



# GOD WELCOMES ALL

*by Slate Mathes*

In discrete mathematics and so-called "logic" philosophy, categorical statements, or statements that make claims about reality, take four different forms.

The first form, known as an A-statement, follows the form "All A are B". For example, the statement, "All cats are animals", is an A-statement. A-statements are considered "universal" because they make claims about the entirety of a category.

Statements that make claims about only part of a category are considered "particular" and take the form of "Some A are B" or "Some A are not B." "God welcomes us" is not, in its essence, an A-statement. It is in fact, a particular statement. It makes a specific claim about who God welcomes. God welcomes "us". Reworded, the statement says, "We are people that God welcomes."

Particular statements like, "God welcomes us", can also be derivatives of universal statements. In this case, the accompanying universal statement would look something like, "All people are people that God welcomes." If we assume this universal statement to be true, its derivative, "We are people that God welcomes," must also be true because "we" is included in the category of all people.

This may all seem like a bit of a stretch, but I think it illustrates the universality of God's love. It is fairly easy for us to say God welcomes all. It's a universal statement that makes a broad, yet probable, claim about reality. When we think about ourselves, however, we tend to lose confidence. How could God possibly care enough about me to welcome me? Certainly, all the sins I have committed and false prophets I have worshiped have made me undeserving of God's attention. This is an easy trap to fall into, but a little bit of philosophical logic helps remind us of God's universal love.

Does God welcome all? Yes. All people are people that God welcomes. We are people, and therefore, God welcomes each and every one of us, too.