

Truth Matters — About God The Father

Part 2-The Nature Of God

Review God's Existence...

• The Existence of God

A. Assumption of His Existence

1. Gen. 1:1
2. Heb. 1:1-3; 11:6

B. Proofs of His Existence - To those who say, "Prove there **IS** a God", we reply, "Prove there is **NOT** a God"

1. Intuition
2. Tradition
3. Reason

• The Revelation of God

A. General Revelation... 1. Nature 2. Conscience 3. History

B. Special Revelation... 1. Scriptures 2. Conviction 3. Miracles/Signs

Introduction: I remember the first time I ever went to visit a federal prison. A friend of mine asked if I had ever been behind bars before, to which I responded, "No." He then attempted to tell me all the things I needed to know about the terrible things inmates might do to me. I was uneasy the entire visit. I really did not need to know *everything* that might happen but a *few* things could have helped. Well, I can't tell you everything about the Lord or about life, but I can tell you four things you really need to know.

The Nature of God

1. God is a *Unity*

2. God is a *Trinity*

3. God is a *Spirit*

4. God is a *Person*

The Attributes of God

A. Natural Attributes

1. *Transcendence*-is above His creation
2. *Immanence*-is actively involved within His creation
3. *Omniscience* - God is all-knowing
4. *Omnipresence* - God is everywhere present in His whole being
5. *Omnipotence* - God is all-powerful
6. *Eternity*-has no beginning nor ending

7. *Infinity*-no limitation in space; all attributes are without limit

8. *Immutability* - God is unchangeable

B. Moral Attributes

1. *Holiness* - God is separated totally from sin and evil

2. *Justice* - Genesis 18:25. He will always do right

3. *Righteousness* - God always does what is right

4. *Love* - God is love

5. *Mercy* - God's mercy is in not giving us what we deserve (Hell)

6. *Grace* - God's grace is in giving us what we don't deserve (Heaven)

7. *Goodness*

8. *Truth*

When Karl Barth, the famed German theologian, visited the United States, a student at a seminary asked, "Dr. Barth, what is the single most important truth you have learned as a theologian?" Barth replied, "***The most important thing I have learned is this: 'Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'***"

Amazing, isn't it? God knows me and still loves me. God knows that I am a sinner, yet he forgives; I am diseased, yet he heals; I am in a pit, yet he pulls me out; I am ungrateful for his good gifts, yet he gives them anyway; and I deserve justice, yet he grants mercy.

Like a father's love for a wayward and rebellious son that waits anxiously for him to return home so he can grant him a new start, is God's love for us. It is beyond comprehension.

Vietnam veteran and Air Force Colonel John Mansur tells about an eight-year-old orphan girl who was wounded after a misdirected mortar attack. An American Navy doctor and nurse were called. They surmised that the little girl would die if a blood transfusion did not take place. A quick test showed that neither American had the correct type, but several of the uninjured orphans did.

The doctor spoke some pidgin Vietnamese, and the nurse a smattering of high-school French. Using that combination, together with much impromptu sign language, they tried to explain to their young, frightened audience that unless they could replace some of the girl's lost blood, she would certainly die. Then they asked if anyone would be willing to give blood to help.

Their request was met with wide-eyed silence. After several long moments, a small hand slowly and waveringly went up, dropped back down, and then went up again.

"Oh, thank you," the nurse said in French. "What is your name?" "Heng," came the reply.

Heng was quickly laid on a pallet, his arm swabbed with alcohol, and a needle inserted in his vein. Through this ordeal Heng lay stiff and silent. After a moment, he let out a shuddering sob, quickly covering his face with his free hand. His occasional sobs gave way to steady, silent crying, his eyes screwed tightly shut, his fist in his mouth to stifle his sobs.

The medical team was concerned. Something was obviously very wrong. At this point, a Vietnamese nurse arrived to help. Seeing the little one's distress, she spoke to him rapidly in Vietnamese, listened to his reply and answered him in a soothing voice.

After a moment, the patient stopped crying and looked questioningly at the Vietnamese nurse. When she nodded, a great relief spread over his face.

Glancing up, the nurse said quietly to the Americans, "He thought he was dying. He misunderstood you. He thought you had asked him to give all his blood so the little girl could live."

"But why would he be willing to do that?" asked the Navy nurse.

The Vietnamese nurse repeated the question to the little boy, who answered simply, "She's my friend."

That's a glimpse of the kind of incredible love God has for us. (John 15:13).

If you want a visible definition of love, look at what God did for us in Christ. (Rom. 5:8). If you really want to understand love, don't listen to love songs, or people who throw the term love around. If you want to get to the depths of what it means to love and be loved, look to the cross of Christ, because there God's love came to mankind. The cross is the ultimate expression of God's incomprehensible love to mankind.

If you ever wonder if God loves you look to the cross. The cross is God's way of saying, "I love you this much," with his arms outstretched. God's final words to us are etched on a Roman cross. They are blood red. They scream to be heard. They say, "I love you."

The first thing that we look at in the Nature of God is the fact that God is Holy. Holiness is not just an attribute of God but Holiness is the very essence of God (what God is). Everything about God is holy (Leviticus 11:45, I Peter 1:16). Also, we can understand something about God's nature by looking at some of His attributes.

1. God is Love. One of God's most recognized attributes is His Love, His compassion. It was God's love that caused Him to send His Son in the world that we might be saved, John 3:16-17. His love is an undeserving love, Romans 5:6-8; it is an unchanging love, Jeremiah 31:3; it is an unexplainable love, I John 3:1; and it is an undying love, John 13:1c.

2. God is Longsuffering, I Peter 3:20. This speaks of His patience.

3. God is Merciful, Ephesians 2:4. This enables Him to forgive sins.

4. God is Compassionate, Psalms 86:15. He is caring, loving and considerate.

5. God is Eternal, Deuteronomy 33:27, Psalms 90:2. He is not governed by time; He has no beginning or ending.

6. God is Immutable, James 1:17, Hebrews 13:7. He cannot change.

7. God is Omniscience, Psalms 139:1-6. God is all knowing.

8. God is Omnipresent, Psalms 139:7-12. He is present everywhere.

9. God is Omnipotent, Revelation 19:6. He is all-powerful.

10. God is Just, Genesis 18:25. He will always do right.