

# *Lesson 1*

## GOD: KNOWING OUR CREATOR

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*Who is God?*

# Lesson

## 1

## GOD: KNOWING OUR CREATOR Who is God?

What do we mean when we say, "God"?

### INTRODUCTION

We are living at a time where there is no common understanding of who God is. In the religions of today's world, there are literally millions of so-called gods, and just as many opinions of what God (or god) is like. We must be sure that we are talking about the same God when we address the question, "Who is God?"

The purpose of this lesson is to help you develop a biblical concept and understanding of the God of the Bible ... the one true God.

## Section A

### The True God Is The Creator Of All Things

There is only one true God.

The one true God is the Creator of all things.

He is the God of the Bible.

- Though there are literally millions of so-called gods who are worshipped all over the world, there is only ONE TRUE GOD. The one true God is the God who CREATED all things. He is the God of the BIBLE. The Bible never attempts to PROVE God, it simply states, "*In the beginning God*".

*Genesis 1:1; I Corinthians 8:4-6; Isaiah 43:10-11*

God spoke the entire universe into existence.

- The incredible power of the God of the Bible is manifest in the fact that He created all things out of NOTHING. He simply SPOKE the entire universe into existence.

*Psalms 33:6, 9*

There is incredible power in the "Word" of God.

- From the very beginning of the Bible, God reveals that He demonstrates His power through His "WORD". Note the pattern in Genesis chapter one – "*And God said ... and it was so.*"

*Genesis 1:3, 6-7, 9, 11, 14-15, 24, 29-30*

God created all things for His pleasure, and to bring Him glory.

- God's creation has its own separate EXISTENCE from God. God does not exist in the sun, moon, stars, mountains, or earth. All things were created by God for His PLEASURE, and to bring Him GLORY.

*Psalms 148:1-14; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16*

God created all things to teach us about Him.

- After God had created all things, He pronounced it "VERY GOOD". All things were GOOD as they were originally made. This is because God is perfectly GOOD and completely HOLY.

*Genesis 1:31; Romans 1:20*

# The True God Is The Three In One

- In the very first chapter of the Bible, the one true God lets us know something very important about Him. In Genesis 1:26, God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” There is more than one PERSONALITY in what the Bible refers to as the “Godhead.”

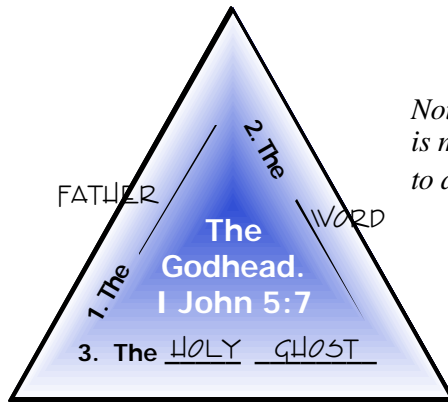
**Genesis 1:26; Acts 17:29**

- The Bible teaches that the Godhead is comprised of THREE distinct persons, and yet these three are ONE.

**I John 5:7**

(Note: This does not mean that there are three Gods, but one God manifested in three persons.)

➔ In the following diagram, identify the three persons of the Godhead listed in I John 5:7.



Note: The “three in one” is most generally referred to as the TRINITY.

# Section B

There is more than one personality in the Godhead.

The one true God is actually comprised of three distinct persons, and yet these three are one.

To say that God is a “Trinity” means that He is three in one.

## GOD'S SYSTEM OF 3's

- Romans 1:20 teaches us that God purposely created the things that we see in the physical world to TEACH us about Him. In other words, the pattern God used to create the physical world was HIMSELF. In fact, God says that we can understand His eternal power and Godhead (the 3 in 1) by what we SEE in creation.

*“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead;” Romans 1:20*

- Because God is a Trinity, it is interesting to note, that everything physical in creation will always break down into a system of “threes”:

|              |                |                  |                  |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Man:         | <u>body</u>    | <u>soul</u>      | <u>SPIRIT</u>    |
| Environment: | <u>LAND</u>    | <u>sea</u>       | <u>air</u>       |
| Kingdoms:    | <u>animal</u>  | <u>VEGETABLE</u> | <u>mineral</u>   |
| Dimensions:  | <u>height</u>  | <u>width</u>     | <u>DEPTH</u>     |
| Colors:      | <u>RED</u>     | <u>yellow</u>    | <u>blue</u>      |
| Elements:    | <u>SOLID</u>   | <u>liquid</u>    | <u>gas</u>       |
| Atoms:       | <u>protons</u> | <u>neutrons</u>  | <u>ELECTRONS</u> |
| Time:        | <u>past</u>    | <u>PRESENT</u>   | <u>future</u>    |

Because God made all things after the pattern of Himself, everything physical in creation will reflect the fact that God is the three in one.

**1. The 1st Person of the Godhead:** GOD THE FATHER.

The "Father" is God.

- ▲ God the Father is REVEALED to us through His Son Jesus Christ, but He is a distinct person from Jesus Christ.

*John 1:18; I Corinthians 8:6*

- ▲ God the Father is a SPIRIT, but He is a distinct person from the Holy Spirit.

*John 4:23-24; John 15:26*

**2. The 2nd Person of the Godhead:** GOD THE SON (The Word...Jesus Christ)

The "Word" is God.

▲ **Read John 1:1-3**

These verses teach that...

- The Word is GOD.
- The Word has ETERNALLY existed.
- The Word is the CREATOR of all things.

▲ **Read John 1:14**

Jesus Christ is the "Word."

The Word was made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Since Jesus Christ is "The Word," it means that...

Jesus Christ is God.

- Jesus Christ is GOD.
- Jesus Christ existed ETERNALLY before He was BORN into this world.
- Jesus Christ is the CREATOR of all things.

Jesus Christ claimed to be God.

▲ **Read John 10:22-33**

Jesus made His IDENTITY as God and His EQUALITY with the Father abundantly clear. (See verse 30.) The Jews of Jesus' day understood in no uncertain terms that Jesus claimed to be GOD in a human body. (See vs. 33.)

**3. The 3rd Person of the Godhead:** GOD THE HOLY GHOST (Holy Spirit)

The Holy Spirit is God.

- ▲ Just as the Father is God, and Jesus Christ, His Son, is God, the Holy Spirit is equally GOD.

*Acts 5:3-4*

*Note: Lying to the Holy Ghost is referred to as lying to GOD!*

The Holy Spirit is a person.

- ▲ The Holy Spirit is not simply a power or a force, but a distinct PERSON. Note how Jesus Christ referred to the Holy Spirit in John 14:14-17...

*"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."*

# The True God Is All In All

The God of the Bible is the one true God because of the incredible ATTRIBUTES He possesses. (An “attribute” is a QUALITY or CHARACTERISTIC that is true about someone.) Because our minds are finite, and the God of the Bible infinite, a complete understanding of His attributes is impossible because they exceed the limits of our comprehension. We must, however, allow God to reveal to us through His Word what we *can* understand about His Person so that our concept of who He is is as true as possible. Let us consider just a few of God’s extraordinary attributes...

# Section C

God is God because of His extraordinary attributes. With finite minds we will never fully comprehend the incomprehensible, infinite God.

Our concept of God must be developed from what we can understand about Him through what He has revealed in His Word.

God is ETERNAL ... He has always existed and will always exist.

## ☐ God is ETERNAL.

- There has never been a time when God did not EXIST.

*Psalm 90:1-2; Psalm 93:2; Habakkuk 1:12a*

- God had no BEGINNING and He has no END.

*1 Timothy 1:17; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6*

- One of the names by which God refers to Himself is “Jehovah,” which means “self-existing one.”

*Exodus 6:3; John 5:26*

*Note: One of the ways to express the name Jehovah is found in Exodus 3:14.*

*God is the great “I AM.”*

- Because God is *eternal*, He sees the past and the future as clearly as He sees the PRESENT.

*Revelation 1:8*

## ☐ God is OMNISCIENT.

*Note: The prefix “omni” means “all” or “unlimited.”*

- *Omniscient* means “all-KNOWING” or “unlimited KNOWLEDGE.” God possesses all the knowledge that can be known. He knows EVERYTHING about EVERYTHING. Nothing **has ever** or **will ever** escape His knowledge, nor will it ever take Him by surprise. **Read the following verses and fill in the blank(s).**

**I John 3:20** God knows ALL THINGS.

**Job 37:16** God’s knowledge is PERFECT.

**Psalms 147:5** God’s knowledge (understanding) is INFINITE.

- God sees and knows **everything** that happens in **every** place and at **all** times. He sees both the evil and the good (See Proverbs 15:3 in the margin). He knows all things concerning His creation.

**Psalms 147:4** He knows the number of STARS.

**Matt. 10:29** He knows the number of BIRDS that fly through the air.

**Prov. 5:21** He knows all things about every PERSON on the earth. (**Psalms 139:1-6**)

God is OMNISCIENT ... He knows everything about everything.

*“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”*

*Proverbs 15:3*

☐ God is **OMNIPRESENT** .

- *Omnipresent* means “all-PRESENT” or “unlimited PRESENCE.” God is infinitely and everywhere personally present through all time and space. There is nowhere we can go and not be in the presence of God.

***Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24***

*Note: God is everywhere present, but God is not present in everything.*

**Key quote:**

*"[God] is not like a substance spread out in a thin layer all over the earth -- all of Him is in Chicago, in Calcutta, in Cairo, and in Caracas, at one and the same time." -- Paul Little*

- It is important to note that *omnipresence* is not pantheism. *Omnipresence* states that God is EVERYWHERE . Pantheism states that EVERYTHING is God or a part of God. For example, if you are sitting in a tree, *omnipresence* says that God is present with you. Pantheism says that the tree is God.

☐ God is **OMNIPOTENT** .

- *Omnipotent* means “all-POWERFUL” or “unlimited POWER.” God possesses infinite and all power. He has more than enough strength to do the sum total of all things. Nothing is too hard for God.

***Revelation 19:6; Psalm 62:11; Isaiah 26:4; Matthew 28:18***

- *Omnipotent* means that God can do anything He chooses.

***Job 42:2; Isaiah 14:27; 46:10***

☐ God is **HOLY** .

- The essential nature of God is HOLINESS. That means that He is absolutely and totally PURE and RIGHTEOUS. He is free from any and all defilement, evil, or SIN.

***Isaiah 57:15a; Leviticus 11:44; Psalm 99:5-9; 145:17; Deuteronomy 32:4***

- God cannot be tempted with evil. It is IMPOSSIBLE for Him to sin or to do or to cause anything that is wrong or evil.

***James 1:13***

- Because God is *holy*, He cannot and will not TOLERATE sin.

***Habakkuk 1:13a; Psalm 5:4; Proverbs 15:9, 26; Psalm 34:15-16***

God is OMNIPRESENT... All of Him is everywhere at one and the same time.

God is OMNIPOTENT ... He has all the power to do any and all things.

God is HOLY ... He is absolutely and totally pure and righteous, and incapable of being anything else.

☐ God is **JUST**.

- The fact that God is *just* means that it is impossible for Him to do anything that is UNFAIR, either to Himself or to MAN.

**Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:14a; Revelation 15:3**

- Every person will receive JUSTICE at the hand of God. All will be dealt with *justly* and righteously. Please understand that this truth is both a comfort and a warning. It is a comfort for those who know God and have obeyed the gospel. It is a warning for those who think that they have been getting away with evil.

**Psalm 96:11-13; Galatians 6:7; II Thessalonians 1:6-8**

- God's *justice* is very closely related to His holiness. God's perfect holiness demands that all UNGODLINESS and UNRIGHTEOUSNESS be recompensed. If God were not *just*, He would cease to be HOLY. If He ceases to be holy, He ceases to be GOD!

**Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; John 3:36**

☐ God is **LOVE**.

- *Love* is the very essence of God's nature. It is God's innermost fountain from which His nature eternally flows. God does not simply *love*, I John 4:16 says, "God IS love!" God is perfect, infinite *love*.

- *Love* is a deep desire for, and sincere delight in, the welfare, happiness, security, and well-being of the one loved. Biblically, *love* always expresses itself in ACTION.

**John 3:16; I John 4:9; I Corinthians 13:4-7**

- Read Exodus 34:6 in the margin. In this verse, God's *love* is manifest in the following qualities. (Note: These qualities flow out of God's love.)

\* His **MERCY**.

*Mercy* is God's love shown to those who are in misery or distress, irrespective of what they DESERVE.

**Ephesians 2:4; Psalm 86:5; 103:11-17; 59:16-17**

\* His **GRACE**.

*Grace* is God's UNMERITED love to those who have forfeited it, and are by nature under a sentence of condemnation.

**Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:7-9; Titus 2:11-13**

\* His **LONGSUFFERING**.

*Longsuffering* is the quality of God's love which causes Him to FORBEAR the froward and the evil in spite of their long and continued defiance and/or disobedience.

**II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 1:14-16**

\* His **GOODNESS**.

God's *goodness* is the love He has which prompts Him to deal BOUNTIFULLY and kindly with all of His creatures.

**Romans 2:4; Psalm 145:8-9; 25:7; 31:19; 107:8**

God is JUST ... He is incapable of being or doing anything that is unfair.

God is LOVE ... God doesn't simply love ... He is love!

Many other of God's glorious attributes flow forth out of His love.

*"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness..."*  
Exodus 34:6

Justice is getting what we deserve.

Mercy is not getting what we deserve.

Grace is getting what we don't deserve.

God is IMMUTABLE ...  
His nature, attributes  
and counsel have  
always and will always  
be the same.

☐ God is IMMUTABLE.

- The fact that God is *immutable* means that He never CHANGES. God's nature, God's attributes, and God's counsel have always BEEN the same, and will always BE the same.

*Malachi 3:6a; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17; Hebrews 6:17*

**Key quote:**

*"All change must be for the better or for the worse. If God is perfect, He could not change for the better. You cannot improve on perfection. And, if He is perfect, He cannot change for the worse for the same reason. If God ever changed, or could ever change, we could never be sure of anything. ... God cannot change because His very nature is unchanging. Therefore, He can never be wiser, more holy, more just, more merciful, more truthful; nor less. Nor do His plans and purposes change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*  
-- Max Anders

God's attributes are  
non-negotiable. If He  
is not any of the things  
the Bible says He is,  
He would not be God!

## Why Are God's Attributes So Extremely Significant?

1. If God is not **ETERNAL**, it means He is not the final ANSWER for the existence of the universe. There is something greater than God.
2. If God is not **OMNISCIENT**, then He might not be AWARE of something extremely important.
3. If God is not **OMNIPRESENT**, then we could find ourselves in a terrible situation, and God would not be there to HELP.
4. If God is not **OMNIPOTENT**, then He might WANT to do something we desperately need, but not be ABLE to do it.
5. If God is not **HOLY**, then He might tell us one thing and do another. He could not be TRUSTED.
6. If God is not **JUST**, His love for mankind could never be comprehended and would never be appreciated. God's LOVE for sinners is utterly amazing only because of His utter HATRED for sin.
7. If God is not **LOVE**, we would all spend eternity in HELL because His love is the motivating power behind His desire to redeem us to Himself.
8. If God is not **IMMUTABLE**, we could never be SURE of anything. Even if He loves us TODAY, there would be no guarantee He would love us TOMORROW.