

3



Lesson 3

Who Is God?

Introduction

God exists. He created all things. He is awesome, He is real, and we are alive for His purposes.

No one can experience real life apart from this knowledge. If one doesn't know who God is, one will miss his or her ultimate purpose in life. It is for this reason that we must aim to answer the question "Who is God?".

Conversation Starter

Without a clear view of our Creator, we will find it hard to follow Jesus. The Bible says, "Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Hebrews 1:6). A faith in God is at the foundation of a faithful life. For this reason, we must develop a scriptural understanding of who our God is. WHY DO YOU THINK SOME PEOPLE HAVE WARPED VIEWS OF GOD?

Transition

We will examine this lofty subject by talking about two great truths – God is real; God is not like me.

1. God is Real

If you want to talk about God nowadays, you often have to start with a defense for His existence. It should seem absurd that such an argument must be made. Though the evolutionary theory is often touted as being scientific, and though the concept of atheism is en vogue with many, a belief in God should be commonsense for the common man and woman.

Key Scripture:

**“The fool says in his heart,
‘There’s no God.’” (Psalm 14:1)**

The Bible says, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There’s no God’” (Psalm 14:1). The same words were repeated by the Psalmist in Psalm 53:1. A belief in God is something that should be commonsensical. Apart from any programming or cultural bias, most would assume that some sort of supreme being exists.

Scripture placed emphasis on this reality by repeatedly speaking of the foolishness of rejecting the reality of God.

Apply

Many dismiss the notion of a supreme being for various reasons. Some have emotional pain associated with religion. Others have been blinded by lies and bad science. A desire to be god over one’s own life is the motivating factor for a great number. The bottom line is that all denials of God’s existence are shortsighted. There are too many evidences that promote the existence of a Creator. In this section, we will examine three reasons we can know God is real.

A. Creation reveals God is real. (Psalm 19:1, Hebrews 11:3)

Some argue against the reality of God on the basis that He can’t be seen. They desire a sign, proof, or evidence of His existence. The reasoning goes like this – “I’ve never seen him, so he can’t be real.” While such an argument may appear sophisticated at first, a bit of probing reveals that it is unsatisfactory.

While God may not plainly manifest His personage or appearance, His existence is plainly seen all around us.

Creation reveals there must be a Creator. In Psalm 19:1, the Psalmist said, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.” The beauty, complexity, and design of the universe demands the presence of a higher being. Nature is ample witness of God’s existence.

Key Scripture:

**“The heavens declare the glory of God, and
the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.”
(Psalm 19:1)**

Apply

Every piece of art has an artist at its origin. An engineer is behind everything that has been engineered. Every design comes from a designer, and a builder is behind every building. In all areas of life, we assume everything has a first cause. We should carry such reasoning into our considerations of the natural world around us. The Bible encourages us to do so. It says, “Now every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God” (Hebrews 3:4).

B. Conscience reveals God is real. (Romans 2:14-15)

Another argument against God maintains that all religions are mostly alike; therefore, the concept of God is something of mere human invention. Don’t all religions teach the same thing? Didn’t men and women invent stories about God to encourage their children to be moral? Weren’t holy books written to keep people under control?



One who studies beneath the surface discovers a different story. There are vast distinctions between the different world religions. Only a few believe in one God (monotheism). Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are the only major world religions to hold to such a view. Many believe in multiple gods (polytheism). The Greeks did. Today, religions like Taoism and Mormonism do. Other religions uphold nature as divine (pantheism or panentheism). Sikhism and Hinduism are examples of such a perspective.

On top of this, religions offer an endless smorgasbord of paths for obtaining eternal life. Some believe in a hereafter marked by paradise. Others support some form of divine progression. Reincarnation is a hallmark of some traditions.

The aforementioned varying views demonstrate that not all religions are not the same. However, we must be honest that there are some striking similarities between many world religions. Many seem to place emphasis on sacrifices for atonement. Most hold to a similar set of moral standards. The question we face is whether or not such similarities disprove the existence of God.

Instead of bringing the existence of God into question, the commonalities between different religions actually prove His existence. The Bible teaches that the Lord ingrained His Moral Law within the heart of humanity. As a result, every man, woman, boy, and girl has a psyche that is prepackaged with a certain level of understanding about Him.

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Key Scriptures:

“So, when Gentiles, who do not by nature have the law, do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this.” (Romans 2:14-15)

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Apply

The fact that most societies agree upon certain moral standards is evidence that God exists. Our Creator has placed a conscience in each one of us. Though it can be marred because of sin (Romans 1:26), it serves as an imprint that bears witness to the presence of a supreme being. God is real!

2. God is Not Like Me (Isaiah 6:3)

This part of God’s nature is perhaps best expressed through the word “holy.” One could regard the term as meaning “set apart” or “reserved for special usage.” It is for good reason that the Bible uses the word on frequent occasions in reference to the character of God.

Our Lord is fundamentally different than all other things. There is nothing or no one like Him. “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth” (Isaiah 6:3).

Key Scriptures:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.” (Isaiah 6:3)

To better understand our Lord, let's examine five ways in which the Lord is different than us.

Key Scriptures:

"Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God." (Psalm 90:2)

But will God indeed live on earth? Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built." (1 Kings 8:27)

"Look, I am the Lord, the God over every creature. Is anything too difficult for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27)

"Can anyone teach God knowledge, since he judges the exalted ones?" (Job 21:22)

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written, He catches the wise in their craftiness; and again, The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are futile." (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

A. God is eternal. (1 Timothy 2:15-16)

God has no beginning and no end. He has always existed, and He always will exist. He is not bound by time because He created it and He lives outside of it. "Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God" (Psalm 90:2).

Illustrate

If there is a God, where did He come from? What or who existed before Him? It can indeed be hard to wrap our mind around the timelessness of God, but our inability to understand should not make us deny God's existence. His eternity is what makes Him God.

Apply

Such truth should give us purpose in life. We have a God who is eternal. He has existed since before Creation. He is the reason we are alive. When we look to the timeless God, we find direction and meaning for our time on Earth.

B. God is everywhere. (Psalm 139:7-10)

By virtue of His nature, God's presence fills the universe. There is nowhere one can go to get away from Him. "But will God indeed live on earth? Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built" (1 Kings 8:27).

Apply

Wherever you go on planet Earth, God is there. He is always near to help (Matthew 28:20). He can give strength, comfort, wisdom, and direction for life when you need it.

C. God is all-powerful. (Jeremiah 32:27)

"Look, I am the Lord, the God over every creature. Is anything too difficult for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27). The Lord can do anything. On numerous occasions, the New Testament refers to Him as "the Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 1:8, 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 16:14, 19:6, 19:15, 21:22). The title was a compound word made up of two words. It literally meant "all power." The big word for this attribute of God is "omnipotence." God is different than humankind because He is unlimited in strength and might.

Illustrate

Sometimes people like to ask silly questions about God. One question I've heard goes like this, "Could God create a rock so big that He could not move it?" It may be fun to entertain such thoughts. However, it is important to remember that God's power does not mean He will do anything against His nature. Though He is unlimited in strength, He is limited in that He will not act in way that is contrary to His character or will.

Apply

The fact that God can do anything should embolden us in life. He can give us power to perform His will and fulfill His Word. Nothing can keep us from what He desires for us. It is for this reason that Paul boldly said, "I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

D. God is all-knowing. (Job 21:22)

"Can anyone teach God knowledge, since he judges the exalted ones?" (Job 21:22). All wisdom and intelligence rests with the Lord. Though humankind is limited in understanding (1 Corinthians 13:12), the Lord is unlimited. He knows all things (Deuteronomy 29:29). "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written, He catches the wise in their craftiness; and again, The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are futile" (1 Corinthians 3:19-20).

Apply

None of us have it all figured out. We are all limited in our understanding and intellect. However, we can find great assurance in the fact that we have a God who is all-knowing.

E. God does not change. (Hebrews 13:8)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Apply

The Lord's character, attributes, and Word remain fixed forever. We never need to have fear of Him shifting from His truth or His goodness. Though we change, He does not. We can have unflinching confidence in Him.

Conclusion

The ideas presented here about God may seem a little simple. They are, but they are also profound. The basic truth related to our Lord's character is easy to grasp, but it has great power as well. When we live with an ongoing faith in who He is, we can experience great strength and security. Memorize the aforementioned virtues. Pray over them. Praise God for His holiness, righteousness, truth, goodness, and love. Exalt Him for the way in which He has all knowledge and power. Always remember that He is everywhere present. Keep a correct frame of mind about God, and you will be better prepared to follow Jesus!

Follow Me Challenges

PERSONAL: Invite folks on your "My 5 List" (those in your circle of influence who need the love of Jesus) to the Community Easter Service (April 4 at 10 am, Cartersville High School Stadium).

PUBLIC: Participate in, invite folks to, or host a Backyard Egg Hunt or Backyard BBQ. More information can be found at tabernaclebaptist.org/events.

PRAYER: Plan a day to fast and pray for the following:

- The Community Easter Celebration and for those on your "My 5 List" to come worship at the stadium with us and be receptive to the message.
- Backyard Egg Hunts to produce connections with neighbors and responses to invitations to the Community Easter Celebration at the Stadium.