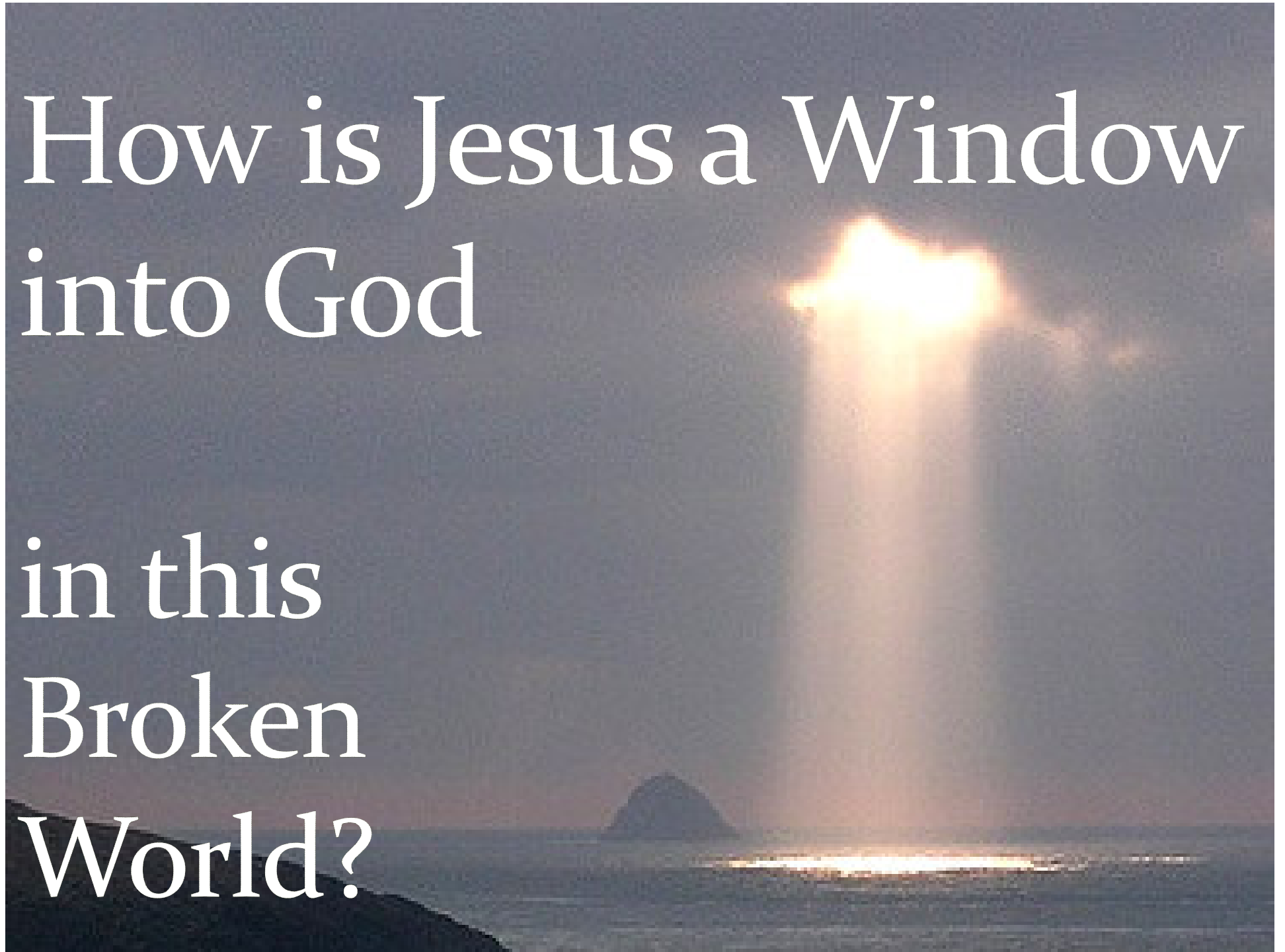


How is Jesus a Window  
into God

in this  
Broken  
World?



# Jesus: Who is he?

15 He is

the **image** of the invisible God,  
the **firstborn** of all creation...

18 He is also

**head** of the body, the church; and he is  
the **beginning**,  
the **firstborn** from the dead,

so that he himself will come to have **first place** in  
everything.

(Paul, to the Colossians 1:15 – 18)

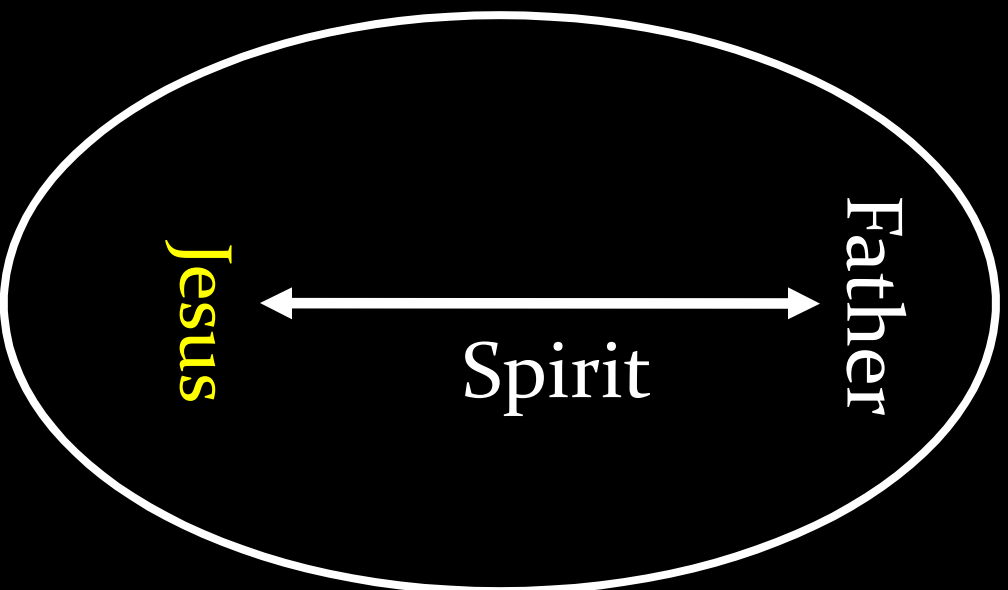
We were to be IN the image of God

GOD



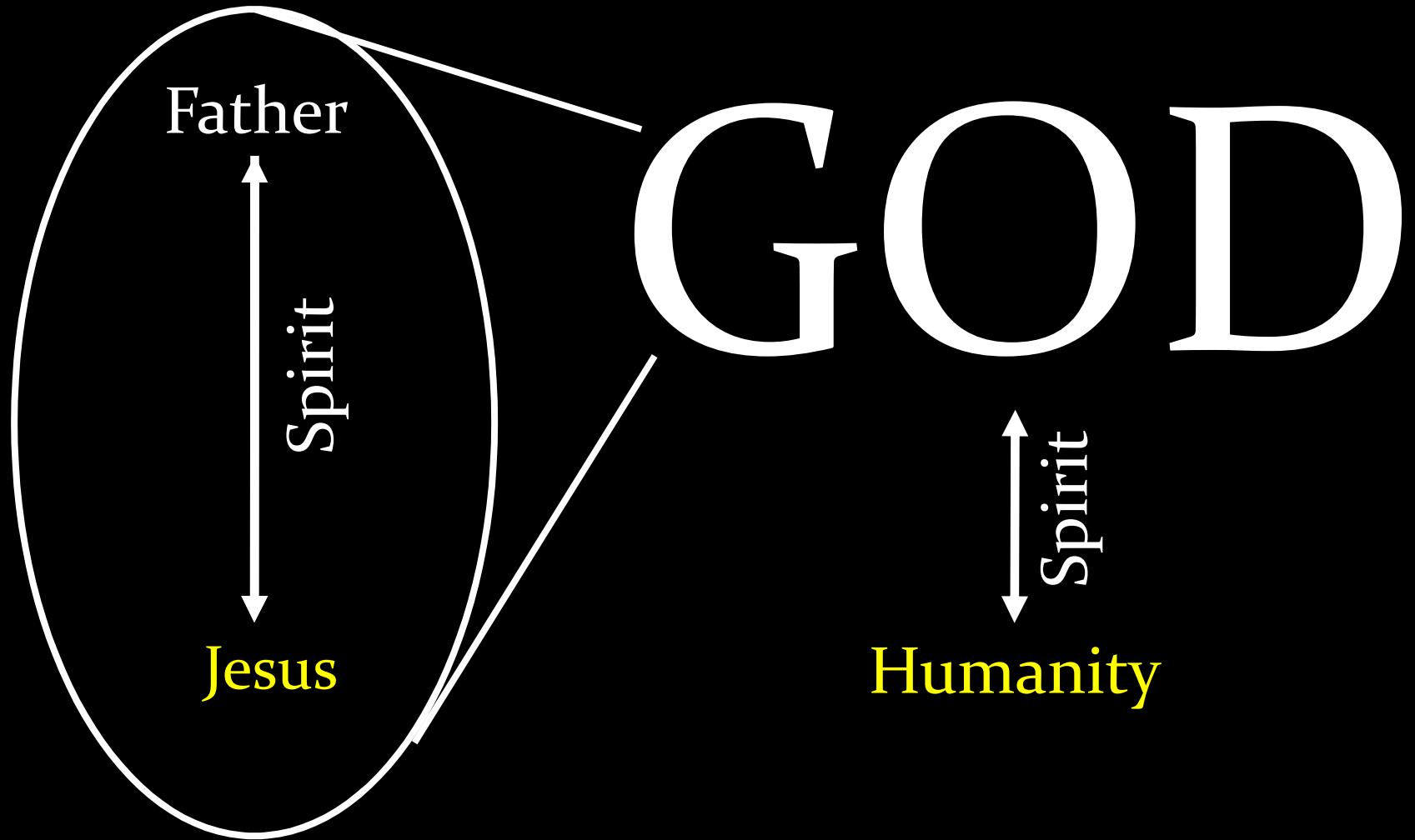
Humanity

# Jesus is THE Image of God

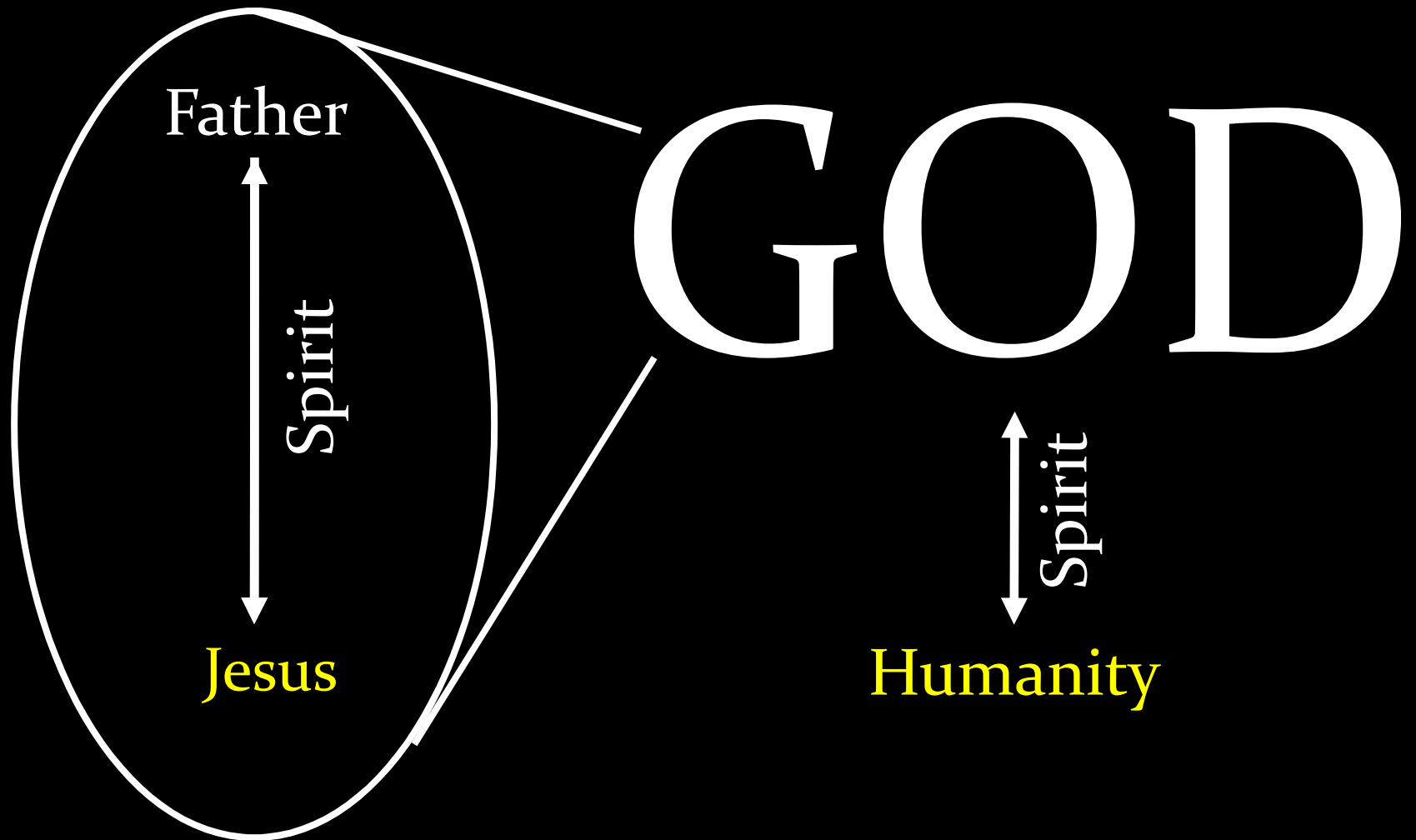


THE Image

IN the image



We are in the image of THE Image



We are created to be like Jesus

GOD

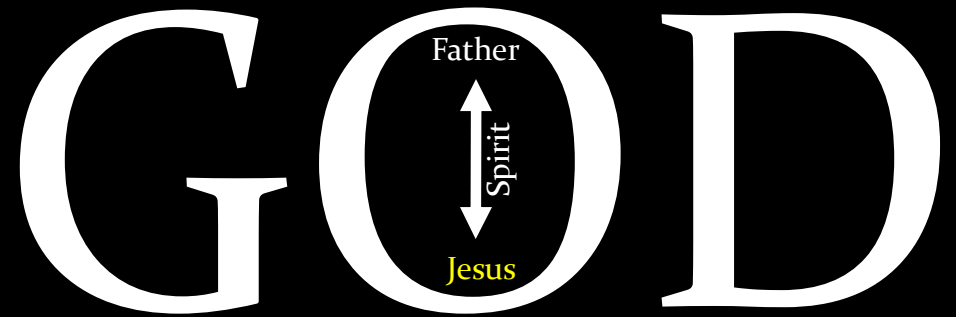
A diagram illustrating the Trinity. The word "GOD" is written in large white letters. Inside the letter "O", there is a vertical double-headed arrow. The word "Father" is written above the arrow, "Spirit" is written vertically along the arrow, and "Jesus" is written below the arrow.

Humanity

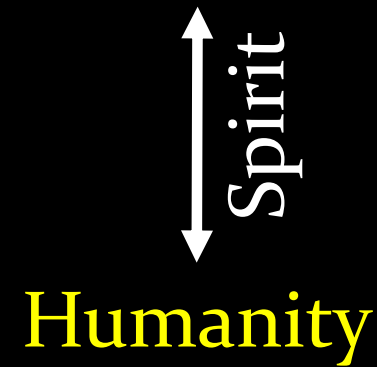
A diagram showing the relationship between God and Humanity. A vertical double-headed arrow connects the word "GOD" (from the previous block) to the word "Humanity". The word "Spirit" is written vertically along the arrow.

God takes what is in Himself  
and extends it beyond Himself,  
binding Himself to us

G O D

The word "GOD" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Inside the letter "O", there is a vertical double-headed arrow. The word "Father" is written in small white text above the arrow, and the word "Jesus" is written in small yellow text below the arrow. The word "Spirit" is written vertically in small white text along the right side of the arrow.

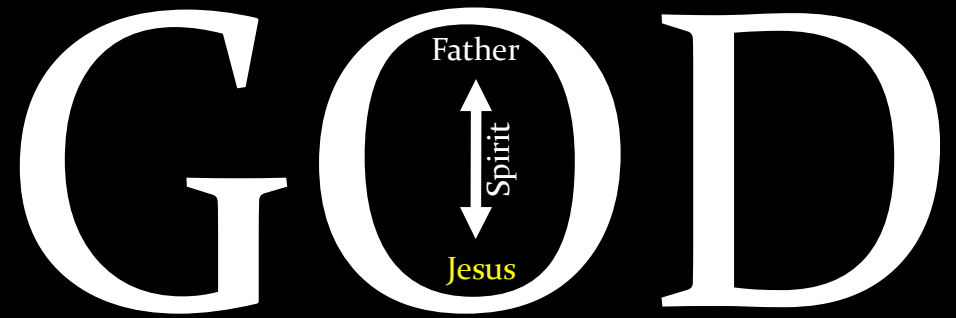
↑  
Spirit  
↓  
Humanity

A vertical double-headed arrow is centered below the word "GOD". The word "Spirit" is written vertically in white text along the right side of the arrow. The word "Humanity" is written in yellow text below the arrow.

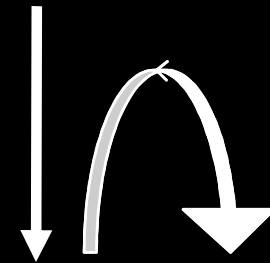


But we separated ourselves

G O D



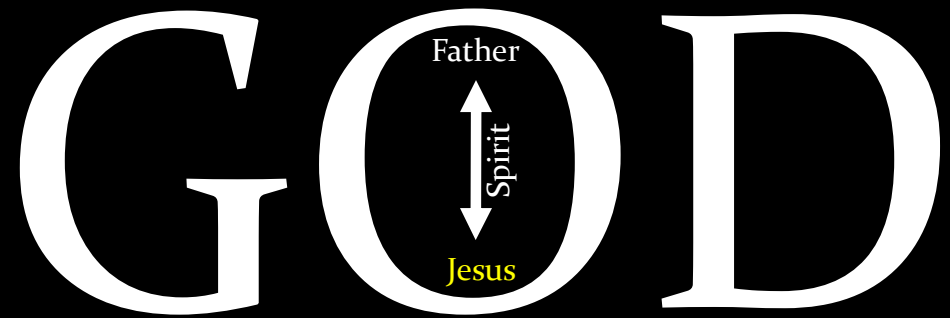
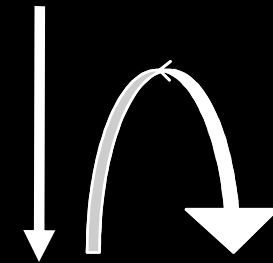
The word "GOD" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Inside the letter "O", there is a vertical double-headed arrow. The word "Father" is written in white above the arrow, "Spirit" is written vertically in white along the arrow, and "Jesus" is written in yellow below the arrow.



Inhuman Humanity

But we separated ourselves  
and became inhuman and self-centered

GOD

The word "GOD" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Inside the letter "O", there is a vertical double-headed arrow. The word "Father" is written in small white text above the arrow, and the word "Jesus" is written in small yellow text below the arrow. The word "Spirit" is written in small white text to the right of the arrow.

**Inhuman Humanity**

‘alienated, hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds’  
(Colossians 1:21)

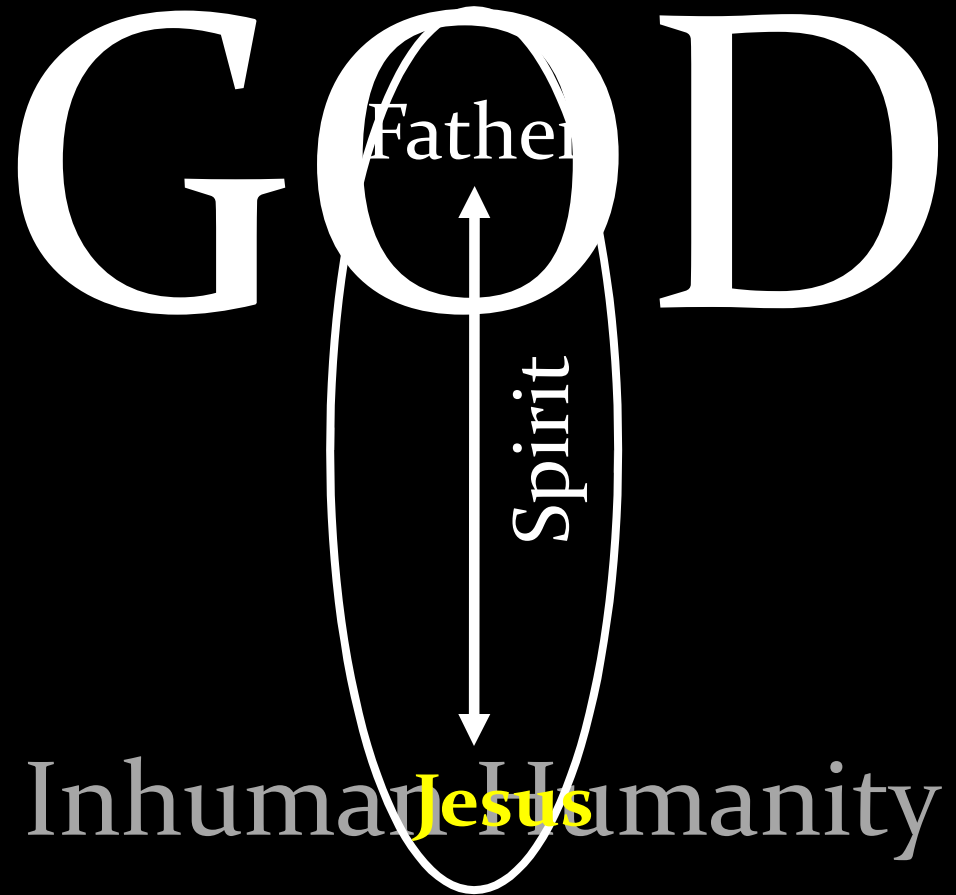
# Jesus: Who is he?

18 He is also

**head** of the body, the church; and he is  
the **beginning**,  
the **firstborn** from the dead,  
so that he himself will come to have **first place** in  
everything. 19 For it was the Father's good  
pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him, and  
through him to reconcile all things to Himself.

(Paul, to the Colossians 1:18 – 19)

# God's reconciliation with humanity: Jesus



# God's reconciliation with humanity: Jesus



G O D

Father

Spirit

Inhuman **Jesus** Humanity

**New Humanity**

# Jesus: Who is he?

20 and through him to **reconcile all things**  
to Himself, having made peace  
through the blood of his cross...

22 he has now **reconciled you**  
in his fleshly body  
through death,

in order to present you before him holy and  
blameless and beyond reproach—

(Paul, to the Colossians 1:20 – 22)

# How does Jesus reconcile us to God?

## WESTERN

What framework?	Legal (judicial)
What is human sin?	Wrong actions
When did Jesus deal with human sin?	At his death only
God's wrath went from...to...?	Father to Son, or God to God
Jesus is the	Victim
God changes...	His mind
What do we get from God?	Forgiveness
Our reconciliation with God is...	In the mind of God
Jesus saves us from our...	Punishment
Can we address social injustice?	No
Gets us into the	After-life

# How does Jesus reconcile us to God?

## WESTERN

## EARLY CHURCH

What framework?

**Legal (judicial)**

**Ontological (being)**

What is human sin?

**Wrong actions**

**Wrong condition**

When did Jesus deal with human sin?

**At his death only**

**From conception to death**

God's wrath went from...to...?

**Father to Son, or  
God to God**

**Jesus' divine nature to Jesus'  
fallen human nature**

Jesus is the

**Victim**

**Victor**

God changes...

**His mind**

**Jesus' humanity, then ours**

What do we get from God?

**Forgiveness**

**New humanity**

Our reconciliation with God is...

**In the mind of God**

**In the physical body of Jesus**

Jesus saves us from our...

**Punishment**

**Evil**

Can we address social injustice?

**No**

**Yes**

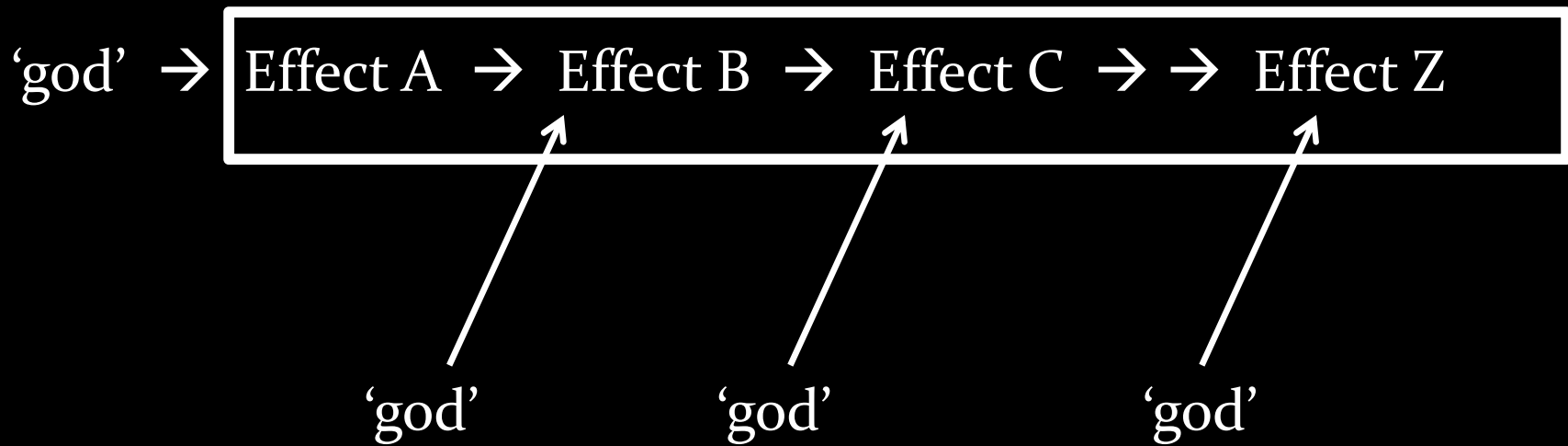
Gets us into the

**After-life**

**Mission-life**



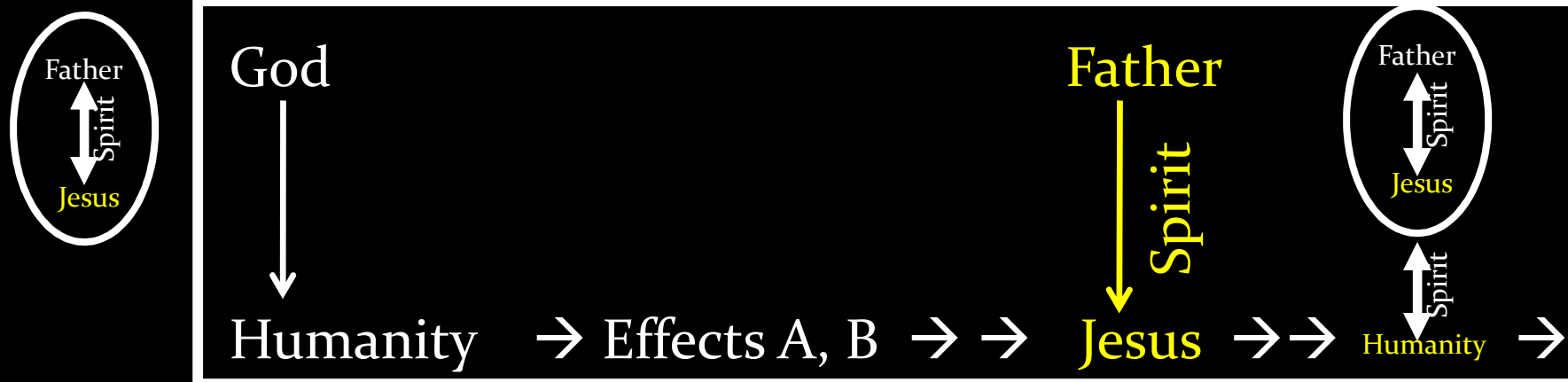
# Why not Option 3: 'god' is in control?



This 'god' basically controls people.

This 'god' acts on the story from the outside

# Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God



This God does not control people. Just as the Father does not control the Son, so God does not control people.

This God acts in the story from the inside, from WITHIN.

This God, as Jesus, confronts and heals the root problem: the human *being* and the human *will*.

# Why is Jesus the True Image of God?

## Option 3

---

- God acts
  - From **outside** our story
- God changes humanity
  - From outside us
  - From a distance
- God's core character:
  - **Coercive power**
- God solves a relational problem **coercively**

## Option 4

---

- God acts
  - From **within** our story
- God changes humanity
  - As one of us
  - As one with us
- God's core character:
  - **Love** – committed and transforming love
- God solves a relational problem **relationally**

# God's Relation with Humanity

- "God becomes powerless before human freedom; He cannot violate it since it flows from His own omnipotence. Certainly man was created by the will of God alone; but he cannot be deified [made Holy] by it alone. A single will for creation, but two for deification. A single will to raise up the image, but two to make the image into a likeness. The love of God for man is so great that it cannot constrain; for there is no love without respect. Divine will always will submit itself to gropings, to detours, even to revolts of human will to bring it to a free consent." Vladimir Lossky, *Orthodox Theology: An Introduction*

Jesus is the True  
Image of God

in this  
Broken  
World

