

3. Attributes of God (Correct Theology)

It has been said by some that the greatest thought in a person's mind at any given time is their perception of God. We have all surmised, through experiences in our former life, thoughts and opinions of who God is. Often that perception of God comes from our knowledge of who our parents were, as God's appointed representatives. We live in a fallen world, amidst a society of people whose definition of family and moral values is increasingly perverted. Therefore, we can come to very erroneous conclusions as to the true character and nature of God. This in turn leads to a chaotic, misguided life.

We were created with a need to live in relationship with God. Because of the fall, we have been unable to do so, leaving us empty and unsatisfied. This in turn has caused us to rely on substances, unhealthy relationships, and compulsive behaviors for relief. When we realize we are being held captive by our behaviors, it becomes apparent that our addictions have caused our lives to move from bad to worse. Now we have come to the end of ourselves and cry out to God for help. Our fear is that we have gone too far, or that He will reject us as everyone else seems to have done. We may view God as a prosecutor and be afraid of the consequences of revealing ourselves to Him.

The only solution to our dilemma is to come to an accurate knowledge of who God really is and consequentially discover who He intends us to be. This knowledge must be obtained in two ways. First, we learn of Him through His inspired Word. It says; ***The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; (Psalms 103:8-11 NKJV).*** Next, we must learn experientially by communicating with Him and by fellowshiping with His people. So, more than needing recovery, we must acknowledge our true need of intense discipleship. Corporate prayer, worship, and preaching combined with the practice of spiritual disciplines will produce godly character and genuinely transformed lives.

3. Attributes of God

Meditation passage for the week – Psalm 103

1. The **Holy Trinity**:
 - A. God as the **Father**
 1. **Loves** His children (**Ephesians 2:4-5**)
 2. **Understands** His children (**Psalm 103:13-14**)
 3. **Disciplines** His children (**Hebrews 12:9-10**)
 - B. God the as the **Son**
 1. **Obeys** the Father (**John 15:10**)
 2. **Loves** His brothers (John 15:13)
 3. **Looks out** for the **future** of His siblings (John 14:1-3)
 - C. God the as the **Holy Spirit**
 1. **Empowers** us (**Acts 1:8**)
 2. **Enlightens** us (John 16:13)
 3. **Enables** us to pray (**Romans 8:26**)
2. The **Sovereignty** of God (Romans 8:28-29)
3. The **Faithfulness** of God (**Hebrews 10:22-23**)

Questions for Discussion

1. How does the character of God compare to your previous assessment of Him?
2. How does the character of Jesus Christ the Son provide an example for us as brothers and sisters?
3. Which ministry of the Holy Spirit is the most crucial in your life today and why?
4. Who does all things work together for according to God's Word?
5. Why is the faithfulness of anyone, including God, important in a relationship?