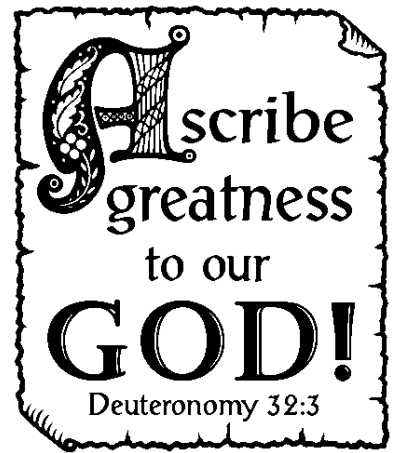


KNOWING GOD



1. WHAT IS MEANT BY GOD OR WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DEITY?

The following terms are used to describe the qualities of deity:

- A. Omnipotent - all powerful
- B. Omniscient - all knowing
- C. Omnipresent - present everywhere at once
- D. Eternal - without beginning or end.

2. CAN ATHEISTS PROVE SCIENTIFICALLY THAT THERE IS NO GOD?

No, they cannot. They could never do that because the existence or non-existence of God is beyond the scope of scientific inquiry.

3. CAN BELIEVERS PROVE SCIENTIFICALLY THAT THERE IS A GOD?

No, we cannot produce God for the world to see and thus demonstrate scientifically that there is a God.

However, God can reveal Himself and prove His existence. He will do this at the end of this age.

"Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." **(Phillipians 2:9-11)**

4. WHY DO MOST MEN BELIEVE IN GOD?

- A. Man is more than a mind and a body; he is spirit, mind and body.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(I Thessalonians 5:23)

- B. The spirit of man knows that there is a God. Every man has this knowledge intuitively.

"Because that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them. For since the

creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened." **(Romans 1:19-21)**

"There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. **(John 1:9)**

- C. For this reason, practically every known society, ancient or modern, primitive or advanced, has a belief in God. We all have a measure of faith.

"For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." **(Romans 12:3)**

5. WHY DO SOME NOT BELIEVE IN GOD?

- A. The knowledge of God can be lost or rejected. We prefer to do as we please without being accountable to anyone. Usually this happens because we do not want to believe in God.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools... And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper." **(Romans 1:18-22, 28)**

- B. Our knowledge of God is under attack by Satan and the world system. The attack is an intellectual assault on our minds.

Although the questions he plants in our minds may be taken seriously by innocent victims, Satan and the world system are simply using them to wage war against God.

6. CAN I BE INTELLECTUALLY HONEST AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

- A. Yes, indeed! There is much material evidence known to scientists which points a to special creation, and creation presupposes a creator.

"The fool has said in his heart there is no God." **Psalm 14:1**

- B. Reason tells us that if we believe a lie and let that lie control our life, it will lead to disaster sooner or later. However, men who have believed in God and let God control their lives have found that faith in God works and produces good results under every conceivable set of circumstances, even in the hour of death. Some results of faith in God include:
1. Forgiveness from the guilt of sin.
 2. Experience of the felt presence of God.
 3. Victory and deliverance from ungodly habits and attitudes.
 4. Answered prayer.
 5. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 6. Divine healing.
 7. Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 8. Faith in God prepares us to face death without fear.

8. WHERE CAN WE LEARN ABOUT GOD?

- A. From His creation. Since God is free and all powerful, everything He has created is a revelation of Himself. **(Romans 1:19-20)**

- B. From the Bible. In the Bible, God has revealed Himself to us.

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions in many ways." **(Hebrews 1:1)**

- C. Especially from Jesus.

"In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir to all things, through whom also He made the world." **(Hebrews 1:2)**

"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also, and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, "Show us the Father?" Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.'" **(John 14:7-11)**

9. IN WHAT SENSE IS GOD ONE?

- A. Individual men and women may be different in many ways, but they are all one in the sense that they are human beings. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one in that they are all deity.
- B. A husband and wife in covenant relationship are not two, but one. The love, respect and commitment means that all that each one is and has belongs to the other. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in such perfect covenant relationship that they are one eternally.
- C. To experience and feel the spirit of either the Father, Son or Holy Spirit is to know the others. They are one Spirit. **(John 14:7-11)**



10. IN WHAT SENSE IS GOD THREE?

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct from each other in a number of ways. Each has distinct and separate bodily manifestations:

- A. Each has distinct and separate bodily manifestation .At Jesus' baptism all three manifested Themselves at the same time. And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying,

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:16-17)

- B. In the Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are more than different functions of one person. There are those who erroneously use the illustration of one man who is a husband, a father and a son but still just one man. So Jesus is a father (in the sense of being Lord); He is the Son; He has the anointing of the Holy Spirit without measure. All this is true but it does not follow that Jesus is God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In fact, the Bible states clearly that God the Father is the Father of Jesus. I may be a father, but that does not mean that I do not also have a father.
- C. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit hold different positions. The Father is supreme in position. **(John 14:28, I Cor. 15:27-28)**
- D. There is a division of labor and function in the Godhead. Redemption serves as a good illustration. The Father loved the world, planned for man's salvation and gave His Son **(John 3:16-17)**. The Son gave His life at Calvary. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin **(John 16:8-11)**, convinces of the truth and regenerates believers **(John 3:6-8)**.

11. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NAMES GIVEN TO THE GOD OF THE BIBLE?

- A. The Hebrew word for deity is Elohim (**Psalm 95:3**). It is important to note that Elohim is a masculine PLURAL noun but is constantly used with singular objects and verbs.
- B. The name of God given to Moses is "I am". (**Exodus 3:14**)
- C. The personal name of God, a sacred unspoken name of the Father, is "Yahweh" or "Jehovah" which means LORD and is always written in capitals in the English Bible..
- D. The spoken name of God, Adonai, also means Lord but in the English Bible only has the first letter capitalized.
- E. An interesting study is the compound name, of YAHWEH. Each one indicates an aspect of His being.
1. Jehovah-jireh (**Genesis 22:14**) The Lord will provide
 2. Jehovah-nissi (**Exodus 17:15**) The Lord my banner
 3. Jehovah-shalom (**Judges 6:24**) The Lord send peace
 4. Jehovah-shammah (**Ezekiel 48:35**) The Lord is there
 5. Jehovah-tsidken (**Jeremiah 23:6, 33:16**) The Lord our righteousness
 6. Jehovah-rophe (**Exodus 15:26**) The Lord that healeth
 7. Jehovah-m'kaddesh (**Lev. 20:8**) The Lord who sanctifies
 8. Jehovah-rohi (**Psalm 23:1**) The Lord my shepherd
- F. Jesus is the personal name of God the Son.
- G. God is called the Holy Spirit to emphasize His contrast to an unholy spirit.
12. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POWERS AND ABILITIES OF THE TRIUNE GOD?
- A. God possesses all authority. This includes authority over:
- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Angels | 4. Demons | 7. Human governments |
| 2. Satan | 5. Material Creation | 8. Human institutions |
| 3. Fallen angels | 6. Mankind | |
- B. God possesses all power and this includes the power to:
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Create | 4. Walk on water | 7. Raise the dead |
| 2. Heal | 5. Still the water | 8. Be visible or invisible |
| 3. Perform miracles | 6. Become a man | 9. Move through walls |
- C. God possesses all knowledge and wisdom (**I Corinthians 3:19-20**)
- D. God is sovereign, absolutely free and accountable to no one.
- E. God is eternal, without beginning or end.

"For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever (dwelling in eternity)...." (**Isaiah 57:15**)

F. God is unchanging.

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

13. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MORAL QUALITIES OF THE TRIUNE GOD?

A. The fruit of the Spirit listed in **Galatians 5:22-23** are a description of the moral character of God. God is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

B. Some other moral qualities of God include:

1. Covenant love, loyalty, faithfulness
2. Justice
3. Mercy
4. Truthfulness
5. Holiness, righteousness
6. Vengeance (**Romans 12:19**)

14. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT?

A. It is a family relationship. (Father, Son)

B. It is a love relationship.

1. The Father
 - a. loves the Son. (**John 15:9**)
 - b. is pleased with the Son. (**Matthew 3:17**)
 - c. gave Him a name above every name. (**Philippians 2:9**)
 - d. made Him Lord. (**Philippians 2:11**)
 - e. has given Him all authority in Heaven and Earth.
(**John 17:2**)
2. The Son loves the Father. (**John 14:31**)
3. The Spirit does not speak of Himself; He speaks of the Father and the Son.