

## Who is God?

### Introduction

In this study, we are going to look at the answer to the question, Who is God. We want to look at what the Bible says about God. The Bible is given by God and so when we come to the bible to discover what it says regarding who God is, we are looking at what God has revealed about himself.

### Definition of God:

In defining who God is, we have to realize that it is impossible to know everything there is about God apart from what he has revealed in the Bible. We can know what God has revealed about himself.

The Bible reveals God as, personal invisible Triune spirit being that is infinite in his existence and unchanging in His perfection who works out all things according to his righteous will.

### The Attributes/Characteristics of God

First we are going to look at what the Bible says regarding the character of God. We will also unpack this definition of God.

### God is Personal:

God, as the author or creator of personhood in the created universe, cannot be less than personal himself. Just like you and I are personal in that we can relate to others. This means that God is a person that communicates and relates to us. He is not some blob or impersonal force to tap into. He is a person. God has all the essential attributes or characteristics of personality.

- God has the ability to think for himself. In **Isaiah 1:18** God speaks and reasons with him. He is able to interact with another person and think through the issues with him.
- God not only has the ability to think he also has the ability to choose. He makes personal choices (**Numbers 16:7**). Jesus reveals to his disciples in **John 6:40** that the one who sent him has a will. God made a choice to send His Son to the earth.
- God also has personal feelings. He can relate to us in our emotions because he also has emotions as well. **Psalms 78:40**. The people grieved him in the wilderness.

### God is invisible

**1 Timothy 1:17**

### God is Spirit:

**John 4:24** states that God is Spirit. When the Bible calls God Spirit, it means that he is not composed of matter and does not possess a physical nature. Jesus also stated in **Luke 24:39** that a spirit does not have flesh and bone.

The Implications of this:

- God is not limited by a physical body. He does not have body parts that limit him to a physical location geographically or spatial. God can be anywhere at the same time.
- There are places in the bible that suggest that God has physical features such as hands and feet. God reveals his actions in such a way, with human physicality so that we can understand how God works in a given situation. It is using human representations to communicate Spiritual truth in concrete terms.

### **God is infinite in His Existence:**

God is eternal and infinite in his existence. That means that God always has and will exist and is timeless. God has no beginning or end. **Psalms 90:2** "Before the mountains were brought forth, or thou formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God."

The Implications

- Nothing created God. He has always existed. He is not dependent on anything or anyone for his existence.
- In relation to us, God works and acts within time as well as sees us in time. **Galatians 4:4** says when the fullness of time came, God sent his Son. God acted within the framework of time. God, being outside of time, can enter time and relate to his people.

### **God is unchanging:**

God cannot and will not change. He is unchangeable in his nature, purpose, and promises. **Psalms 102:26-27**. There is a view out there that is called the openness of God in which God changes in his knowledge of things. This view is contrary to the Bible. God is unchanging. This means that there is no change that takes place in God. Change takes place in relation to time. God is above time and timeless, therefore is not subject to change. God created time and therefore must be outside of time.

The Implications

- What God has promised you can take it to the bank. He does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We can trust him to come through on his word.
- What about those verses that seem to indicate that God changed his mind or that he repented of his anger or the fact he created man. Those passages are not a picture of God changing but a picture of his consistency when man changes. God acts consistent with who he is but that might be different in different situations. **Psalms 18:25-27**

**God is Perfect:**

There are no imperfections within the character of God. **Deuteronomy 32:4**

**God is perfect in his knowledge**

Called Omniscience: All knowing. He knows all things, past present and future. **1 John 3:20. Hebrews 4:13.**

## The Implications

- God knows the heart of man. He knows the pains that might be there. He knows who you really are and if you have truly given your heart to him.
- He knows your future and where you will be and what you will do tomorrow. We cannot hide anything from God. **Isaiah 42:8-9**
- God even knows things that are possible. He knows what you have had done or able to do given the chance. **Matthew 11:21.** This means that if God places you in a situation he knows that you can handle it.

**God is perfect in his power**

Called Omnipotence: God can do all things consistent with his nature with equal effort. There is nothing too difficult for God. **Jeremiah 32:17.**

## The Implications:

- There is no problem too great that you are going through that God cannot solve. His power is greater than your problems.
- There is nothing that can come against us that God cannot protect us from. He is our defense and protection.

**God is morally perfect.**

- God is perfectly good: All that he is and does is only good and worthy of approval and he himself is the standard of all goodness. **Psalms 34:8**
- God is perfectly holy: He is totally and utterly separated from sin and evil and devoted to seeking his own honor. He is perfectly pure and there is no sin in or near him. **Lev 19:2**
- God is perfectly righteous: God always acts according to what is right and he himself is the final standard of right. There is no wrong in him. **Deuteronomy 32:4**
- God is perfectly true: God is perfectly truthful and always speaks the truth. His knowledge and words are truth and he himself is the final standard of truth. **Numbers 23:19**
- God is perfectly loving: God expresses pure sacrificial love for the benefit of another. **Deuteronomy 7:7-8**

## **The Trinity**

Although the word trinity is not found in the bible, the Bible clearly teaches that there is only one God who has revealed or manifested himself in three distinct individual persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Word Trinity comes from Latin and was first used to name the Biblical doctrine in 220 A.D

1. The trinity does not mean that there are three separate but equal gods. The Bible is very clear that there is only one God.
  - a. **Isaiah 44:6-8** and **45:18**
  - b. **Deuteronomy 6:4**
  - c. **Psalms 86:10**
  - d. **Ephesians 4:6**.
2. The trinity does not mean that there are three parts to God. The Bible clearly shows that there are three persons that are the one God.
  - a. The Bible Shows that the Father is God
    - i. **2 Peter 1:17**
    - ii. **1 Corinthians 8:6**
  - b. The Bible shows that Jesus is God.
    - i. **John 10:25-30** Jesus expresses that the Father and himself are one. They are not one person but one God.
    - ii. **John 1:1-14** Jesus is the word that was God and then manifested himself in the flesh.
    - iii. **Luke 5:20-21** Jesus forgives sins
  - c. The Bible shows that the Holy Spirit is God
    - i. **Acts 5:3-4** Holy Spirit is lied to.
    - ii. **Hebrews 9:14** Holy Spirit is eternal.
3. The trinity does not mean that there is one person taking on three different names or roles at different times. All three persons exist at the same time. God is eternally Triune.
  - a. **Matthew 3:16-17** we find all three distinct persons of the Triune God in the baptism of Jesus.
  - b. **Matthew 28:19** one name three persons
  - c. **John 14:16-17** Jesus prays to the Father to send the Spirit.
4. The Bible teaches that there are certain attributes or characteristics that are only found in the one God, and that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all possess them.
  - a. Creation – **Psalms 100:3** Compared with **Colossians 1:16** and **Isaiah 40:13**
  - b. Perfect Knowledge – **1 John 3:20** with **John 21:17** and **1 Corinthians 2:10**
  - c. Perfect Presence – **Jeremiah 23:24** with **Matthew 28:20** and **Psalms 139:7**

To understand this we need to understand the nature of God. Just like we have a human nature that has certain characteristics that are necessary for that nature to exist and without those things there would not be human nature. The divine nature, according to the Bible, is one God, three persons.

### **Human Analogies**

Although human analogies are inadequate and incomplete to fully explain the Trinity, there are some that are helpful.

1. St Patrick used a shamrock to illustrate the Trinity of God – One flower three leaves.
2. An egg: When we say an egg we are referring to the shell, the white, and the yoke.
3. Human Soul: Three faculties Mind, will, and emotion.
4. God is not  $1+1+1$  but  $1 \times 1 \times 1$  which equals 1.
5. The Trinitarian diagram.

