



# Freedom, Mystery and “Kinds of Desire”





The Doctrine of *Theosis* and Free Will’s Intelligibility Problem

# 1

## The Shape of the Debate



# The Philosophical Free Will Debate

	Is determinism true?	Are we free?
Compatibilists		
Libertarians		



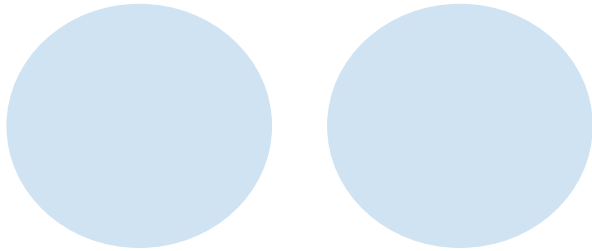
# Kane's Four Questions

1. The Compatibility Question- “Is free will compatible or incompatible with determinism?”
2. The Significance Question- “What kind of free will is worth wanting?”
3. The Intelligibility Question- “Can we make sense of a free will that is incompatible with determinism or is it, as many claim, essentially mysterious or obscure?”
4. The Existence Question- “Can such a free will exist in the natural order and, if so, where?”

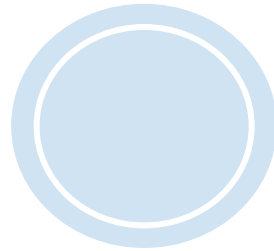


# Christian Theism and the Philosophical Free Will Debate: Three Approaches

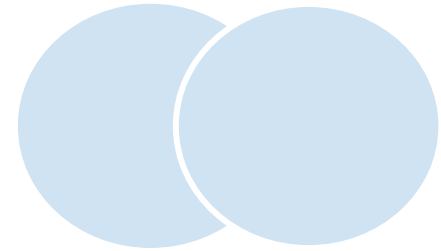
1) Insulation



2) Subordination



3) Application





# Kane's Four Questions

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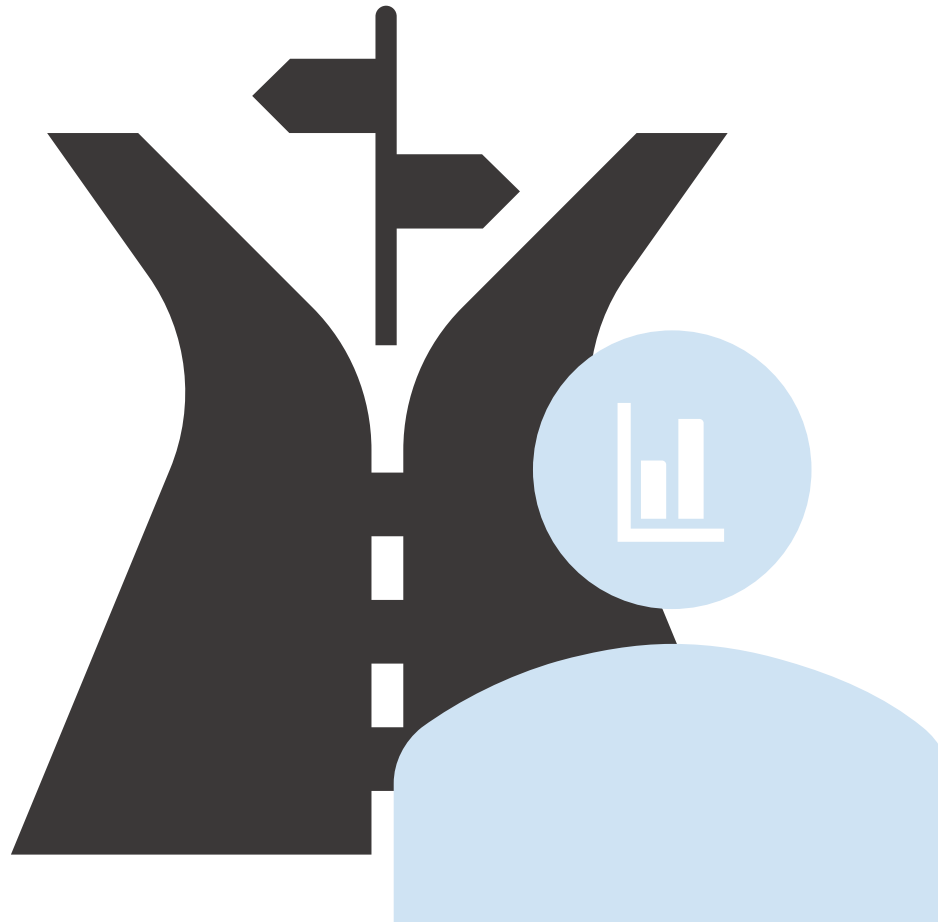
Does Christian theism contain any resources which might help us make sense of the intelligibility question?

# The Intelligibility Problem





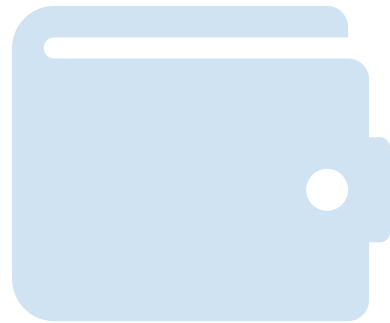
# Decisions and Desires





# Moral vs. Amoral Choices





Determination  $\neq$  Freedom  $\neq$  Random chance



# A Stubborn Dilemma

- Peter van Inwagen's "Mysterianism"
- Robert Kane's Causal Indeterminism
- Timothy O'Connor's Agent Causation

“There are at most two sorts of occasion on which the incompatibilist can admit that we exercise free will: cases of an actual struggle between perceived moral duty or long-term self-interest, on the one hand, and immediate desire, on the other; and cases of a conflict of incommensurable values.”

*-Peter van Inwagen*



# A New Approach: The Doctrine of *Theosis*

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

*-2 Peter 1:3-4*



# The Doctrine of *Theosis*

- A soteriological belief
- Scriptural and patristic origins
- Bound to the trinity
- The role of Jesus
- Fulfillment of humanity





# *Theosis* and Choice

- “Kinds of desires”
- *Theotic* virtue ethics
- Impenetrable Mystery



# Moral vs. Amoral Choices



“The whole dance, or drama, or pattern of this three-Personal life is to be played out in each one of us: or (putting it the other way round) each one of us has got to enter that pattern, take his place in that dance. There is no other way to the happiness for which we were made.”

*-C. S. Lewis*



# Some Objections

- Avoiding the problem?
- Only an Orthodox doctrine?

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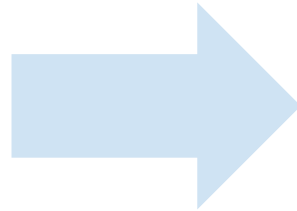
## Conclusions and Recommendations



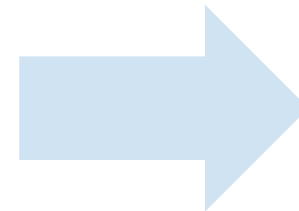
# A Parallel Argument

## *The Existence Question*

Christian theism  
is true



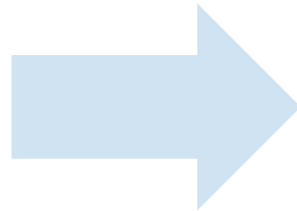
It is more likely  
that immaterial  
souls exist



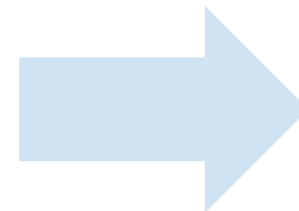
It is more likely  
that libertarian  
free will exists

## *The Intelligibility Question*

Christian theism  
is true



It is more likely  
that *theosis* is  
true



It is more likely  
that libertarian  
free will exists



# Recommendations for Further Inquiry

- Greater theological nuance
- Relevancy of *theosis* to existent libertarian theories
- Sharpened quantitative investigation
- Continuation of the “application” approach



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Q & A