

Core: Establishing Essentials of Faith
Session #3: Knowing God (A Personal God)
September 22, 2021

OVERVIEW

Establishing an essential faith-foundation
Historic, credal, Biblical Christian faith

REVIEW: The Nature of Humankind

Created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)
“Original sin” and our Savior (Romans 5:12-17)
In Christ we are children of God (1 John 3:1)

Today: Knowing God (A Personal God)

Genesis 3:8–9 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

1. What do we mean by “Personal?”

Acts 17:24–28 *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’*

God is a Living God
God is a Person, not a force
God is knowable

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (1646, Church of England, 107 Q&A's)

Q: What is the chief end of humankind?

A: Humankind's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

2. Biblical traits of our Personal God

Rational

Isaiah 55:8 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.*

Willful

Psalms 115:3 *Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases him.*

Intentional

Jeremiah 29:11 *“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.”*

Relational

Jeremiah 31:34 *“They will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.*

Personality

Creativity, imagination, sense of humor, joy, peace, just, wise, loving
Nehemiah 8:10 *The joy of the Lord is our strength.*

Capable of emotion

Psalms 103:13 *As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.*

3. How does God relate to us?

By Revelation

Matthew 11:27 Jesus said, "No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."

By Name

Jehovah—*I Am Who I Am*
Jehovah Jireh—*The God Who provides*
Jehovah Shalom—*The God of peace*
Jehovah Rophe—*The God Who heals*
Jehovah Nissa—*The God of triumph*
El Shaddai—*God Almighty*
Adonai—*Our Lord and King*
Elohim—*God our strength*
Abba—*Father*

With Love

Psalm 86:15 You, O God, are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

With Words

Exodus 3:6 God said to Moses, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

With Deeds

John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

Via Covenant

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love His and keep His commands.

As individuals

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."

4. Knowing God through Christ

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed Heir of all things, and through Whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Personification

John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."

Incarnation

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

The Works of God

John 5:19 Jesus said, "I do nothing on My Own, but only what My Father is doing."

Atonement

Hebrews 10:12 *After Christ offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God.*

5. Knowing God

A relationship with God—Dynamic, giving and receiving

John 1:12 *To all who receive Christ, to those who believed on His Name, He gives the right to become to become children of God.*

Fellowship with God—Sharing in the life of God

Revelation 3:20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

Living symbiotically with God—His care and provision

Philippians 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Loving God—Emotional, motivational, satisfying component

Matthew 22:37–38 *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. This is the first and greatest commandment.*

Assurances—We can know that we know that we know

Romans 8:16 *The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children.*

What’s it mean for our lives

- **We can know God and get to know God** We can plumb the depths of God for eternity.
- **We can walk with God personally.** Engage with God daily, participate with God.
- **We can introduce others to our God.** Who better to introduce than someone who knows us.

Reflections for this week:

- **What challenges you Biblically?** (How do you understand Scripture differently?)
- **What challenges you ethically?** (How does this inform your morals and worldview?)
- **What challenges you personally?** (What might God be speaking to your heart about your personal life?)