


# From Divine Likeness to Transhuman Dreams

"From Eden's Deception to Transhuman Desires:  
The Evolution of Our Spiritual Journey"



Man was Created  
in God's Image  
Designed by God  
to Reflect His  
Nature and Power!

Gen. 1:26-28 MSG God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

27 God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature.  
He created them male and female.

28 God blessed them: "Prosper!  
Reproduce! Fill Earth!..."

# Transcending Boundaries

## Genesis 2:15-17

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.



16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:



17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

# The Big Lie!

## Genesis 3:1-6 MSG

1 The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to the Woman: "Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?"

2 The Woman said to the serpent, "Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden.

3 It's only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'Don't eat from it; don't even touch it or you'll die.'"

4 The serpent told the Woman, "You won't die.

5 God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil."

6 When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it - she'd know everything! - she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate.

# The Big Lie!

- **Man was already like God**
- **The serpent created the illusion or lie that they were missing something creating the first concept of SEPARATION!**
- **There was something MISSING!**

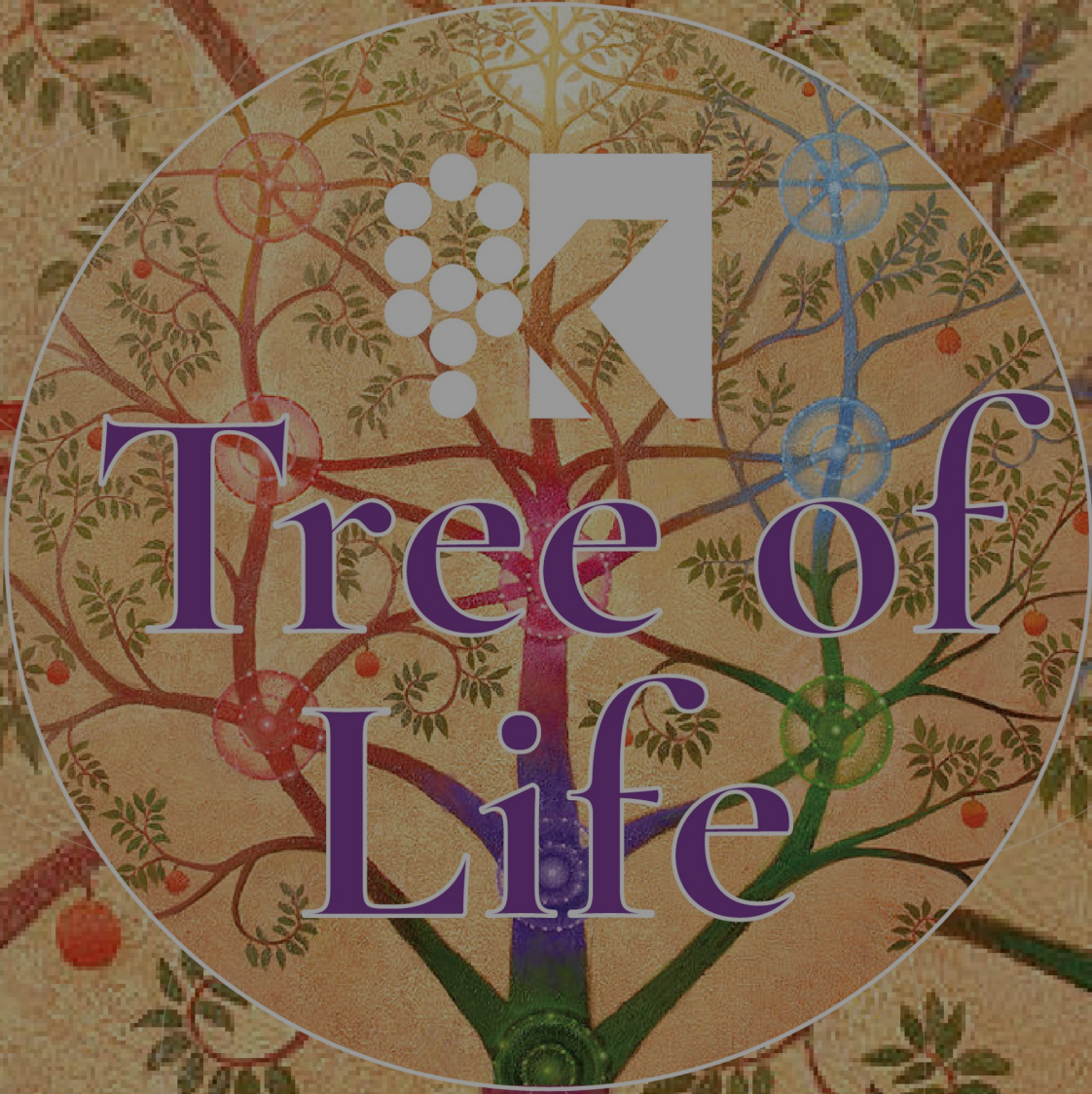


What died in the garden?

**Clearly the physical body did not immediately die!**

**The death was the connection and the knowledge that man was already create with God's nature and power.**

**It was the disruption (The Fall) of humanity's relationship with God**



Gen 3:22-24 MSG God said, "The Man has become like one of us, capable of knowing everything, ranging from good to evil. What if he now should reach out and take fruit from the Tree-of-Life and eat, and live forever? Never - this cannot happen!"

23 So God expelled them from the Garden of Eden and sent them to work the ground, the same dirt out of which they'd been made.

24 He threw them out of the garden and stationed angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree-of-Life.

# The Battle of The Seeds Begins...

Gen 3:15-16 KJV And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Gen 3:14-16 MSG God told the serpent: "Because you've done this, you're cursed, cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals, Cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life.

15 I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll wound your head, you'll wound his heel."

16 He told the Woman: "I'll multiply your pains in childbirth; you'll give birth to your babies in pain. You'll want to please your husband, but he'll lord it over you."



# The Shift Away From God Consciousness

## Man has become SIN conscious vs God conscious

Many Christians are overly concerned and focused on sin both their past and present sin, believing that the Christian life is one of proper performance before God. They have become consumed by their negative sinful thought life which has led to sinful behavior. They fear failing God by sins of commission or omission. Their primary motivation not to sin leads to a daily evaluation as to whether they have measured up to God's standard of perfection.

Such a sin driven mentality becomes a miserable and vicious cycle of sin-avoidance, sin cover-up, sin confession, and an over-all consciousness of sin. The end result is guilt and shame.

Sin consciousness keeps us focused on ourselves, "Our" progress, "Our" spirituality, "Our" needs.

# The Shift Away From God Consciousness

Man has become SIN conscious

vs God conscious

- The Christian is Christ conscious as he or she lives in the reality that “apart from Christ” we can do nothing,” and that “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). “Our adequacy is from God” (II Cor. 3:5), “We have been granted everything pertaining to life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3).
- Christ consciousness is by the Spirit’s revelation. As we come into an awareness of Christ “in us,” “through us” and “as us,” in completeness and perfection, our own “spiritual status” is no longer at the forefront of our concern. From this point on life then refocuses outward (away from us), an others-oriented view. This is Christ consciousness. Christ for others through us. Love is Christ and Christ-consciousness is God’s love for others.

# How Did The Church Shift?

## 1st Century CE:

- *2 Peter 1:4 (KJV)*: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
- This verse highlights the concept of becoming "partakers of the divine nature."

## 2nd Century CE:

- *Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35-107 CE)*: "I am God's wheat, and I am ground by the teeth of wild beasts that I may be found pure bread [i.e., transformed into the likeness of Christ]."
- Ignatius expresses the idea of transformation into Christ-likeness.

## 4th Century CE:

- *Athanasius (c. 296-373 CE)*: "For He [Jesus] was made man that we might be made God."
- Athanasius emphasizes the connection between Christ's incarnation and humanity's deification.

# 5th-15th Centuries CE: Flourishing of Theosis or God Consciousness

## 5th-7th Centuries CE:

- *Maximus the Confessor (c. 580-662 CE)*: "God and the human being are a single whole, in which the distinction between divinity and humanity is never abolished."
- Maximus elaborates on the union of divinity and humanity in theosis.

## 8th-9th Centuries CE:

- *The Seventh Ecumenical Council (787 CE)*: Affirmed the use of icons in worship, reinforcing the idea of humanity's participation in divine life through images.

## 11th-15th Centuries CE:

- Theosis remains central to Eastern Orthodox theology during the Byzantine Empire, but there are no specific quotations available for this period.

# 16th-18th Centuries CE: Reformation and Scholasticism

## 16th Century CE:

- *Martin Luther (1483-1546 CE)*: "I must listen to the Gospel. It tells me, not what I must do, but what Jesus Christ the Son of God has done for me."
- Luther's emphasis on justification by faith signaled a shift away from theosis.

## 17th-18th Centuries CE:

- *Enlightenment Philosophy*: Enlightenment thinkers like Immanuel Kant promoted reason and rationalism, influencing theological thought. Some theologians explored more rationalistic approaches to faith.

# 19th-20th Centuries CE: Modern Theology and Secularism

## 19th Century CE:

- *Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834 CE)*: "Religion is not knowledge and not action but a movement, a disposition of the heart."
- Schleiermacher's influence contributed to the development of Liberal Theology.

## 20th Century CE:

- *Paul Tillich (1886-1965 CE)*: "The answer of faith is an answer to ultimate concern. Man is driven by his concern for something."
- Tillich's existential theology reimagined the divine-human encounter in more existential terms.

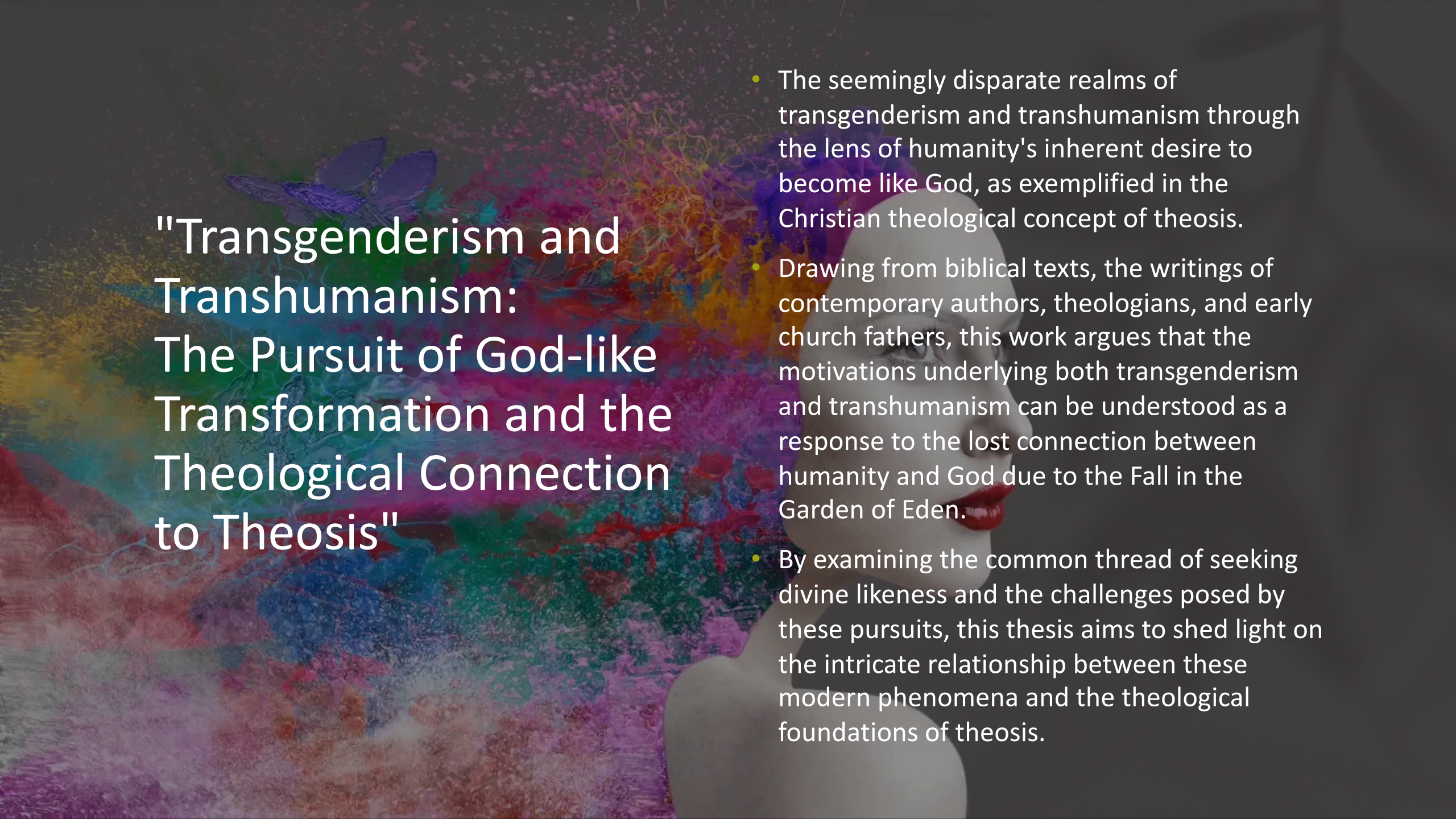
## 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries CE: Contemporary Theological Trends

### 20th Century CE:

- *Gustavo Gutiérrez*: A key figure in Liberation Theology, Gutiérrez focused on social justice and the transformation of society as part of theology.
- *Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza*: A prominent feminist theologian, she challenged traditional theological paradigms.

### 21st Century CE:

- Contemporary theology features diverse perspectives, with some theologians seeking to bridge traditional and contemporary ideas through interfaith dialogue, pluralism, and the ongoing impact of secularism.



# "Transgenderism and Transhumanism: The Pursuit of God-like Transformation and the Theological Connection to Theosis"

- The seemingly disparate realms of transgenderism and transhumanism through the lens of humanity's inherent desire to become like God, as exemplified in the Christian theological concept of theosis.
- Drawing from biblical texts, the writings of contemporary authors, theologians, and early church fathers, this work argues that the motivations underlying both transgenderism and transhumanism can be understood as a response to the lost connection between humanity and God due to the Fall in the Garden of Eden.
- By examining the common thread of seeking divine likeness and the challenges posed by these pursuits, this thesis aims to shed light on the intricate relationship between these modern phenomena and the theological foundations of theosis.



# **Transgenderism as a Quest for Identity and Wholeness**

Analysis of transgenderism as a response to the alienation from one's true self.

Quotes from contemporary authors and activists like Judith Butler and Janet Mock.

Exploration of how theosis-like ideals are reflected in transgender narratives.

# Transgenderism

- Transgenderism is primarily a concept related to gender identity. It refers to individuals whose gender identity differs from the sex assigned to them at birth. Transgender people may undergo social, medical, or legal transitions to align their gender expression with their gender identity. Ultimately, they believe something is missing and God made a mistake.
- Transgender individuals often experience gender dysphoria, a psychological distress resulting from the incongruence between their gender identity and their assigned sex. Many seek gender-affirming medical treatments, such as hormone therapy or gender-affirming surgeries, to alleviate this distress.



# Transhumanism

- Transhumanism is a philosophical and cultural movement that advocates for the enhancement of human abilities and capacities through the use of technology and science. It is not inherently related to gender identity or transformation.
- Transhumanists believe in using advancements in fields like biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology to improve human health, intelligence, and longevity. This may involve concepts like genetic engineering, brain-computer interfaces, or even the pursuit of immortality.
- Transhumanism is centered around the idea of transcending current human limitations and achieving a post-human or transhuman state.
- ONCE AGAIN – Something is Missing! We can become gods without God!



# Theosis or God Consciousness

1. Theosis is a theological concept in certain branches of Christianity, particularly in Early Christian and Eastern Orthodoxy. It is the process of becoming one with or participating in the divine nature of God. Theosis is often associated with spiritual transformation and the pursuit of union with God.
2. In theosis, individuals seek to cultivate virtues, engage in prayer and contemplation, and follow a path of spiritual growth to draw closer to God. The ultimate goal is to achieve a state of divine likeness and unity with God.
3. Theosis is deeply rooted in religious and spiritual contexts and is not directly related to gender identity or technological advancements.

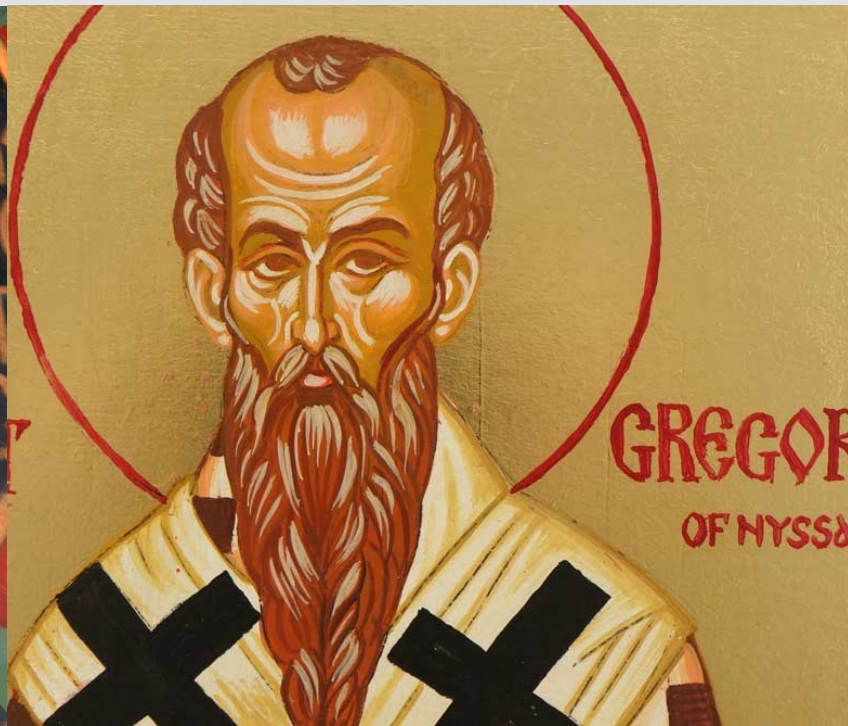


# Historical Theologians

a. *Athanasius (c. 296-373 CE)*: Athanasius, an early church father, wrote extensively about theosis. In his work "On the Incarnation," he famously stated, "For He [Jesus] was made man that we might be made God." Athanasius highlights the connection between Christ's incarnation and humanity's deification.

b. *Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335-395 CE)*: Gregory, another early church father, contributed to the development of theosis theology. He wrote, "Man is mud that has been dignified. . . . You are God-bearing clay."

c. *Maximus the Confessor (c. 580-662 CE)*: Maximus, a prominent figure in Eastern Orthodox theology, articulated theosis as a central theme. He taught that humans could experience union with God through a process of purification and illumination, culminating in deification.





# Theological Neglect


- One reason for the perceived loss of theosis in some Christian circles may be theological neglect. As Christianity has evolved over the centuries, different theological emphases have emerged. Some churches may have focused more on other aspects of theology, such as soteriology (the study of salvation) or ecclesiology (the study of the church), leading to a reduced emphasis on theosis.

# Secularization and Cultural Shifts

- In an increasingly secular world, the church may feel pressure to adapt to contemporary cultural norms and values. As a result, some Christian denominations might downplay or reinterpret theological concepts that are less aligned with prevalent secular worldviews. This could lead to a diminishing emphasis on theosis and a greater openness to secular ideologies like humanism.

## HUMANISM

- ✦ A transition from the scholasticism of the Middle Ages
- ✦ Revival of Greek and Roman beliefs
- ✦ Appreciation of physical beauty
- ✦ Emphasis on man's own achievements
- ✦ Secularism
- ✦ PETRARCH – considered the first humanist



The image is a yellow rectangular graphic with a faint background of a globe and architectural lines. At the top, the word "HUMANISM" is written in a large, bold, red serif font. Below it is a decorative horizontal line with diamond-shaped ends. To the right of the text is a small, square inset of the famous "Vitruvian Man" drawing by Leonardo da Vinci. A large, semi-transparent, pink watermark with the word "INDIVIDUALISM" is oriented diagonally across the entire graphic.

The image shows a close-up of the spine of an old, worn book. The spine is made of dark brown leather with visible texture and some scuffing. Gold-tooled text is embossed on the spine, reading "HOLY BIBLE" in a serif font. The background of the entire image is a dark, reddish-brown gradient.

## Doctrinal Disputes


HOLY  
BIBLE

# Doctrine

*Understanding  
God & His Word*

- Differences in theology and doctrine can lead to the de-emphasis or rejection of certain theological concepts, including theosis. Such disputes may pave the way for alternative philosophical and ideological systems like humanism to gain prominence.





# Theological Adaptation and Misunderstanding

- In an effort to engage with contemporary issues and reach broader audiences, some Christian communities may adapt their theology to be more inclusive and accepting of diverse perspectives, including those related to gender identity and human enhancement. This adaptation can sometimes create a perceived disconnect with traditional teachings like theosis.



# Interfaith Dialogue

In summary, while there are instances where the concept of theosis appears to have diminished within certain Christian circles, the reasons for this phenomenon are multifaceted and involve theological, cultural, and social factors. The perceived shift toward humanist views like transgenderism and transhumanism within some segments of society may be a consequence of broader changes in religious and philosophical thought, but it is not necessarily indicative of a universal trend across all Christian denominations.