

Now, What's Your Answer?

God has not hidden what he is doing. He has been pleased to send his Son into the world to redeem it and provide peace and reconciliation to all men everywhere. The Son has fully satisfied the Father by doing all that he has given him to do, conquering sin and death, and offering life to all who will hear him. The news of Christ's victory and exaltation has been announced in all the world.

Now the call of the gospel comes to you with these terms: God has defeated his enemies and exalted his Son. All who have been in rebellion are offered a pardon. God requires you to confess your sin, abandon your rebellion, and submit to the gracious rule of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says you must repent of your sins, believe this gospel, and be baptized. Join the company of God's church, giving due glory to Christ in worship, and the obedience of faith in a life of service every day.

THE ANSWER
to Life, the Universe,
and Everything



Zion Church

5511 South 27th Street
Lincoln Nebraska 68512
402-476-2524
office@zionpca.com
www.zionpca.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30, 11:00
Christian Education for all ages: 9:45
Infant and toddler nursery provided.

The Father loves the Son and has given everything into his hand.

John 3:35

The Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything

Before the Beginning . . .

God was alive in eternity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — three persons who could say “I” and “Thou”, but One God. All three persons expressed and received love, honor, and glory from the others.

Then the Father determined to glorify the Son by creating a universe for him to rule and redeem.

The Son determined to glorify the Father by receiving creation from him, entering it, glorifying it, accomplishing all that the Father gave him to do, and at the end, rendering it all back to the Father.

In the Beginning . . .

God created all things: the heavens, the earth, angels, all creatures, and man. He did this as an expression of his glory.

Man was created with a will that was free to obey God’s commands, but that freedom also included the ability to choose sin.

Our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned, and the moral corruption of their nature is inherited by all of their descendants.

All are now under sin, with wills that have an unbreakable bent towards selfish disobedience.

So Now . . .

The Father has glorified the Son by sending him into the world to display his mercy and kindness. He glorified the Son particularly by sending him to the cross, where the agony of crucifixion

shows the greatness of God’s love towards man who hates him and kills him. And the Father glorified the Son by raising him from the dead and exalting him, seat-

ing him at his right hand, and giving him all authority in heaven and on earth.

Then Why are We Here?

Life, the universe, and everything is not ultimately “about” you, me, or anyone else. Col. 1:16 “By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, ... all things were created by him, and for him.”

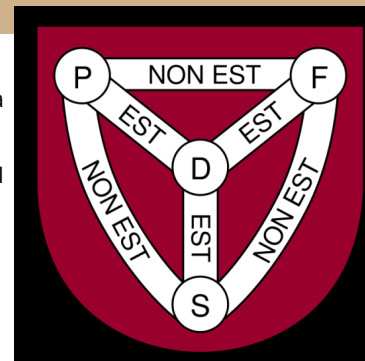
- The Father is glorifying the Son by giving him a world to redeem and rule.
- The Son is glorifying the Father by receiving all things from his hand and accomplishing all that the Father has given him to do.
- The Spirit is glorifying the Father and the Son by turning the hearts of men towards Christ.

We are invited into the whole thing to receive and enjoy the mercy and lovingkindness of God through the cross of Christ; a marvel unknown to the holy angels in heaven.

For the Glory of God

The Westminster Shorter Catechism teaches us “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.” How do we do that?

One ancient representation of the doctrine of the trinity: Each corner of the triangle represents one of the persons: Father (Pater), Son (Filius), and Spirit (Spiritus). Each is (Est) God (Deus), represented by the lines joining at the center. But each cannot be confused with (Non Est) either of the other persons. One God in three persons. Each of exactly the same divine substance and nature, but distinct in their personal relations and roles.



“Now is the Son of Man glorified.” It is the special glory of the Son to offer himself as a sacrifice for our sins. So you glorify Christ by looking to the

cross, confessing him as your savior and ceasing every effort of your own to please and satisfy God as though what Jesus did on our behalf was not enough. Jesus is glorified by saving you just as you are, and you actually rob him of glory if you behave as though the Son did not fully satisfy the Father in every way on your behalf.


The second way we glorify God is by letting the Spirit of God work in our hearts and change us. We put off old ways and put on new ways. We stop living in selfishness and disobedience and start living in the obedience of faith. The scripture tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We must be more and more conformed to the likeness of Christ. It is the glory of Christ for his character to be reflected in us, more and more clearly all the time.

Life, the Universe, and Everything

You have been given life, created in the image of God, to glorify and enjoy him.

The universe was created by, for, and through the Son, whose glory the Father seeks in all creation.

Everything works together for this end, that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess him as Lord, to the glory of the Father.



This brochure offers the Christian answer to a question from Douglas Adams’ series of whimsical books (beginning with *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*) in which the greatest super computer ever made is asked for the ultimate answer: “you know, life, the universe, and everything.” After working until the end of time, the computer gives the answer: 42.

The first way we glorify God is by confessing our sins and calling on God to save us through the cross of Christ. Jesus said that he came to seek and

save that which is lost. So Christ is glorified by accomplishing our salvation. On the night when he was betrayed, arrested, and taken to be crucified, Jesus said,