

# Key Doctrinal Rationales for Troubling Times

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## I. Definition of “Doctrinal Rationale”

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ one works through in order to think \_\_\_\_\_ about a situation. It is a paradigm to help us think truthfully about things that overwhelm our \_\_\_\_\_. A doctrinal rationale mixes the principles you know from \_\_\_\_\_ with our \_\_\_\_\_ response. Our faith is directed toward \_\_\_\_\_, but it is directed to Him \_\_\_\_\_ the concept He has \_\_\_\_\_ concerning himself and us. The thought process follows a very simple logical \_\_\_\_\_:

IF \_\_\_\_\_ is true, THEN I can trust God to do \_\_\_\_\_.

or even more simply:

\_\_\_\_\_ implies \_\_\_\_\_ about God’s intentions, actions, etc.

## II. Example: “God is Love”—1 Jn 4:8

IF \_\_\_\_\_ is true,

THEN I can trust God to do \_\_\_\_\_.

or

\_\_\_\_\_ implies

\_\_\_\_\_ in God’s intentions, actions, etc.

## III. Challenges to Thinking Through a Crisis

**Ignorance:** Not \_\_\_\_\_ the doctrine means not being able to think through it, and thus not having a basis for \_\_\_\_\_ God in the crisis.

**“Infidelity”:** Habitually failing to \_\_\_\_\_ God—as a general \_\_\_\_\_ of mind.

The loner

The entertainment connoisseur

The self-sufficient

**Incommunicado:** Habitually failing to \_\_\_\_\_—as a general \_\_\_\_\_ of mind.

**Inadequate Anthropology:** Although made to reason with God’s word, in a crisis we emotionally \_\_\_\_\_ and don’t \_\_\_\_\_ to higher human function of reason.

**IV. A Christian Worldview Response to Crisis: Three Important Doctrinal Thought Processes that Define our Relationship with God**

- 1. The Essence of God Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 2. The Position in Christ Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 3. Biblical Eschatology Rational: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**V. Other Key Doctrinal Rationales**

- 4. God’s Covenant Argument Rationale
- 5. The *A fortiori* Rationale(s)
- 6. God’s Evidence to the Angelic Realm Rationale
- 7. The Time and Eternity Rationale
- 8. The Love of God Rationale
- 9. The Truth vs. Feeling Rationale
- 10. The Suffering of Christ Rationale