

URGENT

CIRCA 1st century
CIRCA ROME



R o m a n s

1. Creation:

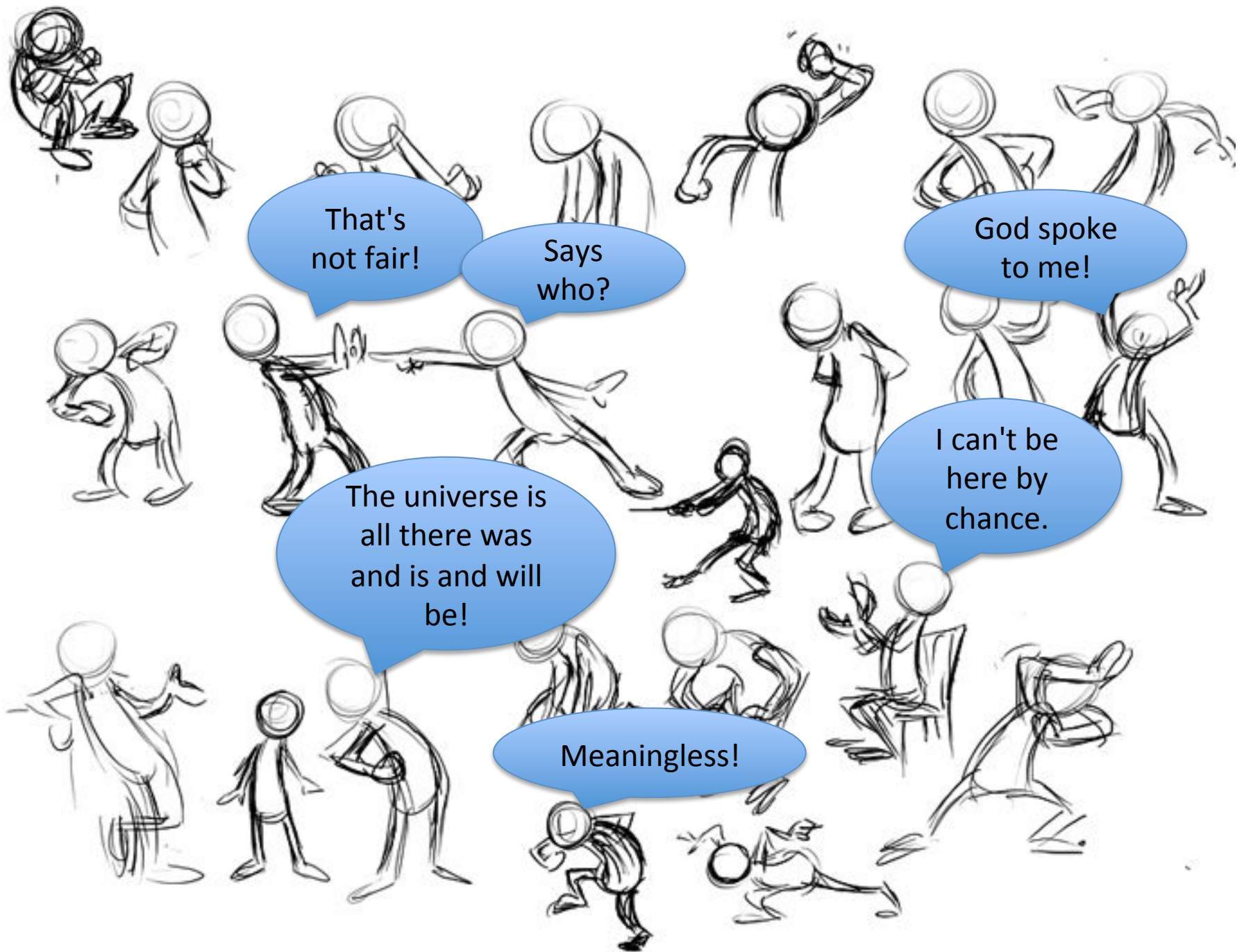
Rom. 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

2. Conscience:

Rom. 2:14-15 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

**General Revelation: Creation &
Conscience**

**Special Revelation: Jesus &
Scriptures**



1. What is the "moral law"?

- Natural "laws" are descriptions of what is**
- The Moral Law is a prescription of what ought to be**

2. The Moral Law is Universal

3. It's not just about cultural traditions

"Thus everyone knows God, however obscurely by this moral intuition, which we usually call conscience. Conscience is the voice of God in the soul."

Peter Kreeft

"But this part is significantly more than the arguments from nature reveal about God because this argument has richer data, a richer starting point. Here we have inside information, so to speak: the very will of God speaking, however obscurely and whisperingly, however poorly heard, admitted, and heeded, in the depths of our souls."

Peter Kreeft

**4. Just because many people deny it
is real...doesn't mean it isn't real**

Rom. 2:12-16 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

**It is not possessing the law that
counts...it is doing it.**

Even the Gentiles have the law in a certain sense...and have not obeyed it

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God's Judgment

1. Is inescapable

2. Is just

3. Is impartial

Rom. 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

- 1. It will include the hidden areas of our lives**
- 2. It will take place through Jesus Christ**
- 3. It is part of the gospel**

**Two kinds of evidence
available to everyone:**

- 1. Creation**
- 2. Conscience**

"This is the terrible fix we are in. If the universe is not governed by an absolute goodness, then all our efforts are in the long hopeless. But if it is, then we are making ourselves enemies to that goodness every day, and are not in the least likely to do any better tomorrow, and so our case is hopeless again. We cannot do without it, and we cannot do with it. God is the only comfort, He is also the supreme terror: the thing we most need and the thing we most want to hide from. He is our only possible ally, and we have made ourselves His enemies. Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are still only playing with religion. Goodness is either the great safety or the great danger— according to the way you react to it. And we have reacted the wrong way."

Lewis, C. S.

**People often look to religion for
comfort...but the gospel is about
truth first.**

Rom. 8:1-4 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

2 Cor. 7:10-11 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter

Conviction

- 1. Specific**
- 2. The Sin**
- 3. Relenting**

Condemnation

- 1. Vague**
- 2. The sinner**
- 3. Unrelenting**