**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt1 November 1, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

**Do** you **know** what your name **means** literally? **Does** it convey **something** about **you**? In **biblical** times the **Hebrew** **name** of a person often **conveyed** a significant **message**. A **name** may **represent** something **specific**, such as a **physical** characteristic or an **incident** at **birth** or anticipated **future** **accomplishments**. In the **Bible**, **much** is **revealed** about God **through** His **various** names. However, **unless** you are **reading** from **Hebrew text,** some of God's **attributes** as **revealed** in His names are **buried** in the **translation**.

*"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you." -***Psa 9:10**

*"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."* **-Proverbs 18:10**

 **Who Is God?**

Some say, "God is a cosmic **killjoy**!" Is this true... or do His **laws** and **principles** serve as a **protective hedge** around us rather **than** as a **prison** that **confines us**? Is He some **distant**, **unknowable** king **demanding** servitude or is He a God who is **involved** in the day-to-day **existence** of His **created** beings?

Some see Him as a **Santa** bringing **gifts** to excited children. Others see Him as a celestial **vending** machine: put in the **correct coin** and get out **whatever** you **desire**.... **So, who is God?** The Bible tells us, God is the one **Supreme** Being, the **Creator** and **Controller** of the universe, who **personally** intervenes in human **life**.

*"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do."* **-Isaiah 46:9-11**

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." -***Hebrews 4:16**

* In **Greek**, the word for ***God*** is ***Theos***
	+ **Theology** is the **Study of God**. Our **theology** constitutes the way we **think** about **God** and our **relationship** to **Him**. There are only **two** kinds of **theology**: that which **lines up** with the **Word** of God and that **which does not**.
	+ A **Theocracy** is **Government** by **God's Direct** **Rule** over a **Nation** or **People**, or His rule **through** His Chosen **Representatives** who were God's **Spokesmen**, and by Judges, who were God's **Chosen Deliverers.**
* In **Hebrew**, the basic word for ***God*** is ***El***.
	+ The word ***El*** is found in **many** words throughout the **Old** Testament. ***El*** raises **God** **High**, **reflecting** His **power**.
	+ ***El*** emphasizes God's **Might** and **Power**... not a **violent** power, but **profound** power.
	+ ***El***, when **combined** with other words, further **identifies** the **Nature** or **Function** of God. This is a **Compound Name.**
* ***Elohim*** "God" as **Creator**
*"In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth." -***Genesis 1:1**

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt2 November 8, 2016**

**People** of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* **Underneath** these **questions** lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

 **Names of God Containing *El*:**

* **Elohim**= *"God"* = *“the* ***Strong One****”* = as Creator
*"In the beginning God* ***[Elohim]*** *created the heavens and the earth." -***Genesis 1:1**
* **El Elyon**= *"God* ***Most High****"*
*"Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High* **[*El Elyon*]**, *and he blessed Abram, saying, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High* **[*El Elyon*],** *who delivered your enemies into your hand.' Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything." -***Genesis 14:18-20**
* **El Roi***= "The God* ***Who Sees****"*
*"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who* ***Sees*** **[*El Roi*]** *me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who* ***Sees*** **[*El Roi*]** *me.'" -***Genesis 16:13**
* **El Shaddai***= "God* ***Almighty****"*
*"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am God* ***Almighty*** **[*El Shaddai*]**; *walk before me and be blameless.'" -***Genesis 17:1**
* **El Olam**= *"God* ***Everlasting****"*
*"Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the Lord, the* ***Eternal*** *God* **[*El Olam*]*."*** *-***Genesis 21:33**
* **Question:** *"Does God* ***know*** *about my* ***pain...*** *does He* ***see*** *what has* ***happened*** *to me?"*
* Yes, He is **El Roi**= the *"God* ***Who Sees****"*

*'"You are the God who* ***sees me****,' for she* ***[Hagar]*** *said, 'I have now seen the One who* ***sees me****.'" -***Genesis 16:13**

* **Question: *“When all*** *hope* ***is*** *gone****/*** *there's* ***no place*** *to* ***turn, where*** *is* ***God,/*** *can* ***I*** *count on him to* ***help me?”***
* Yes, He is ***El Shaddai***= *“God* ***Almighty”*** One of the roots of the Hebrew word ***shad*** is **"breast."** **Realize** that a mother's breast is **totally sufficient** to **sustain**/ **nurture** the life of her **baby** without any other **outside source**. **When** you come to **know** God as your ***El Shaddai***, you don't **need** any **outside help**. **He** is your **all-sufficient** God.

In **Gen 17** Abram is age **ninety-nine**/ Sarai is age **eighty-nine**—both **beyond** childbearing years. Up to this time Abram/ Sarai had been **childless**. Yet the Lord appeared to Abram/ said, *"I am* ***God Almighty****"* literally in Hebrew ***El Shaddai***—the **all-sufficient God**.

*"I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." -***Genesis 17:2**

*"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram [which means 'exalted father'], your name will be Abraham [which means 'father of many'], for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you." -***Genesis 17:4-6**

He **desires** to be ***El Shaddai***, your **All-Sufficient** God, so **when** you come to Him, you will **have all** you **need**.

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt3 November 15, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more **Basic Issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

**In Genesis chapter 1, *He is God, the Mighty Creator—Elohim.***

**In Genesis chapter 2, *He is Lord, the Personal Creator—Jehovah.***

**In Hebrew, the Word for "Lord" Is *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*.**

***Jehovah*** means "the Self-existent One"—The name Jehovah emphasizes His **Covenant-Keeping Role.**

* ***Jehovah***—"Lord, the **Self-Existent** One, **Yahweh**"
*"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the* ***Lord*** *God made the earth and the heavens." -***Genesis 2:4**
* ***Jehovah-Jireh***—"the Lord, my **Provider**"
*"So Abraham called that place* ***The Lord Will Provide****. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'" -****Genesis 22:14***
* ***Jehovah-Rapha***—"the Lord who **Heals**"
*"He said, 'If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the* ***Lord, who heals you****.'" -***Exodus 15:26**
* ***Jehovah-Nissi***—"the Lord my **Banner**"
*"Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is* ***my Banner****." -***Exodus 17:15**
* ***Jehovah-MʿKaddesh***—"the Lord who **Sanctifies**"
*"Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the* ***Lord, who makes you holy****.'" -***Exodus 31:13**
* ***Jehovah-Shalom***—"the Lord is **Peace**"
*"The Lord said to him, 'Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.' So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it* ***The Lord is Peace****. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." -***Judges 6:23-24**
* ***Jehovah-Sabaoth***—"the Lord of **Hosts**"
*"Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the* ***Lord Almighty*** *at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord." -***1 Samuel 1:3**
* ***Jehovah-Raʿah***—"the Lord my **Shepherd**"
*"The Lord is my* ***shepherd****, I shall not be in want." -***Psalm 23:1**
* ***Jehovah-Tsidkenu***—"the Lord our **Righteousness**"
*"In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The* ***Lord Our Righteousness****." -***Jeremiah 23:6**
* ***Jehovah-Shamah***—"the Lord is **There**"
*"The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on will be: the* ***Lord is there****." -***Ezekiel 48:35**

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt4a November 22, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

**Questions About God**

It seems there are **many** different **views** / **opinions** about **God**. *"****How*** *can God be* ***three*** *in* ***one****?" "****Why*** *is it* ***necessary*** *to* ***believe*** *in* ***Jesus****, wasn't He* ***just*** *a* ***man****?" "****Why*** *does it* ***matter*** *if there is a* ***Trinity****?"* These **questions** are most **often sincere**. Yet at times they are raised **only** as a **smoke** screen to **shun** any personal **accountability** to **God** for **change**.

 *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"* **-Psalm 14:1**

* **Question: *"****How* ***Many*** *True* ***Gods are here?"***
* There is **Only One True God**.

 *"I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."* **-Isaiah 45:5**

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* **Question: *"Where*** *Did* ***God Come From?"***

This is a **logical question**. God has **No Beginning** and **No End**. We can’t **Fully Understand** a **Being** who has **Always Been** because we are **Limited By Time**. **But** God is **Not Measured** by **Time**; rather He **Measures Time** by **Himself**. His **Eternal Nature** is to **Result** in our **Awe** and **Worship** of Him rather than our **Intellectual Understanding** of Him.

 *"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from*

 *everlasting to everlasting you are God." -***Psalm 90:2**

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* **Question: *"Does*** *the* ***Bible*** *Say There Are* ***Three Gods?"***
* **No.** The Bible **Clearly Teaches** that there is **One God** in **Three Persons**.

 *"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one." -***Deuteronomy 6:4**

This word ***One*** in Hebrew is ***echad***, which means ***"united one."*** For **Example**, at a grocery store you will see one **Bunch** of bananas, a **Stalk** of celery or one **Cluster** of grapes.

* ***Echad*** is a **Compound Unity**. In Scripture a compound unity is seen in these examples:
	+ **Two Persons** becoming **One** **(*echad*)** **flesh**

*"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." -***[Genesis 2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+2%3A24)**

* A **Different Word** in Hebrew, ***Yachid****,* is used for a ***"single oneness."***
	+ **Abraham** took his **Only** (*yachid*) **son**.

*"Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.'" -***Genesis 22:2**

* + From the **Beginning** of the Bible, **God** is presented as a **Compound Unity**.

*"God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.'" -***Genesis 1:26**

There is **One God** in **Three Persons**.

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt4b November 29, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

**Questions About God**

It seems there are **many** different **views** / **opinions** about **God**. *"****How*** *can God be* ***three*** *in* ***one****?" "****Why*** *is it* ***necessary*** *to* ***believe*** *in* ***Jesus****, wasn't He* ***just*** *a* ***man****?" "****Why*** *does it* ***matter*** *if there is a* ***Trinity****?"* These **questions** are most **often sincere**. Yet at times they are raised **only** as a **smoke** screen to **shun** any personal **accountability** to **God** for **change**.

 *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"* **-Psalm 14:1**

* **Question: *"What Does the Word*** *Trinity* ***Mean?"***

The word *Trinity* refers to the **state** of being **threefold**. It is a term **applied** to the **unity** of the **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit** as three **distinct** persons in **one** God. **All** attempts by the **human** mind to **describe** the **concept** of the **"Trinity"** falls **short** of a **full** explanation, but still we **try**.

* **Example: Imagine** a **triangle**. Each **side** is **necessary** for a **triangle** to **exist**.
* **God** the **Father** is **Above Us**. And **yet**, so is the **Son** **Above** Us.
*"He [God the* ***Father****] raised him [****Christ****] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority." -***Ephesians 1:20-21**
* **God** the **Son** is **With Us.**
*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel-which means, 'God with us.'" -***Matthew 1:23**

**Those** on **earth** at the **time** of Jesus **saw** the very **character** of God **visibly** demonstrated **through** the **life** of **Jesus Christ**. Jesus, **who is God**, **took** on **human form** that we might **know** how He **acted** and **interacted** in a **Godly way** and **how** he **loved** the **unlovely**. He **gave love** to **those** who were **persecuting** and **mistreating** Him, **even** though He **didn't have to do so**.

And **yet**, so is the **Spirit** with us.

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" -***Psalm 139:7**

* **God** the **Holy Spirit** is **Within us.**
*"[God] set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." -***2 Corinthians 1:22**

The **Holy Spirit** is **sent** to **dwell** in our **hearts** once we have **trusted** in **Jesus Christ** and **believed** that He is **Savior** and **Lord**. The very **Spirit** of God then **Dwells Within Us**.

* **Question: *"Is the*** *God* ***of the*** *Old* ***Testament*** *'just'* ***God the Father?"***

**No**. In the **first** verse of the **Bible**, the Hebrew word translated "God" is ***Elohim***. "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* -**Genesis 1:1**

The **noun** ***Elohim*** is **plural,** but it takes a **singular verb**. The **idea** of both **plurality** and **unity** is in the **Hebrew** word for **God**. Even in the **first** verse of **Scripture**, we have the **Trinity**!

* ***El*** means *"****strong*** *and* ***mighty*** *God."*
* ***-im*** is the **plural** ending.
* ***Elohim***, the word, conveys both **unity** and **plurality**.

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.'" -***Genesis 1:26**

*"The Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.'" -***Genesis 3:22**

*"Come, let us go down/ confuse their language so they will not understand each other"* **Gen 11:7**

* **Question: *"Did Jesus Ever*** *Teach* ***the*** *Concept* ***of the Trinity?"***

**Yes**. - *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (***Matthew 28:19**—The **Great Commission**)

**Notice:** He did **not** say in the ***"names"*** of the **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**—but used "name" (**singular**) of the **Father, Son** and **Holy Spirit**.

* **Question: *"Did Jesus*** *Claim* ***to be God?"***

**Yes**, with **absolute clarity** to the **Jews**. The words ***"I am"*** in **John 8:58** imply that **Jesus** is the **Holy Name** of God, **YHWH**, for **Himself**, **equating** Himself **with** God. In the **minds** of the **observers**, this was **blasphemy**; therefore, they **attempted** to **stone** Him, for **stoning** was the rightful **penalty** for **blasphemy**!

*"Jesus replied, 'If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.' 'You are not yet fifty years old,' the Jews said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds." -***John 8:54-59**

* **Question: *"Is*** *One* ***Person of the Trinity More*** *Important* ***Than Another?"***

**No**, but there is a **differentiation** of **roles** and a **subordination** in their **function**.

*"Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'" -***John 5:19**

**Here** we see the **Son** **Submitting** to the **Father**.

**Each** person **performs** roles **different** from the other **two**, but **no one** is **inferior** to the **others**.

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Is One more important than the other?

Let ME ask -is one of us More Import that the Rest of Us? -NO

* Difference in calling – Same Salvation
* Because we call Peter the Gate Keeper- Wed always associate him as meeting us at Heavens Gates -Actually it could also be the Widow with the two Mite

**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt5 Dec 6, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* **Underneath** these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

Characteristics **of Each Member of the Trinity**

When people ask **questions** about **God**. Beneath the **surface**, they are really asking about God's **character**. They want to **know** who He **is**, what He **does** and **why** He does things the **way** He does. **How** can God be **just** and **loving** at the same **time** ? **How** can He **send** people to **hell** just because they **sin** a little bit ?" To **answer** these **questions**, we must **understand**, *"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**

Natural **Attributes... *The essential being of God,* characterizes Him** Inwardly

* **Omniscient**—**All-**Knowing
*"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord." -***Psalm 139:1-4**
	+ **Since God***knows all things****,* He knows me** better **than I know** myself**, / He knows what is** best **for me/ how to best** bring **about His** purposes **for my** life**.**
* **Omnipotent**—**All-**Powerful
*"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?" -***Jer 32:27**
	+ **Since God is***all-powerful****,* He can do** all **things, and He will** give **me His** strength **to do what He** asks **of me.**
* **Omnipresent**—**Present** Everywhere*'"Am I only a God nearby,' declares the Lord, 'and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?' declares the Lord. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the Lord." -***Jeremiah 23:23-24**
	+ **Since God is** *present everywhere* **all the time, He is** always **with me wherever I am... in every** circumstance**, in every** need**... and I can** never **be truly** alone**.**
* **Eternal**—Not Bound **By Time***"I live forever." -***Deuteronomy 32:40**
	+ **Since God is** *eternal* **and** *imparts* **His** life **to me, I will live with Him** *forever***.**
* **Immutable**—Unchanging
*"I the Lord do not change." -***Malachi 3:6**
	+ **Since God is***immutable****,* He will not** change **His** character **or His** Word**, and I can** depend **on Him totally.**

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt5b Dec 13, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles** ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* **Underneath** these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

Characteristics **of Each Member of the Trinity**

People want to **know** who God **is**, what He **does** and **why** He does things the **way** He does. To **answer** these **questions**, we must **understand**, *"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**

Natural **Attributes..*The essential being of God,* characterizes Him** Inwardly

* **Incomprehensible**—Unfathomable **and** **Mysterious**
*"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!" -***Romans 11:33**
	+ **Since** *God is incomprehensible,* **there is** always more **to learn about Him. We Can** discover **the** mystery **of all that He is as He** chooses **to reveal Himself**
* **Self*-***Existent—**Life** **in** Himself
*"The Father has life in himself so he has granted the Son to have life in himself."* **-John 5:26**
	+ **Since****God is**Self-Existent*,* **He** **can** never **be** destroyed, die or cease to exist. **He will** always **be there for me.**
* **Self-**Sufficient—Within **Himself**, **God is** able to **act**
*"From him and through him and to him are all things." -***Romans 11:36**
	+ **Since****God is**Self-Sufficient*,* **He does not** **need** anything **or** anyone **else to** accomplish **His will for me.**
* **Infinite**—Boundless
*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast……." -***Psalm 139:7-12**
	+ **Since****God is**Infinite*,* **His** power and presence **know no** limit, **and He can do as He** pleases **in my life.**
* **Transcendent**—Above **All**
*"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."-***Isaiah 55:9**
	+ **Since** **God is** Transcendent, **I can** trust **His** perspective**, which is** beyond **mine.**
* **Sovereign**—**Supreme** Ruler
    *"All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'"* -**Daniel 4:35**
	+ **Since****God is**Sovereign*,* **He rules over** all things**/ His will** cannot **be thwarted.**

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt5c Dec 20, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles** ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* **Underneath** these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

Characteristics **of Each Member of the Trinity**

People want to **know** who God **is**, what He **does** and **why** He does things the **way** He does. To **answer** these **questions**, we must **understand**, *"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**

**Question: *"Why should I try to*** *know* ***God?"***

* He **Desired** to **Know Us**

**So, We Could Have an** Opportunity**...**

* to Experience **Intimacy With God**
*"Jesus replied, if anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'" -***John 14:23**
	+ **Bethlehem = God** With **Us *(Emanuel)***
* to Receive **Forgiveness of Sin**
*"That you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." -***Mark 2:10**
	+ **Calvary =God** For **Us**
* to Receive **Eternal Life**
*"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." -***John 17:3**
	+ **Heaven =Us** With **God =**Forever

**Question: *"Does God really*** *see* ***me?" -*Yes**.

*"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in*—*behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain." -***Psalm 139:1-6**

**Question: *“Does God really desire to*** *intervene* ***in my life”***

*23 The Steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.24Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.***-Psa 37:23-24**

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**Psalm 35 (KJV)**

35 Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

2Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.

3Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

4Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.

5Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them.

6Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.

7For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.

8Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

9And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

10All my bones shall say, Lord, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

11False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

12They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.

13But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

14I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

15But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:

16With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

17Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

18I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

19Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

20For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.

21Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.

22This thou hast seen, O Lord: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.

23Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.

24Judge me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.

25Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up.

26Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

27Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

28And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt6a Dec 27, 2016**

Characteristics **of Each Member of the Trinity**

People want to **know** who God **is**, what He **does** and **why** He does things the **way** He does. To **answer** these **questions**, we must **understand**, *"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**

**Moral Attributes-**

***The Character of God,* Relating to His Creation** Outwardly

Becoming **Christ-Like**, you do not take on His **natural** attributes or **inward** characteristics. You **cannot** become **infinite, self-sufficient, self-existent, omnipotent or omnipresent**. But, you can take on His **moral** attributes because you’re **promised** to be **conformed** to the **likeness** of Jesus.

*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." -***Romans 8:29**

* Holy -**Pure**, Set Apart **From** Sin./.**For** His Him.
*"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do…'" -***1 Peter 1:15**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Holy****,*** He is **set** **apart** from **sin**/ **having** to sin… for His **purposes**.
* Righteous -**Absolute** Good
*"Righteous are you, O Lord, and your laws are right." -***Psalm 119:137**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Righteous****,*** **everything** He does is **right**—**even** on my **behalf**, and He **grants** His **righteousness** to **me**.
* Just -**Fair**
*"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne."* **-Psalm 89:14**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Just****,*** I know that **all** His **rules** / **judgments** toward **everyone**, including **me**, are **fair**.
* Merciful -**Compassionate**
*"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion." -***Psalm 116:5**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Merciful****,*** I **know** that He has **compassion** for me **even** when I **fail**.
* **Long-**Suffering -**Patient**
*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient w- you, not wanting anyone to perish, but…come to repentance."* **-2 Pet 3:9**
	+ ***Since He is Long-****Suffering****,*** I **know** He is **patient** w- my **spiritual** progress, but I must **not** take for **granted** His **patience** by **testing** it with **willful** disobedience.
* Wise -Perfect in **Choices**
*"How many are your works O Lord! In wisdom, you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." -***Psalm 104:24**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Wise****,*** I **can** **trust** Him with the **decisions** of my **life**, **knowing** that He **shares** His **wisdom** with me **when** I **ask**.

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt6b Jan 3, 2017**

Characteristics **of Each Member of the Trinity**

People want to **know** who God **is**, what He **does** and **why** He does things the **way** He does. To **answer** these **questions**, we must **understand**, *"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**

**Moral Attributes-**

***The Character of God,* Relating to His Creation** Outwardly

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*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." -***Romans 8:29**

* Good- **Pure** in **Motive**
*"Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?" -***Romans 2:4**
	+ ***Since He is good,*** I **know** His **working** in my **life** is **always** for my **good**.
	*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." -***Romans 8:28**
* Truthful- **Pure** in **Word**
*"Faith and knowledge [rest] on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie,*

 *promised before the beginning of time." -***Titus 1:2**

* + ***Since He is Truthful,*** I **know** that He will **never** lie to **me**.
* Faithful- **True** to **Promises**
*"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful,. He cannot disown himself." -***2 Tim 2:13**
	+ ***Since He is Faithful,*** I know I can **count** on Him to **do** what He **says** He will **do**.
* Jealous- **Unwilling** to **Share** what is **Rightfully** His

*"Do not worship any other god, the Lord, …name is Jealous, is a jealous God." -***Exo 34:14**

* + ***Since He is Jealous*,** He **should** have **first** place in my **heart**/ **life**. **Jealousy** is a **negative emotion**. However, **God** **refers** to **Himself** many times as **jealous**. The **difference** is that **jealousy** in a **human** is an **ugly emotion** because it **signifies** ownership and **expresses selfishness**. But, it is entirely **appropriate** in **God** because He **does own us**. He is our **Creator**. He is totally **without** selfish **motive**.
* Loving- **Seeking** Another's **Best**- Doing the Most **Positive**, **Selfless** and **Redemptive**

 Thing **Possible** for **Another**
*"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we*

 *ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." -***1 John 3:16**

* + ***Since He*** *is* ***Loving****,* I **know** that He **cares**/ **always** has my best **interests** in **mind**. He **still** loves us **even** when we **willingly** choose to be **disobedient**.

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*"'I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:24)*

* ***Wrathful***- **Hatred** for **sin**
*"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness." (Romans 1:18)*
	+ ***Since He is wrathful,*** I know that He must judge sin in my life and in the lives of those I love. He must punish unrighteousness. However, the full wrath for my sin was poured out on His Son at Calvary. God's wrath is also a justified anger against that which would harm me.

*"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*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt7a Jan 10, 2017**

**Causes of Confusion About God**

*"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**

**Seven Major World Views about God**

An **atheist** does **not find** God for reason a **thief** does not **find** a policeman. He is **not** looking

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **World view** | **Belief** | **Advocates** | **They say:** |
| ***Agnosticism*** | It is **not** **possible** to **know** if God **exists** | French Philoso.Voltaire | *"I do not know* ***if there is*** *a God."* |
| ***Atheism*** | There is **no need** for a **universal** /**personal** God. | Madalyn O'Hare | *"I know* ***there is no*** *God."* |
| ***Deism*** | God **set** the **universe** in **motion**/ **left** it to its own results. God **no longer** **interacts** with man. | Benjamin FranklinThomas Jefferson | "The **world** is like a clock **wound** by God, **running** on its **own**." |
| ***Pantheism*** | **God** is the **universe**. God is **only** the **physical** world we see. | New Age Movement | "That **tree** is **God**. **If** the **world** were to **disappear**, **God** would too." |
| ***Panentheism*** | **All things** are a **part** of **God**. **God** has a **body** and a **mind**. | New Age Spirituality | "That **tree** is **part** of **God**. **If** the **world** **disappeared**, God's **body** would **disappear**, but He would **still** have a **mind**." |
| ***Theism*** | There is **only one** God. He **created** the **universe**. We **can know** Him. | Christianity (Trinitarian Theism)Judaism, Islam—(Unitarianism) | "That **tree** was **created** by God and is **sustained** by God. **If** the world **disappeared**, God would **remain intact**." |
| ***Polytheism*** | There are **many** gods. | Contemporary Hinduism | "The **tree** was **created** by the **god** of the **forest**. **Rain** comes from the **rain god**." |

**Wrong Belief:** *"I am not willing to surrender my will to a personal God for whom I have no tangible evidence of existence."*

*"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good." -***Psalm 14:1**

**Right Belief: God** in **3 persons** has **revealed** Himself through His **creation**/ His **Word** as revealed to me by the **Holy Spirit**. I am **accountable** for my **response** to the **light** I have **received**.

*"Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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 1:19-20**

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**What is the New Age Movement?**

* 1. The New Age (NAM) movement has many sub-divisions, but it is generally a collection of Eastern-influenced metaphysical thought systems, a conglomeration of theologies, hopes, and expectations held together with an eclectic teaching of salvation, of "correct thinking," and "correct knowledge." It is a theology of "feel-goodism," "universal tolerance," and "moral relativism."
	2. In the NAM Man is central. He is viewed as divine, as co-creator, as the hope for future peace and harmony. A representative quote might be: "I am affected only by my thoughts. It needs but this to let salvation come to all the world. For in this single thought is everyone released at last from fear." (A course in Miracles, The Foundation for Inner Peace, Huntington Station, N.Y. Lesson 228, p. 461.)
1. The New Age Movement is a religious system with two basic beliefs: Evolutionary Godhood and Global Unity.

**Panentheism** (meaning "all-in-God", from the Ancient Greek πᾶν *pân*, "all", ἐν *en*, "in" and Θεός *Theós*, "God") is the belief that the divine interpenetrates every part of the universe and also extends beyond time and space. Unlike pantheism, which holds that the divine and the universe are identical,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panentheism%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Erwin_Fahlbusch.2C_Geoffrey_William_Bromiley.2C_David_B._Barrett_1999-1) panentheism maintains a distinction between the divine and non-divine and the significance of both.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panentheism%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-2)

In pantheism, the universe and everything included in it is equal to the Divine. In panentheism, the universe and the divine are not ontologically equivalent. God is instead viewed as the soul of the universe, the universal spirit present everywhere, in everything and everyone, at all times. Some versions suggest that the universe is nothing more than the manifestation of God. In some forms of panentheism, the cosmos exists within God, who in turn "transcends", "pervades" or is "in" the cosmos. While pantheism asserts that 'All is God', panentheism goes further to claim that God is greater than the universe

 **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)**

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* **Write out in your** ownwords **what verse 6 means to you.**

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

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

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

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

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* **How are we** disobedient **to Jesus (24)?**

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* **Who helps you** understand **the Bible (26)?**

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* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A1)).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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A6-7)). 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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A16)). |
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**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A20))*

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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A4-6))*
* **The vast universe**
*"Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?" ([Job 38:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A32))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A8-11))*
* **The division of day and night**
*"Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?" ([Job 38:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A12))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A17))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A22-25))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A18-19))*

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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+17%3A22))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+2%3A15))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+18%3A25))*

**Through Communication**

*"The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue." ([2 Samuel 23:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+23%3A2))*

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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+2%3A16))*
* **Cain**
*"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?'" ([Genesis 4:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A6))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A13))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+9%3A4-6))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+1%3A21))*
* **Inspired**
*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." ([2 Timothy 3:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A16))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+55%3A11))*
* **Inerrant**
*"Every work of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." ([Proverbs 30:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+30%3A5))*
* **Sufficient**
*"So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." ([2 Timothy 3:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A17))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+19%3A7))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A1-14))*

* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+8%3A19))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+12%3A44))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A9))*
* **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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+9%3A37))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+1%3A3))*

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—***

***C*are for me with compassion**

*"He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate." ([Psalm 111:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+111%3A4))*

***O*ffer strength when I am weak**

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." ([Philippians 4:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A13))*

***M*eet all my needs**

*"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." ([Philippians 4:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A19))*

***F*orget my sins and mistakes**

*"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." ([Hebrews 8:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A12))*

***O*ffer 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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+29%3A11))*

***R*eassure 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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+31%3A3))*

***T*urn 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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+30%3A5))*

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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A6))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+3%3A5-6))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+29%3A11-12))*

*"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted." ([Job 42:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+42%3A2))*

*"The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all." ([Psalm 103:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+103%3A19))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+19%3A26))*

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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+23%3A19))*

*"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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A18))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+1%3A18), [25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+1%3A25))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A1), [14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A14))*

*"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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A5-8))*

*"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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A15))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+34%3A6))*

*"I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." ([Malachi 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mal+3%3A6))*

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." ([Hebrews 13:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A8))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+6%3A13))*

*"Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word." ([Psalm 103:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+103%3A20))*

*"All mankind will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what he has done." ([Psalm 64:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+64%3A9))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A6))*

**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](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A5-6))*

**E. One God**

|  |
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| **Three Eternal and Coequal Persons** |
| **Father** | **Son** | **Holy Spirit** |
| **Selector***"He chose us in him before the creation of the world." ([Ephesians 1:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A4))* | **Savior***"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born." ([Luke 2:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+2%3A11))* | **Sealer***"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal." ([Ephesians 1:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A13))* |
| **Sovereign Architect***"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men." ([Daniel 4:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A17))* | **Servant***"[He] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." ([Philippians 2:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A7))* | **Sanctifier***"The sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus." ([1 Peter 1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A2))* |
| **Causer***"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." ([John 6:44](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+6%3A44))* | **Creator***"For by him all things were created." ([Colossians 1:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A16))* | **Counselor***"Counselor, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things." ([John 14:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A26))* |
| **Given by the Father***"Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you." ([John 17:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+17%3A7))* | **Through the Son***"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" ([John 14:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A6))* | **The Holy Spirit***"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." ([Zechariah 4:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+4%3A6))* |
| **Initiator***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." ([John 3:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A16))* | **Intercessor***"He always lives to intercede for them." ([Hebrews 7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A25))* | **Instructor***"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." ([John 16:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+16%3A13))* |
| **Rapha/Healer***"Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed." ([Jeremiah 17:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+17%3A14))* | **Redeemer***"In him we have redemption through his blood." ([Ephesians 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A7))* | **Regenerator***"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." ([John 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A6))* |
| **Jehovah Jireh/Provider***"So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide." ([Genesis 22:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A14))* | **Judge***"He is the one whom God appointed as judge." ([Acts 10:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+10%3A42))* | **Joy Giver***"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." ([Galatians 5:22-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A22-23))* |

*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*

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| **Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt8a Jan 24, 2017**Characteristics **of Each Member of the Trinity***"Without faith it is impossible to please God, anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists / he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* -**Heb 11:6** |

**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** / His **nature** in different **ways** so that we can

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**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** / 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."***

In **Job 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* **(32)**
* **The** Balance **of Land / 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'?"* **(8-11)**
* **The** Division **of Day / Night**
*"Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?"* **(12)**
* **The Life/ Death** Cycle

*"Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you… gates of the shadow of death?"* **(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**

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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!

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| **Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt8b Jan 24, 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** |

**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** / His **nature** in different **ways** so that we can

**know** Him. **What** are these **ways**?

**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**

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* **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**

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* **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**

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| **Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt8c Feb. 7, 2017 -pt1**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** |

 **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** / His **nature** in different **ways** so that we can

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**Through** Communication

*"The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue." -***2 Samuel 23:2**

God has **revealed** Himself in a **general** way through **creation**/ 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**\_

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* **Cain**
*"...the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?'" -***Gen 4:6**

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* **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/ the earth.'" -***Gen 6:13**

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* **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**

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* **Paul**
*"He fell to the ground/ 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/ go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'" -***Acts 9:4-6**

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* **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." -***Rev 1:1**

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| **Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt8d Feb 24, 2017 -pt2**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** |

**Reflect on the Four Ways by Which God Reveals Himself**

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**The Bible**

* **It is** 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**

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* **It is** Inspired
*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."* **-2 Timothy 3:16**

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* **It is** 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**

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* **It is** Inerrant
*"Every work of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."* **Pro 30:5**

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* **It is** Sufficient
*"So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* **-2 Tim 3:17**

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* **It is** 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**

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| **Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt8e Feb 24, 2017 -pt2**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** |

**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** / His **nature** in different **ways** so that we can

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**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**

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* **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**

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* **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**

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* **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**

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| **Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt9 Mar 14, 2017** *"Without faith it is impossible to please God,..anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists/ he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* -**Heb 11:6** |

**God Reveals Himself as the God of All** Comfort

**This World is So Full of** Pain **and** Discomfort **-Many Times We Feel** Alone**/ Even** Forsaken **– But God** Wants **Us to** Know **that He is** Always **with Us!**

*Since God assured us, “I’ll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,” we can boldly quote, God is there, ready to help; I’m fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me 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*. **Heb 13:5-6 Message**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."* **-2 Cor 1:3**

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

**God’s** Comfort **Described… (***functionally***)**

* Care **for Me with** Compassion

*"He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious/ compassionate." -***Psa 111:4**

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* **Offer** Strength **When I Am** Weak

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." -***Philippians 4:13**

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* Meet **All My** Needs

*"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." -***Phi 4:19**

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* Forget **My** Sins **and** Mistakes

*"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." -***Hebrews 8:12**

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* **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**

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* Reassure **Me of His** 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**

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* **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**. **Wrong** thinking **imprisons** them, 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**

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**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt10 March 21, 2017**

*"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**

**Three Eternal and Coequal Persons**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Father** | **Son** | **Holy Spirit** |
| **Selector***"He chose us in him before the creation of the world." -***Eph 1:4** | **Savior***"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born." -***Luke 2:11** | **Sealer***"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal." -***Eph 1:13** |
| **Sovereign Architect***"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men." -***Dan 4:17** | **Servant***"[He] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." -***Phil 2:7** | **Sanctifier***"The sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus." -***1 Peter 1:2** |
| **Causer***"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." (John 6:44)* | **Creator***"For by him all things were created." -***Col 1:16** | **Counselor***"Counselor, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things." (John 14:26)* |
| **Given by the Father***"Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you."-***John 17:7** | **Through the Son***"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" -***John 14:6** |  **The Holy Spirit***"Not by might nor by power, but by*  *my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." -***Zech 4:6** |
| **Initiator***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." -***John 3:16** | **Intercessor***"He always lives to intercede for them." -***Hebrews 7:25** | **Instructor***"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." -***John 16:13** |
| **Rapha/Healer***"Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed." -***Jer 17:14** | **Redeemer***"In him we have redemption through his blood."* **-Eph 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." -***Gen 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."* **-Gal 5:22-23** |

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*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*

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