

1. Christian faith in the subjective meaning of *fides qua creditur* (= faith through which is believed) is a specific **self-understanding**—namely, one in accordance with Christian faith in the objective meaning of *fides quae creditur* (= faith which is believed), which is a specific **understanding of human existence**.

2. Both the specific self-understanding and the specific understanding of existence are properly said to be "existential" understandings, i.e., matters of free and responsible decision to understand oneself and all existence in these specific ways.

3. As such, they both necessarily presuppose an **understanding of human existence in general**—namely, as understanding or self-understanding existence—that is properly distinguished from them as an "existentialist" understanding, i.e., an understanding that is given with one's existence as such and is in no way a matter of free and responsible decision.

1 September 1999