

The Knowledge of God

Presumptions:

- 1** We understand and hold that the Bible is the Word of God, and thus is the only source of knowledge from which we shall obtain knowledge of who God is.

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence." 2 Peter 1:3*

- 2** We understand that there is a God who is the creator of all.

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth." Isaiah 40:28

- 3** We understand that though God is truly beyond our understanding He has revealed Himself to us so that we may have an understanding of His nature.

"To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with Him?" Isaiah 40:18

"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." 1 John 5:20

- 4** Only those who have a redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ are able to understand and comprehend the God who has adopted us into His family.

They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." John 8:19

WHAT IS AN ATTRIBUTE?

THE ESSENCE OF GOD

1. The very essence of God is best described in two verses;

God said to Moses, "I am who I am." Exodus 3:14

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

- ✦ From these two verses, one from God's conversation with Moses and the other the words of Christ, indicate the very essence of God. That God in form is spirit, who is self-contained, self-existent, absolutely independent and eternal.

God depends on no one, responds to no one, and does all things solely for His own glory and honour.

2. The Monotheistic Nature of God

- ✦ God is one. His existence is of one deity. There is one God creator of all. Unlike polytheism that holds to many gods or deities the God of the Bible who is spirit is one divine being.

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

3. The preeminent Nature of God

- ✦ Holding to the correct view of the preeminent nature of God will keep our understanding of God and His work biblical. And will develop a completely different view of God from those who hold to a theologically liberal theology.
- ✦ God in His essence is preeminently HOLY. God is a Holy God
- ✦ Liberal theology holds that God is preeminently LOVE. That God is a God of love.

"For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy." Leviticus 11:44

"There is none holy like the Lord" 1 Samuel 2:2

"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Revelations 4:8

- ✦ Holiness is a comparative term comparing God to something He created.
- ✦ Holiness is the basis of all of Gods other attributes.

THE BEING OF GOD

"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!" Psalm 99:9

As stated previously, God is spirit, who being one is Holy as the preeminent essence of His nature.

- ✦ The word "Holy" comes from the root word in both Hebrew (O.T) and Greek (N.T.) meaning "to cut" or "separate" And it refers to God's relationship to everything else. God by nature of His relationship to all else is separate, or distinct or cut away from, for nothing else can be in relationship to God. God is Holy and separate from all. He is absolutely distinct from all things.
- ✦ Yet, since we only understand God in a sense of relationship with Him, then we say He is Holy, and separate from all that is unholy. In this sense, His Holiness is *original*. However, God is also holy in His *moral* being as well. In the moral sense, holiness become the quality that is the basis of all of Gods other attributes, such as love, mercy, wrath, justice etc.
- ✦ When used in a moral sense, holiness creates a holy-love from God and a Holy-wrath. All measured in perfection based upon the third aspect of Holiness that being His *ethical* aspect of Holiness. God hates sin and all that is evil and violates His Holiness. God cannot have communion with sin, and therefore God is morally perfect or ethically pure.

"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong." Habakkuk 1:13

IMPLICATIONS OF HOLINESS

1. God is eternally separate from the effects of Satan's rebellion (sin)
2. God must punish all that violates His Holiness
3. God must remain true to His Holiness
4. In Christ, God must accept all true repentance
5. God must be faithful to al His promises
6. God can only have communion with others who are Holy

THE INCOMMUNICABLE NATURE OF GOD

The God, who is spirit, is eternal, unchangeable and infinite in nature. Without limitations, or bounds, constantly perfect in being and morals, eternally the Holy God from eternity past to eternity future. Always in the fullness of God.

This therefore is the basis of Gods nature with relationship to mankind. He is...

Omnipresent - God fills every space with His entire being. NOT God is in all –that is Pantheism - Psalms 139:7-12

Omnipotent - God is all Powerful. All Mighty – God has no limit to the exercise of His Power
Genesis 18:14

Omniscience - God is all knowing, Has full disclosure of all, All things are exposed before Him
Psalms 139:2-6

He is Infinite - Jeremiah 23:24 *“Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.*

He is Eternal - Deuteronomy 33:27, Psalm 90:2 *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

APPARENT DIFFICULTIES

There are a few apparent difficulties based in the liberal view of theology.

- ◆ It is argued in liberal theology that the God of that is revealed in the Old Testament is strictly a holy God where as the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament is an expression simply of love and therefore does not carry with him the implications of the Old Testament holy God.
- ◆ It is also argued that the love of God supersedes any aspect of holiness for “God is love” as John says in his epistle of first John. It is also stated that a holy God cannot be intimate and personal rather that he is separate and therefore not part of the intimate aspects of our daily lives.



APPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES

According to applications scriptures, the moral obligation is to holiness of God, or moral perfection of the divine nature to be conformed to the law of the Lord.

“You shall be holy”, for the obligation is, “for I am holy” (1 Peter: 16) and “you shall be perfect” “as your heavenly father is perfect” (Matthew 5: 48).

Here we have the ultimate reason and ground for being and doing what is right namely that God is holy or in other words that we may reflect His nature in human means.

From the example of the Lord Jesus Christ we see that He gave the perfect example of holy obedience to His father *“I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me)” (John 5”30 }*

Holiness is the goal of every man's spiritual life.

“To the end he may establish your heart's unbelievably on blamable in holiness before our God and father”

Holiness is reflected in the qualities and characteristics of the Lord Jesus.