

What is God?

1. *The Essence of God: "What is God?"*
 1. **God is Spirit.** Jn 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth."
 2. **God self-exists.** Ex 3:13-15; Jn 1:3-5; 9-10; 5:26; 8:58;
 3. **God is simple.** Deut 4:39; 6:4; John 10:30; Rom 11:36
 4. **God is infinite.** God has no limitation, except where he has limited himself. Psa 145:3; Job 11:7; Isa 40:12
2. *The Nature of God: "What kind of God is he?"*
 1. **Immutability.** *Definition:* God never changes as to His essence, nature, and attributes. Jam 1:17; 1Sam 15:29; Mal 3:6; Psa 102:11-12
 2. **Freedom.** *Definition:* God's activity is determined by his own pleasure, in accordance with His person. Psa 115:3; 135:6; Eph 1:5-11
 3. **Truth.** *Definition:* Contradiction and God are mutually exclusive. He is entirely consistent with himself. Psa 43:3; 119:160; John 14:6; Tit 1:1-2; John 17:17
3. *The Attributes of God: "What is God like?"*
 1. **Holiness.** *Definition:* The original term 'holiness' referred to setting something apart, and came to mean something that was set apart from evil, toward the good. Psa 99:1-3; 1 Pet 1:15-16; Isa 6:3
 2. **Love.** *Definition:* "God wills to give to the beloved object that which will promote the greatest good for that object." (K Bauder) 1 John 3:16; 4:7-12; 15:13-14; Deut 7:7; Rom 5:8; Jer 31:3; Eph 2:4
 3. **Omnipotence.** *Definition:* "God is able to do anything except that which contradicts his own character." (Bauder) He "is able to do whatever he pleases." (Dagg)
 1. *Biblical support*
 1. **Genesis 18:4** "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"
 2. **Luke 1:37** "For nothing will be impossible with God."
 3. **Matthew 19:26** "With God all things are possible."
 2. *Explanation:*

3. *Implications.* So why is it important for us that God is all-powerful?

4. **Omniscience.** *Definition:* "God knows all things at all times." (Bauder)

1. *Biblical support*

1. **1 John 3:20** "Whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."

2. **Hebrews 4:13** "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

3. **Job 37:16** "Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is **perfect in knowledge?**"

4. **Isaiah 46:9-11**

2. *Explanation.*

3. *Implications.*

4. *The Relationships of God.*

1. **Omnipresence.**

1. *Definition:* "the relation of God as present with creation. He is present everywhere. He is present at one and the same time everywhere." (James Boyce, *AST*, 72-73)

2. *Biblical support:*

1. **1 Kings 8:27**

2. **Psalms 139:7-10**

3. **Isa 66:1**

4. **Acts 17:27**

3. *Explanation.*

4. *Implications*

2. **Eternity.**

1. *Definition:* Eternity is God's infinity related to duration, to time.

2. *Biblical support:*

1. **Psalms 90:2**

2. **Job 36:26**
3. **Revelation 1:8**
4. **John 8:58**
3. *Explanation.*
4. *Implications.*

3. **Lordship.**
 1. *Definition:* "God as the free Creator possesses the right to act toward his creation."
 2. *Biblical support:*
 1. **2 Samuel 7:22**
 2. **Matthew 5:45**
 3. **Romans 9:18-24**
 4. **James 4:13-17**
 3. *Explanation.*
 4. *Implications.*

4. **Righteousness and Justice.**
 1. *Definition:* "Righteousness is God's holiness expressed legislatively." "Justice is God's holiness expressed in judgment." (Bauder)
 2. *Biblical support:*
 1. **2 Chronicles 12:5-7** The LORD is righteous.
 2. **Psalms 58:11**
 3. **Ezekiel 18:4**
 4. **Daniel 9:14**
 5. **2 Timothy 4:8** ...the Lord, the righteous judge
 6. **Revelation 16:5**
 3. *Explanation.*
 4. *Implications*

5. **Mercy and Lovingkindness.**
 1. *Definition:* The day by day demonstration of God's love to his creation.
 2. *Biblical support:*
 1. **Psalms 86:15** But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
 2. **Jeremiah 31:3**
 3. **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own

Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

3. *Explanation.*
4. *Implications.*

5. **God's Last End -**

1. *The Scriptures show that God has made himself the ultimate end of creation.*

1. *Biblical support:*

1. **Isaiah 44:6** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. (also Isa 48:12)
2. **Revelation 1:8; Romans 11:36**

2. *Comment.*

2. *The Scriptures show that God's glory is God's ultimate end in the creation world.*

1. God does things for his own sake, which is the same as his doing things for his glory. **Isa 48:11.**
2. The glory of God is the last end of his saints, the end for which he has made them. **Isa 43:1-7; 60:32; 61:3; Jer 13:11; Eph 1:5; John 17:10; 2 Thess 1:10-12**
3. The glory of God is the last end of the moral goodness of God's saints. **Philippians 1:10-11; John 15:8; 1 Pet 4:11; Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 2:12.**
4. God has made it the moral duty of all men to seek his glory as their ultimate end. **1 Corinthians 10:31; Lev 10:3**
5. The best saints desire and delight in the glory of God above else.
 1. *David and the Psalmists:* 1 Chr 16:28; Psa 115:1; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29:1; 29:2; 57:5; 72:18, 19; 115:1.
 2. *The Holy Apostles:* Rom 16:27; Galatians 1:4; Galatians 1:5; 2 Timothy 4:18; Ephesians 3:21; Hebrews 13:21; Philippians 4:20; 2 Peter 3:18; Jude 25; Revelation 1:5, 6.
 3. *The saints and angels in heaven:* Rev 4:9; 11-14; 7:12; Luke 2:14
6. Jesus Christ's ultimate end in his ministry was the

- glory of God. **John 7:18**; John 12:27, 28; 17:1.
7. The ultimate end of the work of redemption by Jesus Christ was the glory of God. **John 13:31-32**; **Phil 2:6-11**; Eph 1:3; 1:12, 14; 2 Cor 4:14-15; Psa 79:9; Isa 44:23; 49:3; Matt 28:18.
 8. The last end of God's moral government in wrath and mercy is the glory of God. Hag 1:8; Num 14:20-23; Ex 14:17-18; Ezek 28:22; 39:13; **Rom 9:22, 23**; 2 Thess 1:9-10.
 9. The glory of God is the last end of God's works in nature and the created order. **Psalm 8:1** O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Also Psa 104:31; 148:13; Isa 6:3.
3. Responses to a Possible Objection: *Does this make God selfish?* No. Three reasons:
 1. Since God is himself supremely valuable, he should value himself supremely.
 2. God's esteeming himself supremely is not contrary to his esteeming human happiness, since he is that happiness. In other words, for God to delight in himself as his ultimate end only helps our happiness, since there is none other in whom we can find true happiness.
 3. Nothing is more loving than for God to exalt himself for the enjoyment of man.

Jeremiah 45:5 "And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the Lord."

Hebrews 12:28-29 "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."