

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*

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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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-M'Kaddesh**—"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-Ra'ah**—"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

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*

- **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

- **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

- 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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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**.

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❖ 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**.

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

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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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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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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.²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. -Psa 37:23-24

Psalm 35 (KJV)

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

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

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

- ⁴ Let 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.
- ⁵ Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.
- ⁶ Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.
- ⁷ For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.
- ⁸ Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.
- ⁹ And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.
- ¹⁰ All 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?
- ¹¹ False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.
- ¹² They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.
- ¹³ But 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.
- ¹⁴ I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.
- ¹⁵ But 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:
- ¹⁶ With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.
- ¹⁷ Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.
- ¹⁸ I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.
- ¹⁹ Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.
- ²⁰ For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.
- ²¹ Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.
- ²² This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.
- ²³ Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.
- ²⁴ Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.
- ²⁵ Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up.

²⁶ Let 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.

²⁷ Let 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.

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

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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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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 **Christlike**, 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 of your **promise** 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

- **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)

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>"I do not know if there is a God."</i>
Atheism	There is no need for a universal /personal God.	Madalyn O'Hare	<i>"I know there is no God."</i>
Deism	God set the universe in motion/ left it to its own results. God no longer interacts with man.	Benjamin Franklin Thomas 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

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.)
2. 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] panentheism maintains a distinction between the divine and non-divine and the significance of both.^[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

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)?**

- What does Jesus promise to do in the future (28)?
-

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."</i> (Ephesians 1:4)	Savior <i>"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born."</i> (Luke 2:11)	Sealer <i>"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal."</i> (Ephesians 1:13)
Sovereign Architect	Servant	Sanctifier

"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men." ([Daniel 4:17](#))

"[He] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." ([Philippians 2:7](#))

"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." ([Colossians 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." ([Zechariah 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](#))

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

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"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

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 **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** / 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

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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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

-
- **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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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_

- **Cain**

"...the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?'" -Gen 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/ the earth.'" -Gen 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/ 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

- **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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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

- **It is Inspired**

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

- **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

- **It is Inerrant**

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

- **It is Sufficient**

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

- **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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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

Edward Christian Church- **“God: Who is He?” -pt9 Mar 14, 2017**

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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

- **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." -Phi 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 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

- **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.

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

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