

# The Concept of God

## I. Classical Theism: The Three Perfections

### Classical Theism

An omniscient, omnipotent, omnibenevolent being exists. (OOO-being)

### Omnipotent

X is **omnipotent** = df.) X is all-powerful

### Omniscient

X is omniscient =df.) X is all-knowing

### Omnibenevolent

X is omnibenevolent =df.) X is morally perfect and maximally loving

## II. Other Possible Divine Attributes

### Necessary Existence

X necessarily exists =df.) It is not possible for X to not exist.

### Eternal

X is eternal =df.) X does not exist in time

### Everlasting

X is everlasting =df.) X exists in time, has no beginning, and will never cease to exist.

### Unchanging

X is unchanging =df.) X always has the same set of (intrinsic) properties.

### Omnipresence

X is omnipresent = df.) X is present everywhere. (with considerable debate about what "present everywhere" means)

## III. Paradox of Omnipotence

1. If God is omnipotent, then God has unlimited power.
2. If God has unlimited power, then God can perform any action.
3. Therefore, if God is omnipotent, then God can perform any action.
4. Making a square circle would be performing an action.
5. Therefore, if God is omnipotent, then God can make a square circle.
6. No one can make a square circle.
7. Therefore, God can't make a square circle.
8. Therefore, God is not omnipotent.

### Responses

#### God Can Realize Possibilities (Reject 6)

Descartes might take this route.

#### Making a Square Circle Not An Action (Reject 4)

"God can't make  $2 + 2 = 4$  not because God is weak. It's because nothing would count as doing the job" (Stairs and Bernard p.8) (*see computer screen analogy*)

### Objection:

#### Paradox of the Stone