

THE NATURE OF GOD

“That which can be known” Deut 29:29

- What God has revealed about Himself:

- **The Foundation: He’s Holy** (Ex. 15:11- No alike)

- **God is Holy - He Himself defines this characteristic of being “separate”** (Is 6:3 & Rev 4:8 Thrice holy; Rev 15:4 he alone is holy; Is. 57:15 his name is holy;
- **Ps 89:6; Is. 40:25; 1 Sam 2:2 separate in holiness - none so unique**
- **Deut. 3:24 separate in greatness and might**
- **1 kings 8:23 separate in faithfulness and mercy**
- **Is 57:15; Ex 3:5 separate in dwelling/geography**

- **His substance/Essence**

- **John 1:18 God is invisible** (1 John 4:12 no one ever seen Him; John 6:46 accept Jesus; 1 Tim 6:16 mankind has not seen Him nor can they (Ps. 104: *wrapped in light*; John 5:37no one seen His form - not even Adam (Gen 3:8); Col 1:15; 1 Tim 1:17; Heb 11:27 declare Him to be the Invisible God; Gen 15:17 torch and pot)
- **John 4:20-24- God is Spirit** (We don’t know much about that - John 3:8 mysteriousness; Heb 1:7 (relating to ‘wind’); 2 Cor 12:2-3 (even Paul didn’t get it); Lk 24:39 Jesus distinguished spirit as intangible; Heb 2:14 Jesus became partaker of flesh and blood, but did not exist that way throughout eternity; 1 Cor 15:45 Jesus is Spirit; Matt 16:17 Father is Spirit; 1 Cor 15:50-54, we must become entirely like Christ in substance to enter the Kingdom

When we say “God is Spirit”, we must understand that it is not as if we have any reference to what “Spirit” is

outside of the revelation of God. We essentially lost all connection to that in the garden when mankind died spiritually. And it is not that God is saying, “Hey you know what spirit is, well that’s what I am”. No, He’s saying the opposite, He’s saying, “You don’t know what I am, but I’m telling you, ‘I am Spirit’ knowing that you don’t know what that is either except to the degree in which I’ve already shown you what that is – and chiefly that it is simply beyond and unlike your “fallen humanness”.

Or as Jesus has said, “that which is flesh is flesh, that which is spirit is spirit” – they’re different.

NOTE: [Our lives outside of and apart from God are merely an experience in “flesh” or fallen humanness. It is only when we encounter the Life of God that we have a spiritual experience. Those who claim to be spiritual that do not know Christ are deceived. They are having a fleshly or carnal experience – which is the opposite of a spiritual experience. As Paul says in Romans 7:14, “The law is spiritual, but I am carnal - sold under sin”. Paul is affirming that the Law or Commands of God (being issued from God Himself) are as He is: spirit, but that he (in his former state of being separated from God by sin) was merely carnal – that is fleshly. Fallen humanity is not spiritual. Some would say, well what about spiritual darkness – aren’t some people acquainted with the dark-side of the spiritual world? The biblical answer to that is NO – everyone is acquainted with spiritual darkness. That’s the point: mankind followed Satan, yielded to sin, lost the light, became darkened, and was rendered spiritually blind and ultimately dead. Spiritual darkness is not a thwarted experience of spiritual life – it is the complete absence of it.]

- **John 3:5** – We must be born of the Spirit to see / perceive Him – that is be made alive spiritually in order to see the kingdom of God, and with that, the King Himself – He’s otherwise invisible, b/c He is Spirit
- **Phill 3:3** – We must worship Him by the Spirit - We can only truly worship God who is Spirit – by His Spirit. We must pray in Spirit, sing/praise Him in Spirit (Eph 6:18; Rom 8:26; Jude 1:20; 1 Cor 14:13-20. We must also speak, that is to confess or testify of our faith, and to teach and preach by His Spirit (1 Cor 2 whole; Mark 12:36; 1 Cor 12:3; 1 Pet 1:12)

A created being cannot expect to fully understand its Creator.

God did make us in His image and likeness. As James says, we were created in His *similitude* (Jms. 3:9 KJV). He created us as such - to reflect Him and His glorious character to each other - for the praise of His glory (Eph 1:12-14).

Mankind was to be God’s self-portrait, and mirrors reflecting back upon God so that in ourselves our designer would shine forth and be praised. But, the mirror was shattered and the portrait marred, when man fell - obscuring what could be known about the Creator. Hence, man could not know God by looking merely at himself. In fact, Paul tells us that man began remaking and redefining God, fashioning their conception of Him after themselves *as they existed in their corrupted state* (Rom. 1:23). This resulted in them changing their understanding of God. They now had a caricature of the one true God- they’d robbed Him of His glorious holiness.

Yet God, in accordance with His sovereign purposes, chose to reveal himself outside of man’s sin-corrupted, natural experience. It was thus, necessary that something or someone not marred by sin show fallen man the truth of His Creator.

And so the Word was given to do just that - culminating in the incarnation: Jesus, born of a virgin, who would declare to Phillip, “He that has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn 14:9), and again to others, “No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son,

who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared [revealed] Him” (Jn 1:18; 5:37; 6:46; 15:24;)

And so we look not to ourselves, nor within ourselves to find God, but to the Word, to Jesus Christ – the only true reflection of God. He is the exact representation of the invisible God – the brightness of his glory and the express image of His being (Heb 1:3) – His very essence – what and who he is! In a sense God faxed Himself to mankind – and the paper upon which God communicated Himself was the body of the man, Jesus of Nazareth - who in humanity was the offspring of the family line of David – the seed of Abraham, but who in Spirit was the Son of God – the only begotten, the one of a kind (the mono-genas) (John 3:16)

It is through Christ alone that we see God

Consider, how it is that one such as Phillip can ‘see’ the Father by looking at Jesus? It is not as some assert that both he and the Father were merely one in purpose or said differently, ‘in perfect agreement’ – although they indeed were. No, it is more. Jesus and the Father are really one. Paul said, “In him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9). It is through our faith in Jesus that we not only see God the Father, but also know Him. This is a familiar concept throughout all the New Testament.

- **2 Cor 4:6 - in the face of Jesus we see the glory of God**
- **3 John 1:11 - Those continue in sin haven’t seen God**
- **1 John 3:6 - Or come know Him**

There is nothing in the person of Jesus that is contrary to the person of the Father (**Jn 8:29**), nor is anything in the person of the Father missing from the person of Jesus (**Phill 2:6**). They are not only one in purpose, but also in substance – that is their essence is identical (**Dan 7:9-13 & Rev 1:14**). They share attributes in exactitudes. Their mass, volume, degree, and weight are the same. The same can be said for the Holy Spirit (**Dan 10:6 & Ez 10:9**).

The great mystery is that they are indeed three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet one God

- 2 Cor 13:14; Matt 28:19; Gen 1:1-3- was he talking to Himself?; Gen 1:26-27 Our image / God's own image; Is 48:12-16; Eph 2:13-18; Jude 1:20-21; Acts 2:32-33; 1 Pet 1:2

They are Spirit, **not** spirits, yet they are a Person (*Is 9:6 Everlasting Father; Mighty God*) **and** persons simultaneously.

(Inter-penetration)

However, theoretically speaking, were one of the persons not present there would not remain merely a portion of God, for the whole of God is represented and present in each. They are not parts of a whole. They are not like an *Egg* or an *Eye-ball*! Nor can the trinity be explained by looking at water which be fluid, solid, or gas. Although it defies Intellect, they are, whether considered individually or together, the whole and fullness of God. **Our God is one being eternally existing in three persons.** The immense and infinite marvel of God's nature puts the intellect of man in its true place: he is before it, forever limited to knowing of God's nature, what God chooses to enable him to know and nothing more. His most intricate science, his most advanced math, and his philosophical depth are infinitely less than infantile - utterly below knowing God. If one were to be so foolish as to engage in the futility of attempting to reduce His nature to a mathematical equation, he would discover that equation to be unsolvable. Man's logic will not allow for: *the One to be equal to the three, where each of the three are also individually equal to the One.* In fact, in the face of such, man has historically responded by attempting to reduce God to their finite intellectual capabilities, often dismissing Him altogether. This has resulted in the evolutionary theories that deny God and the record of creation, and in the various cults which deny the Deity of Christ, the personhood of the Holy Spirit and the distinct simultaneously-operating personalities of the Godhead/Trinity.

“As different as cults are from each other, most have one thing in common: they hate the biblical teaching of the Trinity. They want their God to be simplistic, uncomplicated, and less complex than the world He created. They want a God reduced to terms they can get their finite minds around. Modern advances in science have shown that the created world is an extremely complex mechanism. Those who work in nuclear physics or molecular biology are continually discovering the complexity of the world God created. In fact, some complex, seemingly contradictory data has yet to be fitted into a rational system that explains its relationship. A simple thing like "light" is known to move like "waves" yet strike like "particles." Atomic physicists are struggling to put together a theory that can fully explain this apparent contradiction. Those who work in the complex mathematical equations of quantum mechanics are told by their instructors that "If you think that you really understand quantum mechanics and how it applies to reality, that's what proves to us that you do not understand it." One of their basic theorems is that if the speed of a particle is known, then its location cannot be known, and the more accurately you know its location, the less accurately you know its speed. This does not seem very logical to the average person, but it works very well in atomic physics, in which scientists get closest to understanding the essence of matter.” - **W.P. Walters** -

Our God's greatness is reflected in creation - which man struggles to understand, but He himself is greater than what He created. Our God is awesome!

When we get to heaven we will indeed be loved by a visible Father whose face we will have sought to see all of our lives (Ps 27:8), we will indeed exult in His precious Son who He is eternally pleased with - our own Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and we will eternally enjoy a communion with the precious Holy Spirit - who appeared in bodily form upon Jesus, and may do so in eternity in some unknown blessed way.

We are going to see God one day! Have you thought about this much: **Matt 5:8 – pure in heart!**

Rev 22:4 And ²⁵³² they shall see ³⁷⁰⁰ his ⁸⁴⁶ face ⁴³⁸³; and ²⁵³² his ⁸⁴⁶ name ³⁶⁸⁶ [shall be] in ¹⁹⁰⁹ their ⁸⁴⁶ foreheads ³³⁵⁹

Spurgeon said as he pondered on this verse, “We will gaze upon on our Lord till His name is photographed upon our brows”. That has always been the desire of those who come to know God – that one day they might see him, look into His eyes, and recognize Him as the one we’ve always known - “it’s you, you’re the one who’s been with me through it all”.

When Moses first met God at the burning bush he was scared to look at that which God was revealing of Himself (**EX 3:6**), but later in Exodus **33:18-23**, we see Moses asking God to allow him to see Him. That is when God would permit Him to see Him, but not His face lest he die. He would hide Moses in the cleft of the Rock and allow all His Glory to pass by.

The prophets in both New and Old Testament times have spoken of seeing the glory of God and experiencing His presence and having been so terrified at the greatness of it they fell on their faces as dead men:

- **Ezekiel 3:22; 10:4**
- **Daniel Ch. 10**
- **Paul / Damascus road**
- **Rev. 1**

The scripture many times will clearly distinguish two bodily figures:

- **Dan 7:9** Ancient of days **V. 7:13** Son of Man
- **Rev 4:3** The enthroned One **V. 5:6-7** Lamb taking the scroll from his hand
- **Ezekiel 10:1** Voice from throne **V. 2-8** man clothed in linen

The point is, we are going to see the Father and the Son. Jesus said while he was on earth, “the angels constantly behold the face of the Father” (Matt 18:10).

Not that we take our theology from demons, but even they recognized Jesus distinctly as “the Son of God” (Matt 8:29).

There will be Father and Son appearing in some way in heaven for eternity. Yet this assertion it meant to take nothing away from their “oneness of being”. The scriptures never suggest that there will be two thrones - only one:

Rev 22:1 ¶ And ²⁵³² he shewed ¹¹⁶⁶ me ³⁴²⁷ a pure ²⁵¹³ river ⁴²¹⁵ of water ⁵²⁰⁴ of life ²²²², clear ²⁹⁸⁶ as ⁵⁶¹³ crystal ²⁹³⁰, proceeding ¹⁶⁰⁷ out of ¹⁵³⁷ the throne ²³⁶² of God ²³¹⁶ and ²⁵³² of the Lamb ⁷²¹.

Rev 22:3 And ²⁵³² there shall be ²⁰⁷¹ no ³⁷⁵⁶ more ^{2089 3956} curse ²⁶⁵²: but ²⁵³² the throne ²³⁶² of God ²³¹⁶ and ²⁵³² of the Lamb ⁷²¹ shall be ²⁰⁷¹ in ¹⁷²² it ⁸⁴⁶; and ²⁵³² his ⁸⁴⁶ servants ¹⁴⁰¹ shall serve ³⁰⁰⁰ him ⁸⁴⁶:

And again the scripture never asserts that there will be two names either, but one:

Zec 14:9 And the LORD ³⁰⁶⁸ shall be king ⁴⁴²⁸ over all the earth ⁷⁷⁶: in that day ³¹¹⁷ shall there be one ²⁵⁹ LORD ³⁰⁶⁸, and his name ⁸⁰³⁴ one ²⁵⁹.

1Cr 15:28 And ¹¹⁶¹ when ³⁷⁵² all things ³⁹⁵⁶ shall be subdued ⁵²⁹³ unto him ⁸⁴⁶, then ⁵¹¹⁹ shall ^{5293 0} the Son ⁵²⁰⁷ also ²⁵³² himself ⁸⁴⁶ be subject ⁵²⁹³ unto him that put ^{5293 0} all things ³⁹⁵⁶ under ⁵²⁹³ him ⁸⁴⁶, that ²⁴⁴³ God ²³¹⁶ may be ⁵⁶⁰⁰ all ³⁹⁵⁶ in ¹⁷²² all ³⁹⁵⁶.

Mat 28:19 Go ye ⁴¹⁹⁸ therefore ³⁷⁶⁷, and teach ³¹⁰⁰ all ³⁹⁵⁶ nations ¹⁴⁸⁴, baptizing ⁹⁰⁷ them ⁸⁴⁶ in ¹⁵¹⁹ the name ³⁶⁸⁶ of the Father ³⁹⁶², and ²⁵³² of the Son ⁵²⁰⁷, and ²⁵³² of the Holy ⁴⁰ Ghost ⁴¹⁵¹:

The fact is we see both and yet One as we look to the scriptures. We have the Ancient of Days with pure white wooly hair and the son of man in Daniel, yet in Revelation we have all the characteristics of each all wrapped up in Jesus. Explain that – **NOOOOO Don't!!!**, b/c you can't. The reality is that for now:

1Cr 13:12	For ¹⁰⁶³ now ⁷³⁷ we see ⁹⁹¹ through ¹²²³ a glass ²⁰⁷² , darkly ¹⁷²² ¹³⁵ ; but ¹¹⁶¹ then ⁵¹¹⁹ face ⁴³⁸³ to ⁴³¹⁴ face ⁴³⁸³ . now ⁷³⁷ I know ¹⁰⁹⁷ in ¹⁵³⁷ part ³³¹³ ; but ¹¹⁶¹ then ⁵¹¹⁹ shall I know ¹⁹²¹ even as ²⁵³¹ also ²⁵³² I am known ¹⁹²¹ .
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The secret things belong to the Lord!!!!

Of these things I'm certain: **I have a Father who loves me, and sent His Only Son to save me, and give me the gift of His Holy Spirit.**

One day I will understand the mystery of how they 3 are the 1 true and living God. For now I accept this by faith and rejoice in it..

➤ His Power

He is Sovereign = Omniscience; Omnipresence; Omnipotence

Ps 115:3; Isa 46:10; Dan 4:35

Omniscient: All knowing, generally & specifically - Ps 147:5

- Ps 139:1-6
 - Ps 94:7-11
 - Ps 33:13-15
 - Job 34:21
 - Heb 4:13
- **Jesus** – **John 16:30; 21:17**; Matt 12:25; Lk 6:8; John 2:24-25; Samaritan at the well.

Why did he say he didn't know the day or hour – MK13:32? **Phill 2**

- **Holy Spirit** - 1 Cor 2:9-11; John 14:26

Omnipresence: All present, generally and specifically

- **Ps 139:7-13**
 - **2 Chronicles 2:5-6**
 - **Isaiah 66:1 earth is my stool - heaven my throne**
 - **Ps 46:1 - ever present help**
 - **Hebrews 13:5 - never left**
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- **Jesus** - Matt 28:20
 - **John 14:18**
 - **John 3:13 KJV** - He's was in heaven when on earth.
 - **Heb 9:14 High Priest** - he had to come back out of the Holy place to prove his sacrifice was accepted.

Omnipotence: All powerful, generally and specifically

- **Jer 32:26-27**
 - **Ps 104**
 - **Job 38-42:6 - read 42:1-6**
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- **Jesus** - **John 1:10** He made the world
 - **John 10:18** He raised himself from the dead
 - **I Cor 2:8 & James 2:1** - Lord of Glory Vs. King Of Glory Ps. 24
 - **Heb 1:3** He holds the universe together
 - **Revelation 1:8** - Almighty (same word is *omnipotent* in 19:6)
 - **Not to mention all the miracles**

➤ His Character (Ex 34:5-7)

Love (1 John 4:8) =

- ◆ 1 Cor 13:4-8
- ◆ Ex 34:5-7

Merciful (encapsulates: New Testament grace; goodness; kindness; and patience/longsuffering)

Just (encapsulates judgment and wrath)

Faithful and True (truth and immutability) - James 1:17

- ◆ **Divine Dilemma is solved in Jesus:**
 - 1 John 4:9-10
 - Romans 5:8

The practical benefit of studying the nature of God:

- **It provokes us to:**
 - **Fear** – Even if he sent me to hell he deserved to be served
 - **Faith/trust** – He can do..., and He will
 - **Humility** – Look what He (our infinitely Huge God) did to condescend to such as we!
 - **Compassion** - How can we any longer justify any refusal to stoop down (**Brian**)
 - **Gratitude** – (Jms 1:18) What if he were different – subject to change, failure, betrayal, selfishness, etc..
 - **Love** – (1 John 4:19) I want to serve Him
 - **Obedience** – Fueled by LOVE

