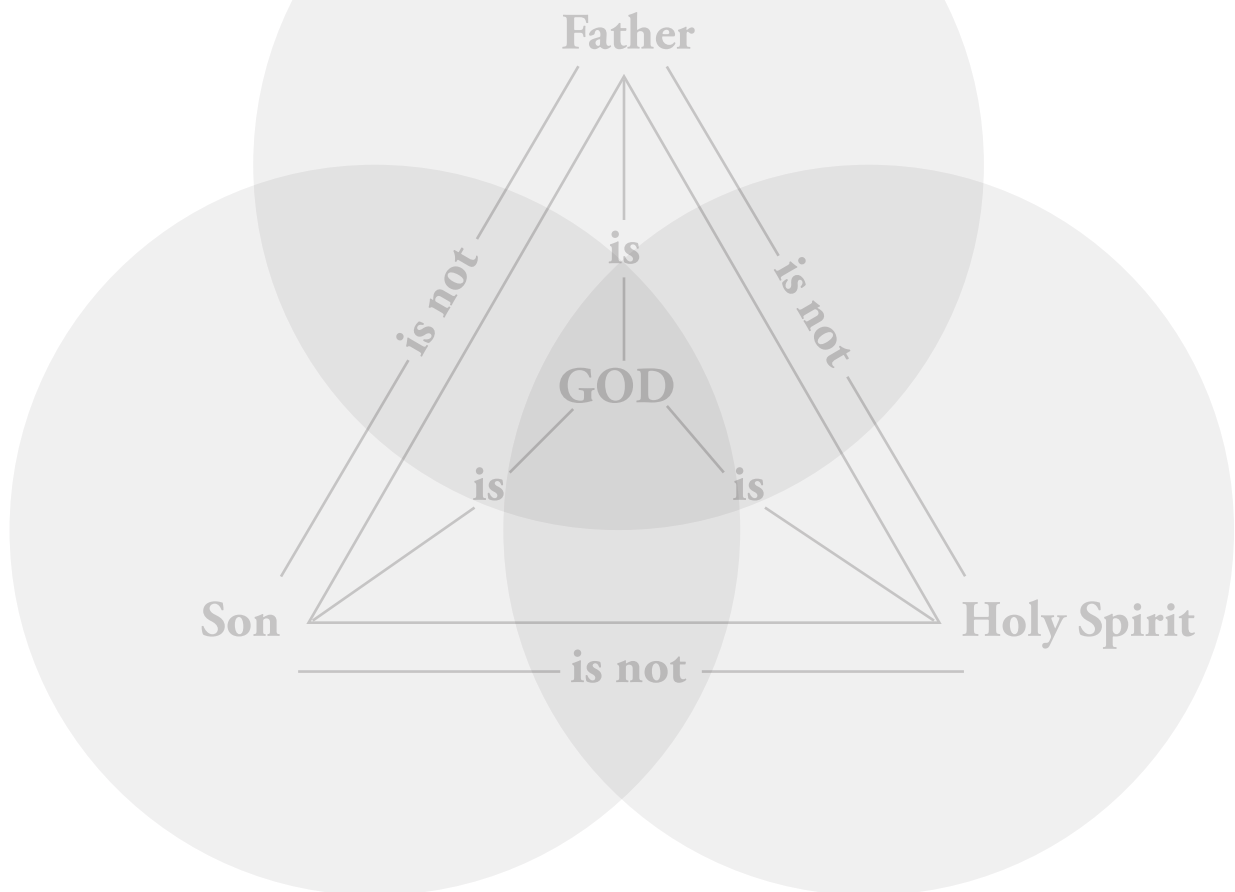


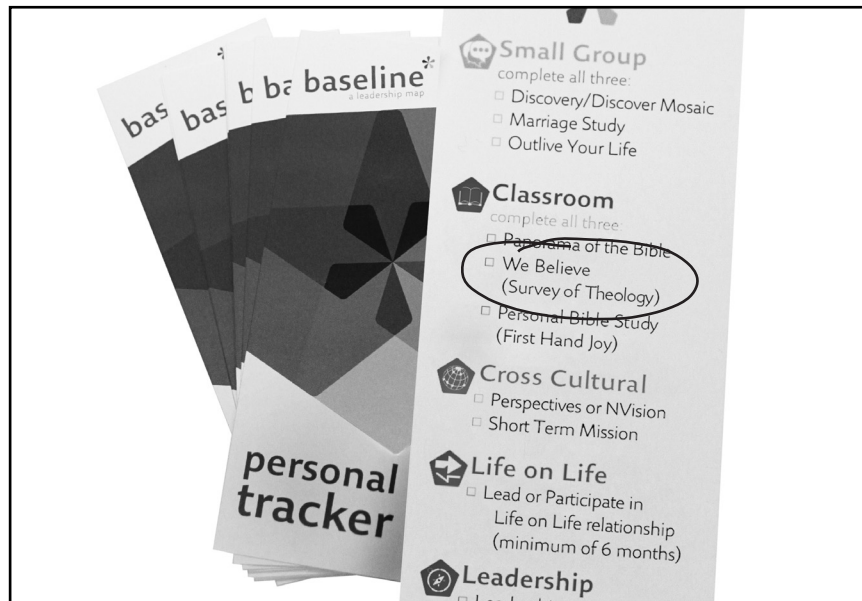
WE BELIEVE (SURVEY OF THEOLOGY)



baseline*

"Baseline" (a part of the BiLD Training Center) provides a common pathway of leadership development for emerging leaders at Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas.

This is a foundational expectation for all of Fellowship. Baseline is the starting point for discipleship (as well as leadership development).



We Believe

("A Survey of Theology")

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BiLD Training Center
Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas
BiLD.fellowshipnwa.org

Preface

Welcome to the first steps of a theological journey. Hopefully, over the course of the twelve sessions, we will gain an appreciation of the basics of what "We Believe".

Someone once said, "For God so loved the world that He didn't send a committee." With tongue-in-cheek, many of us can see both the humor and the point of that insight.

Another, in the same vein of humor, has declared, "For God so loved the world that He gave us the Bible, not a Systematic Theology Textbook" (or "We Believe" Workbook). Again, for those who live in the theological world, such humor can also be convicting.

Many find the study of Bible Doctrine to be dull and laborious. Yet, it need not be so. Doctrine, or teaching, is actually what God has revealed about Himself, life, mankind, the church, sin and salvation, plus so much more. To gain a strategic grasp of the Scriptures, one must be able to not only think through the Bible, but think deeply and categorically about the Bible (and what it affirms).

It is our hope that this introductory study will aid the conscientious believer to "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV).

Let the journey begin!

Robert V. Cupp
BiLD Training Center
Summer, 2012

A final word of appreciation is in order. Thank you to Tyler Kenyon for assistance in research and quotable quotes. A huge round of applause to Fellowship's Communication Team. You never cease to amaze me with your "can do" attitude.

"We Believe" 1.0	12 one-hour sessions
"We Believe" 2.0	12 two-hour sessions

How to Maximize the Greatest Value of "We Believe" (Survey of Theology)

1. Attend all 12 sessions (view or listen online).
2. Review, several times, the outline notes and the supplemental materials within each session of the Workbook.
3. Teach someone the materials (or major theological themes) within each session of the Workbook.
4. Record further questions that you have; seek help to answer as many of these as you can. Don't be discouraged by the difficulty of some of the subject matter. Treat it as "theological gristle" and keep chewing on it (over and over).
5. Reflect for further study upon the supplementary materials (charts, diagrams, et al.) found on the left side of the open Workbook (even-numbered pages); these are provided for further thought and reflection.

Some Important Definitions

- **Theology:** "a religious belief system about God or ultimate reality" (Grenz, Pocket Dictionary, 113).
- **Theologian:** "one who seeks to understand the doctrinal basis of a religion..." (Erickson, Dictionary, 166); note that everyone is (should be) a theologian (only question is what kind: good or bad?)
- **Doctrine:** "a belief or teaching regarding theological themes, that is, a tenet regarding the nature of God and his works" (Erickson, 45).
- **Systematic Theology:** "that discipline which attempts to arrange the doctrinal content of scripture in a coherent fashion, express it in contemporary form, and relate it to issues of practical Christian concern." (Erickson, 163).

*Note all scriptures are from NIV 1984 Bible, unless otherwise noted.
Emphasis added with bold and underline text.

We Believe

("A Survey of Theology")

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