

Define God... → Explain What God Is Like... → Describe God's Character & Attributes...

### **Monotheism (1.1)**

- 1) There is Only One God → However We Understand Trinity == One God
  - a) Deut 6:4 / Shema—"Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one" == **Monotheism!**
  - b) 1 Cor. 8:6—"yet for us there is but one God."
  - c) James 2:19—"You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe-- & shudder!"
- 2) All Religions Cannot Be True → Mutually Exclusive Truth Claims → Allah Is Not God By Another Name

### **Attributes of God (1.1)**

- 1) Communicable & Incommunicable
- 2) Infinite—Perfect—Pure Spirit—Invisible → John 4:24—"God is spirit"
- 3) Without Body or Parts == God is Simplicity—Indivisible Unity == Not Body-Spirit → Not Mind—Heart—Will
- 4) Without Passions → God Has Something Analogous To Human Emotion → But Not Subject To Emotions
  - a) God's Wrath → Judicial—Measured, Wise and Just Response to the offense of Sin
  - b) Never Irrational—Capricious—Self-Indulgent—Never Loses Control—No Outbursts
- 5) Immutable → Mal. 3:6—"For I the LORD do not change" → Same Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow
  - a) James 1:17—"Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."
  - b) Does God Change His Mind?
- 6) Immense—Eternal—Incomprehensible—Almighty
  - a) Rev. 1:4, 8, 17—"Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come," "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One."
- 7) Wise → Does All Things Right—Holy → Images == Height & Separation—Fire—Light
  - a) Tozer—None of us "is qualified to appreciate the holiness of God. Quite literally a new channel must be cut through the desert of our minds to allow the sweet waters of truth that will heal our great sickness to flow in...We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine."
  - b) Finlayson—"Out-shining of all that God is. As the sun's rays, combining all the colors of the spectrum, come together in the sun's shining and blend into light, so in His self-manifestation all the attributes of God come together and blend into holiness."

- 8) Free & Absolute == Working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable & most righteous will
- 9) For His Own Glory → All Things Are For His Glory → Creation—People—Heaven—Hell—All His Works
- 10) Loving—Gracious—Merciful—Long-suffering
  - a) Love Is Eternal & Sovereign → Eph. 1:4-5—*“he chose us in him before the foundation of the world...In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will”*
- 11) Abundant in Goodness & Truth
- 12) Forgiving Iniquity Transgression & Sin
- 13) Rewarder of Those Who Seek Him →
- 14) Most Just—Terrible In Judgments—Hating Sin → By No Means Clear the Guilty
  - a) Ex. 34:6-7—*“The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty”*

### **Nature & Power of God (1.2)**

- 1) All Life—Glory—Goodness—Blessedness → Fountain of Being
- 2) In & Of Himself == Self-Existent → Aseity == *“property by which a being exists in & of itself, from itself”*
  - a) “Who made God?” or “Where did God come from?” →
  - b) Hurts Our Head To Think “No Beginning” → Always Was → Never Time When He Was Not
- 3) Alone In & Unto Himself All-Sufficient → Not Standing In Need of Any Creatures He Has Made
  - a) God Is Not Lonely! → Creates Out of Abundance → Not Lack
  - b) Acts 17:25—*“He is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.”*
- 4) Not Deriving Any Glory From Them → We Have No Glory to Give → If We Did == Gift & Reflection of His
  - a) To Give God The Glory Means == Acknowledging Fullness & Perfection of Glory Already Has
  - b) Only Manifesting His Own Glory In—By—Unto & Upon Them →
- 5) He Alone == Fountain of All Being == Of Whom—Through Whom—To Whom == All Things
  - a) Col. 1:16-17—*“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*
- 6) Most Sovereign Dominion Over Them
  - a) Sovereignty Is All-Knowing—All Powerful—All Wise—Absolutely Free → God-Centeredness of Universe
  - b) 1 Chr. 29:11-12—*“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."*

- c) Psalm 22:28—"For dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.
  - d) Job 2:10—"You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"
  - e) Isa. 45:7—"I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things."
  - f) Lam. 3:38—"From the mouth of the Most High...both calamities and good things come?"
  - g) Matt. 10:27—"Not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father."
  - h) 1 Tim. 6:15—"God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords"
  - i) Eph. 1:11—"Who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will."
  - j) Psalm 115:3—"Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him."
- 7) To Do By Them—For Them—Upon Them Whatsoever He Pleases
- a) Rom. 9:20-21—"But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?"
- 8) Knowledge Is Infinite—Infallible—Independent → Nothing is Contingent—Uncertain
- 9) Holy In His Counsels—Works—Commands
- 10) To Him is Due From Angels—Men—Every Creature == Worship—Service—Obedience

### **God the Trinity (1.3)**

- 1) In Unity of the Godhead == 3 Persons of 1 Substance—Power—Eternity == Holy Spirit Is A Person!!
  - a) Unity of God, Distinction & Deity of each Person, Threeness & Oneness, Trinity is Eternal
  - b) Function of One may for a time be subordinate to another—though temporary
  - a) Matt. 28:19 → Baptize in the [One] Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
  - b) 2 Cor. 13:14—"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."
  - c) 1 Peter 1:2—"Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood"
- 2) Divine Economy → Father of None → Son Eternally Begotten of Father → Holy Spirit Eternally Proceeding

3) **Nicene Creed**—"I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, The Only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of Him before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one Substance with the Father, By whom all things were made. I believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life, Which proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and Son together is worshipped and glorified."