- c) Man part of god
- d) Man becomes god

Adam

Primary Sin (Error) – Irresponsibility

(love, provide, defend, cherish, team leader)

Eve

Primary Sin (Error) Dominant

(Role reversal)

(Helpmate, team player)

Resurrection

- 1) Appeared to women
- 2) Stone rolled away
- 3) Roman guard
- 4) Disciples remarkable response
- 5) Authorities didn't deny it
- 6) Disciples went from being wimps to roaring lions

Man asks 4 questions:

- 1) Origin
- 2) Purpose
- 3) Rules
- 4) Destiny

Ex. Keys dropped on sidewalk

Animals don't ask these questions, no self-awareness, sense of time or meaning

Ex. – cow, chicken don't ask

Escape From Reason – Francis A. Schaeffer

1) Origin

Natural Man
Does not understand.

Slave to the closed system.

Not born again to the open system.

1) TNT-genius
2) Opposite of what is natural
Ex. go down to go up, give to receive, serve to lead, humble to be exalted, die to live, be least to be greatest

3) Spiritually blocked
Ex. Dogs hear the sound, not the music.

Creation
Believe – act of faith –

We weren't there

Scientific evidence

Josh McDowell

Henry Morris

The Christ Within

God is a person

A person – creates a person

Potter – clay

Organization–intelligent thought

All thinking is circular due to religious presuppositions about the nature of reality.

Evolution

Believe – act of faith – we weren't there

Carl Sagan

From the goo to you via the zoo

Micro-mutation – within species

Life does not spring from death – closed system

Phoenix rises from the ashes?

2) Purpose

Made in the image of God

Calling – work (like Adam)

God speaks to man through Living Word-Bible –
Holy Spirit speaks to man

Professional self worth – calling

Personal self worth – family, friends

Believer/priest – religion

King, ambassador – gov't.

Steward – economy

Covenant & contract – individuals create unity

Many become “one” (carpool)

(solitary confinement)

Life has meaning

“Redeem the time” – Ephesians 5:16

“Bring every thought captive”-II Corinthians 10:5

Dust in the wind

No purpose, chance, survival of the fittest

Elite rule – pyramid bureaucracy

No meaning in life, expendable,

Homogenized

Why try?

Eat, drink, be merry

3) Rules

Creation

How then shall we live?

“If you love me keep my commandments.” -
John 14:15

“Depart from me you who practice
lawlessness.” Matthew 7:23 (You shall surely die.)

transcendent justice – held by all men

absurd – God awaits us at heaven and lets in
rape and murder victims, and lets in rapists and
murderers, both equally welcome

Moral absolutes – judgments and eternal
rewards

Self-gov't. – plus gov't of home, church,
business, community, state

honest money

all manmade institutions under God's authority

Evolution

Man in his own law, therefore his own god.

Does what is right in his own eyes.

Random, chance, change - no law

No God – no law (Marquis de Sade)

Trust your heart, your feelings (22 times Bible says the
heart is desperately wicked) – Jeremiah 17:9

Mark 7:21-23

Heart – not linear (not of this world)

“state is god walking on earth” – Hegel

There are no moral absolutes
state-civil gov't – parasite and predator

Nietzsche – man is superman

Tyranny

debt (death) money

man under man's authority

Ten Commandments or big government

natural man – deceived, in willful denial or rebellion

4) Destiny

Eternity with God – Believe & do His will –

James 2

Rewards – run the good race

Hope, joy, future

Eternity in hell – tormented

(cease to exist – no consciousness)

(dust in the wind)

No hope, no joy, no future

Life of lonely desperation

Man

Like Jesus Christ

Humility (give to get)

Obedience under godly authority

Under God

Tranquil order – peaceable kingdom

Garden

vs.

Like Satan

Pride (lust of the eye, flesh, pride of life)

Autonomous, Rebellious

Wants to be as God

Tumultuous, chaos

Wilderness