

To comprehend means to know fully, exhaustively, perfectly.

Apprehensibility thus means the ability to know. When used in contradistinction to comprehensibility it means the ability to know partially or imperfectly.

Comprehensibility thus means the ability to know exhaustively.

Inapprehensibility therefore means the denial of the ability to know partially. It thus denies the possibility of knowledge.

Incomprehensibility therefore denies the ability to know exhaustively or perfectly. This term allows for the possibility of partial knowledge, but denies the possibility of exhaustive knowledge.

2. Distinction between cognitive or factual knowledge and personal knowledge

Factual or cognitive knowledge is knowledge of facts concerning persons or things views as objects; i.e., living or dead persons or things which can be studied, investigated, researched, and analyzed.

Personal knowledge is knowledge of persons viewed as living, self-revealing subjects.

Cognitive or factual knowledge can be gained from the thought and experience of others or from one's own thought and experience.

Personal knowledge can be gained only from personal contact with, communication with, and relationship to living persons. Personal knowledge of another person can be acquired only when that person opens himself, discloses himself, reveals himself to us.

It is possible to have much factual knowledge of a person, but to have no personal knowledge of that person.

Marilyn Monroe, in the latter part of her short life, regretted her reputation and fame as a sex symbol (although she contributed greatly to that image!). She said, "A sex symbol is an object, a thing. And who wants to be a thing?" Millions of fans know her as an object. Very few persons knew her as a subject.

3. Combinations of these distinctions in relationship to the question of God's knowability

Is God cognitively apprehensible or inapprehensible?

Is God personally apprehensible or inapprehensible?

Is God factually comprehensible or incomprehensible?

Is God personally comprehensible or incomprehensible?