I. Preliminaries

A. The Need for Definition

A “Proof” of the Existence of God
P1. I love my boys.
P2. If I love my boys, then love exists.
C1. Therefore, love exists. (from P1 and P2)
P3. God is love.
C2. Therefore, God exists (from C1 and P3)

B. Some Possible Divine Attributes

C. God As a Person

D. God and Gender

II. A Conception of God: God As the Supreme Being

A. A supreme being:

(i) is the greatest being conceivable
(ii) is perfect in every respect – i.e., has all the “perfections”
(iii) is maximally worthy of worship, respect, admiration.

A perfection is a property that is both admirable or impressive and maximal.

B. Some Perfections

1. Essential Omnipotence (maximal power)

One unsuccessful attempt to define ‘omnipotence’:
x is omnipotent =df. x can bring about any state of affairs.

For any thing x and property F, x has F essentially =df. x could not exist without having F.

For any thing x and property F, x has F accidentally =df. it is possible for x to exist without having F.
2. Essential Omniscience (maximal knowledge)

   \( x \) is omniscient =df. for any true proposition \( p \), \( x \) knows \( p \).

3. Essential Perfect Goodness (omnibenevolence, moral perfection)

   This might involve: never doing wrong, always preferring the better; having every moral virtue.

4. Necessary Existence

   \( x \) exists necessarily =df. \( x \) could not have failed to exist.

   The concept of metaphysical necessity.

5. Essential Eternality

   \( x \) is eternal =df. either \( x \) exists at every time or \( x \) exists atemporally.

C. Some Other Properties God Is Traditionally Thought to Have

1. Omnipresence

2. Incorporeality

3. Simplicity

4. Immutability

5. Creativity

III. A Definition of ‘God’

   \( x \) is God =df. \( x \) is the essentially omnipotent, essentially omniscient, essentially perfectly good, necessarily existing, essentially eternal, incorporeal, creator of the universe.