

Edward Christian Church- **“God: Who is He?” -pt7b Jan 17, 2017**

Characteristics of Each Member of the Trinity

"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" -Heb 11:6

Steps for Gaining God's Perspective

Ultimately, whose opinion really matters? Do the opinions of skeptics really matter? Does my opinion really matter? Does yours? What really matters is what God says about Himself. The reverential fear of the Lord is the starting point for understanding the God of the Scriptures. Only then can you answer questions such as, *"What difference can God make in my life?" "Is God a personal God—does He even care?" "Can God be known?"* The answers are worth pondering.

Key Verse to Memorize

"Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other." -Deuteronomy 4:39

Key Passage

John 14 offers insight into the Deity of Christ. In His upper room discourse, He discloses to His disciples that He is God! And He teaches what they need to know.

- List the future hopes (things that will definitely happen) that you have in (2-3)

- Write out in your own words what verse 6 means to you.

- What key concept do you believe Jesus wants you to understand in (7-11)?

- What encouragements do you receive from (12-15)?

- What special companion has Jesus provided for you? (16-18).

- How do you demonstrate love to Jesus (21)?

- How are we disobedient to Jesus (24)?

- Who helps you understand the Bible (26)?

- **Why should you not be anxious (27)?**
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- **What does Jesus promise to do in the future (28)?**
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A bumper sticker reads, "God said it! I believe it! That settles it!" On the surface, that looks like a wise saying: God has declared, and the believer has accepted His declaration. However, it might be better to say, "God said it! *That* settles it!"

This particular chapter is excellent for learning about the three persons of the Trinity. In these passages, Jesus is comforting His disciples. He said, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me*" ([John 14:1](#)).

He goes on to explain, "*Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him'*" ([John 14:6-7](#)).

He goes on to say that the Father would send a Comforter, "*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever*" ([John 14:16](#)).

C. Reflect on the Four Ways by Which God Reveals Himself

If God truly is knowable—and He is—the question we need to ask is, "How can we come to Him?" God has revealed facts about Himself and His nature in different ways so that we can know Him. What are these ways?

Through Creation

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." ([Romans 1:20](#))

No one would argue that the universe is not an overwhelmingly complex and majestic creation. Even scientists agree that there had to be a beginning. A scientific law says that something cannot come from nothing. That law is called "first cause."

Is it possible that all this detailed perfection could be the result of a big explosion, or did it come about as a result of the carefully designed plan of an infinite God? The likelihood of a random explosion resulting in the origin of the universe might be compared to the likelihood of an explosion in a print shop resulting in the creation of a book! The idea is absurd and totally irrational!

In Job chapter 38, Job is arguing with God and seeking answers about the world around him. Look at how God replies...

- **The formation of the world**

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone?" ([Job 38:4-6](#))

- **The vast universe**

"Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?" ([Job 38:32](#))

- **The balance of land and water**

"Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its

doors and bars in place, when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?'" ([Job 38:8-11](#))

- **The division of day and night**

"Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?" ([Job 38:12](#))

- **The life/death cycle**

"Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?" ([Job 38:17](#))

- **The seasons and weather**

"Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle? What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed, or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth? Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm." ([Job 38:22-25](#))

Through Conscience

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them." ([Romans 1:18-19](#))

Why do people all over the world have some form of moral code that is amazingly similar? For example, there is no culture on earth where it is permissible for a man to take any woman he wants. This innate knowledge of right and wrong is an inner witness to the existence of God. In every culture on earth, people worship and have a preoccupation with religion.

- **Man has a natural desire to be religious.**

"Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.'" ([Acts 17:22](#))

- **The requirements of the law are written in men's hearts.**

"Since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them." ([Romans 2:15](#))

- **God is just and would not punish the innocent.**

"Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ([Genesis 18:25](#))

Through Communication

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue." ([2 Samuel 23:2](#))

Although God has revealed Himself in a general way through creation and through an imprint on our inner being, we would still not know who He is without more revelation. Without a personal knowledge of God, man would eventually try to worship that which is not the one true God. Therefore, God has communicated through personal revelation.

Personal Revelation

- **Adam**
"And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden.'" ([Genesis 2:16](#))
- **Cain**
"Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?'" ([Genesis 4:6](#))
- **Noah**
"So God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.'" ([Genesis 6:13](#))
- **Abraham**
"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.'" ([Genesis 12:1](#))
- **Paul**
"He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'" ([Acts 9:4-6](#))
- **John**
"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John." ([Revelation 1:1](#))

The Bible

- **Prophetic**
"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." ([2 Peter 1:21](#))
- **Inspired**
"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." ([2 Timothy 3:16](#))
- **Purposeful**
"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." ([Isaiah 55:11](#))
- **Inerrant**
"Every work of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." ([Proverbs 30:5](#))
- **Sufficient**
"So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." ([2 Timothy 3:17](#))
- **Infallible**
"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple." ([Psalm 19:7](#))

Through Christ

"In the beginning was the Word [Christ Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing

was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He [Christ Jesus] was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." ([John 1:1-14](#))

- **To know Jesus the Son is to know God the Father.**
"Jesus replied. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." ([John 8:19](#))
- **To believe Jesus the Son is to believe God the Father.**
"Then Jesus cried out, 'When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me.'" ([John 12:44](#))
- **To see Jesus the Son is to see God the Father.**
"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ([John 14:9](#))
- **To receive Jesus the Son is to receive God the Father.**
"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." ([Mark 9:37](#))

D. God Is the God of All Comfort

God has not created you and set you adrift in the ocean of life. He not only knows the intimate details of your life, but He has your best interests foremost in His mind.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort." ([2 Corinthians 1:3](#))

The Greek word for "comfort" is *paraklesis*, which means "a calling to one's side" and "an exhortation, or consolation" and is sometimes translated as "encouragement"

PRAYER... Thank You God, that You—

Care for me with compassion

"He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate." ([Psalm 111:4](#))

Offer strength when I am weak

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." ([Philippians 4:13](#))

Meet all my needs

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." ([Philippians 4:19](#))

Forget my sins and mistakes

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." ([Hebrews 8:12](#))

Offer hope for the future

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" ([Jeremiah 29:11](#))

Reassure me of Your love

"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'" ([Jeremiah 31:3](#))

Turn my pain into joy

"For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." ([Psalm 30:5](#))

Many people are in prison... as prisoners of their past. They are imprisoned by wrong thinking, by not knowing the God of Truth, who will set them free.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" ([John 14:6](#))

Question: "I often feel that God is distant. How do I overcome my feelings of anger toward Him?"

When you do not have a sense of God's presence, He is present nonetheless. So, in those times you will need to walk by faith and choose to know that He is there because God's Word says that He is there. You will need to literally override or ignore your feelings. God is God, and your feelings are simply your feelings. Remind yourself of His character traits and praise Him for them. In this way you will be acknowledging His presence and His promise to never leave you. Plan a time to walk and talk with Him, praising Him for who He is and for all He has done for you. Thank Him for the promise of His presence in your life.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#))

Question: "Outside the Bible are there any explanations for the existence of God?"

There are at least five logical arguments for God's existence.

- Cosmological Argument (Greek *cosmos* means "world.")
For every effect there must be a cause. The world exists. Something cannot come from nothing. Someone had to cause the universe to come into being. For example, if you see a painting there must have been an artist.
- Teleological Argument (Greek *telos* means "end.")
There is an order and design in the universe, from the galaxies to the smallest microbe, implying an intelligent master designer. For example, if you hold a watch, you assume there was a watchmaker.
- Anthropological Argument (Greek *anthropos* means "man")
Man is more than a physical being. He has a conscience, an intellect, emotions and a will. The spiritual side of man had an origin from someone outside himself, namely God.
- Moral Argument
People, unique from plants, insects and animals, have an awareness of right and wrong, and of the long-term consequences of their actions. Every culture, from primitive to advanced, has a system of moral justice. For example, in no culture is it ever right to take another man's wife.
- Ontological Argument (Greek *ontos* means "existence.")
The concept of God is universal in all cultures. God must have placed this idea within man.

Question: "Does God truly rule the universe?"

Yes. If He is not sovereign, then He is not God.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2)

"The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all." (Psalm 103:19)

Question: "Is God all-powerful?"

Yes. Nothing is impossible for God.

"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" ([Matthew 19:26](#))

Yet, He would never violate His own character, even by so much as telling a lie.

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" ([Numbers 23:19](#))

"God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged." ([Hebrews 6:18](#))

Question: "How could Jesus have been born of a virgin? Isn't that impossible?"

His conception through the Holy Spirit was a miraculous act of God. Through His power, God kept Mary a virgin until after Jesus was born.

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.... But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." ([Matthew 1:18, 25](#))

Question: "How was Jesus both God and man at the same time?"

As God, Jesus has always existed. While remaining fully God, He became a man. Becoming the God-man was necessary if he was to identify with and die for the sins of every person.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." ([John 1:1, 14](#))

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" ([Philippians 2:5-8](#))

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin." ([Hebrews 4:15](#))

Question: "Why is the God of the Old Testament so harsh while Jesus is so loving?"

The fact is that it is the same God in both testaments. He is gracious and compassionate, but will hold men and women accountable for their sins if they do not place their faith in Him. In both testaments there is a balance of the wrath of God's judgment and the mercy and grace of His love. Israel's sin was judged with dire consequences, but the God who chose the Israelites as His unique possession consistently redeemed them from the trouble their sin created. Jesus' earthly ministry clearly showed both His condemnation of sin and His love for the sinner. The Book of Revelation reveals God's final judgment on the author of sin and on unrepentant sinners, as well as His redemption and eternal embrace of those who choose Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.'" ([Exodus 34:6](#))

"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." ([Malachi 3:6](#))

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." ([Hebrews 13:8](#))

Question: "If God is love, why do some say that we should fear Him?"

We are to fear Him in the sense that we revere and worship Him. To reverence Him is to approach Him with respect and awe. To worship Him is to recognize His rightful position as Creator and Head of all the universe. The practical expression of our reverence and worship is obedience.

"Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name." ([Deuteronomy 6:13](#))

"Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word." ([Psalm 103:20](#))

"All mankind will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what he has done." ([Psalm 64:9](#))

Question: "Aren't Christians arrogant in believing that Jesus is the only way to God? Isn't that being narrow-minded?"

Truth is narrow. Jesus, who is God, claimed that He is the only way to God. Christians merely repeat the truth that Jesus proclaimed about Himself. We may not like to hear the truth, but it is true just the same.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" ([John 14:6](#))

Question: "How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead?"

The most convincing evidence that would stand up in any courtroom is eyewitness testimony. Jesus appeared to the disciples and to more than 500 others.

"He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:5-6)

E. One God

Three Eternal and Coequal Persons

Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Selector <i>"He chose us in him before the creation of the world." (Ephesians 1:4)</i>	Savior <i>"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born." (Luke 2:11)</i>	Sealer <i>"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal." (Ephesians 1:13)</i>
Sovereign Architect <i>"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men." (Daniel 4:17)</i>	Servant <i>"[He] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." (Philippians 2:7)</i>	Sanctifier <i>"The sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus." (1 Peter 1:2)</i>
Causer <i>"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." (John 6:44)</i>	Creator <i>"For by him all things were created." (Colossians 1:16)</i>	Counselor <i>"Counselor, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things." (John 14:26)</i>
Given by the Father <i>"Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you." (John 17:7)</i>	Through the Son <i>"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" (John 14:6)</i>	The Holy Spirit <i>"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty." (Zechariah 4:6)</i>
Initiator <i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one</i>	Intercessor <i>"He always lives to intercede for them."</i>	Instructor <i>"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all</i>

and only Son." ([John 3:16](#)) ([Hebrews 7:25](#))

truth." ([John 16:13](#))

Rapha/Healer

"Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed." ([Jeremiah 17:14](#))

Redeemer

"In him we have redemption through his blood." ([Ephesians 1:7](#))

Regenerator

"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." ([John 3:6](#))

Jehovah Jireh/Provider

"So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide." ([Genesis 22:14](#))

Judge

"He is the one whom God appointed as judge." ([Acts 10:42](#))

Joy Giver

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))

*Just because we know all about Abraham Lincoln, doesn't mean we actually know him. Likewise, there is a vast difference between knowing all about God and knowing God. The only way to know God is to have a personal relationship with God. This intimate relationship was—
planned by the Father,
prompted by the Spirit, and
provided through the Son.*

Our part is to let the Lord Jesus Christ be the "Controlling Partner," actually letting the Lord be Lord in our hearts and lives.

—June Hunt