

## Lesson 5 – God the Father and His Attributes

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. – Rev. 1:8*

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD – Deut. 6:4*

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

### 1. Definition of *God*.

- a. As Christians, we believe that God is the Creator of the Universe and all that exists.
- b. Simplified definition
  - i. God is Spirit, not a physical being – John 4:24
    1. A Spirit is a person without a body
    2. A Spirit is invisible. God is invisible – 1 John 4:12.
  - ii. God is a Person, not a force or a thing
    1. A Person is a living being with 3 distinct characteristics
      - a. Intellect
        - i. Job 28:23; Psalm 44:21
        - ii. Far surpasses human knowledge – Psalm 139:6
      - b. Emotions
        - i. Love – Isa. 49:15; Eph. 2:4; Rom. 8:30
        - ii. Anger – Zeph. 1:14-18
        - iii. Regret – Gen. 6:6
      - c. Will – God can decide and plan.
        - i. Eph. 67:6
        - ii. People are born again by the will of God – John 1:13
- c. Since God cannot be depicted physically, He commanded His people to refrain from trying to do so.
  - i. Any depiction of God, whether it be 3-dimensional (statue) or 2-dimensional (icon) that is used for worship is a violation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment. – Exodus 20:4-5
- d. True statements about belief in God
  - i. *Theism* – belief in the existence of God. Any religion, true or false, that believes in the existence of a Supreme Being is a theistic religion.
  - ii. *Monotheism* – The belief in one Supreme God. Any religion, true or false, that believes in one Supreme Being is monotheistic.
- e. False ideas about God,
  - i. *Polytheism* – there are many gods.
    1. Hinduism believes in many gods.
    2. Some Hindus believe Jesus is a god.
  - ii. *Pantheism* – everything is God and God is everything

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1. Repopularized by the New Age movement
2. People talk about the Universe as if it were God.
- iii. *Deism* – God created the Universe and then let it go. He was involved in Creation, but He isn't involved any more. He is not involved in the affairs of men.
  1. Deism was popular around the time of the founding of the United States.
  2. Some of the Founding Fathers of the U.S. were Deists
  3. Some critics say that George Washington and all the Founding Fathers were Deists.
  4. Washington made many proclamations concerning our dependence on God – both as individuals and as a nation, proving he was not a Deist.
- iv. *Relativism* – any old god will do (or a new one too).
  1. You can have your god, I can have my god, and we'll all end up in the same place.
  2. We all worship the same God; we just call Him by different names.
    - a. I would be insulted if you insisted on calling me by someone else's name, wouldn't you?
    - b. Men: try calling your wife by the name of one of your old girlfriends. How do you think that would go over?
    - c. How do you think God feels about people who call Him by a name of their choosing, rather than by His name, which He revealed to us?
  3. This kind of relativism treats God as a theory of religion that isn't important, because God isn't really real, anyway.
- v. *Agnosticism* – You can't really be sure there whether or not there is a God. The only thing you can be sure of is that you can't be sure. Sound like a contradiction? It is. If you refuse to believe God, you are setting yourself up to fall for anything.
- vi. *Atheism* – The notion that there is no God.
  1. The problems with atheism
    - a. There is no evidence that there is no God
    - b. They have to explain away all the evidence that He does, in fact, exist.
  2. Most atheists have two reasons for being atheists
    - a. The intellectual reason. They think it is unintellectual and unscientific to believe in the existence of God. This is the reason they tell you about.
    - b. The moral reason. This is the real reason. They don't want to think about being accountable to the righteous Judge of the Universe.
- vii. *The Universal Fatherhood of God.*
  1. Teaches that God is everyone's Father, and that everyone is a Child of God.
  2. John 8:44
  3. A person becomes a child by being born. A person becomes a child of God by being born again. – John 3:3-7
  4. A person is not a child of God until they receive Christ – John 1:12

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### 2. Attributes of God

- a. *Omnipotent*
  - i. God is *Almighty*, or all powerful. – ; Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17; 1 Tim 6:15
  - ii. There is nothing that God cannot do.
- b. *Omniscient*
  - i. God is a God of knowledge – 1 Sam. 2:3
  - ii. He knows the secrets of people’s hearts – Psalm 44:21
  - iii. His understanding is infinite – Psalm 147:5
- c. *Omnipresent*
  - i. God is everywhere – 2 Chr. 2:6; Psalm 139:7-23
- d. *Eternal*
  - i. From eternity past to eternity future, He is God – Psalm 90:2
  - ii. He inhabits eternity – Isa. 57:15
  - iii. There was never a time in which He didn’t exist.
- e. *Immutable*
  - i. God doesn’t change – Num. 23:19; Malachi 3:6
  - ii. Since He is perfect, any change would be a move away from perfection
- f. *Holy*
  - i. Totally separate from sin and iniquity – Lev 20:7; 1 Pet 1:16
- g. *Loving*
  - i. God is love – 1 John 4:4
  - ii. God so loved the world – John 3:16

### 3. Names of God

- a. *Elohim* (Hebrew) –
    - i. Translated *God*
    - ii. Means “The One Who is mighty”
  - b. *Yahweh*, or *Jehovah* (Hebrew)
    - i. The special name by which God revealed Himself to the Jews in the Old Testament (Exodus 2:4-5)
    - ii. Means the Self-Existent One; the Everlasting One
    - iii. YHWH in the Hebrew Old Testament
    - iv. Translated *LORD* in most English Bibles. (Small caps).
    - v. Translated 耶和華 in the Chinese Bible, following the Hebrew more closely.
4. Why is all this important?
- a. There is a God
  - b. He controls our future
  - c. He took the initiative to communicate with us
  - d. He wants us to listen to Him and obey Him
  - e. Since he has the power over our well-being both now and in the future on into eternity, it is of critical importance that we listen to Him through His Word, for “except a man be born again, he shall not see the Kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)