> Man's system of knowledge
> must ... be an analogical replica
> of the system of knowledge
> which belongs to God.
>
> Cornelius Van Til

An Introductory Essay
by David P. Hoover with Lucy Van Pelt

The narrative to follow this introductory essay probably fits no known literary genre. But that is perhaps to be expected when one attempts to translate one medium into another and especially when the media involved are as diverse as a comic strip and heavy duty theological and philosophical discussion. Anyhow, being a lifelong *Peanuts* fan, I have rather liberally raided the imagination of the very gifted Charles Schultz. I must confess, however, that I have no privileged access to the middle-aged fortunes of his main characters. They have been co-opted to think through a few key issues in evangelical apologetics—issues that I have pondered for much of my adult Christian life.

Aside from copyrights and such, it is not at all clear to me *whose* imagination is the proper abode for the Peanuts pals in their development from adolescence and beyond. Is a "mature" Charlie Brown part of the public domain? Perhaps the passage of real time is important to this question. At any rate, my borrowing is confined to certain recurrent themes (e.g., The Great Pumpkin, Lucy's infatuation with Schroeder, Linus's attachment to his blanket, etc.) as well as a semblance of personality traits seasoned over time.

The greatest difficulty the reader may encounter is what may seem to be the development of a rather arcane in-house debate among evangelical apologetes—an historical "tempest in a teapot" among annoyingly intellectual Christians. I apologize for that, but I still think that the uninitiated will be able to follow the main threads of the discussion with a bit of patience. Where the prose is theoretically dense I think it is also introductory. (Lucy would disagree.) In any case, if at long last you find yourself beginning section VII, you're home free (or at least at less cost). The jargon thins out and the English is far more navigable. Besides, you'll

1