

Character of God

One of the common objections of people today when presented with the truth of the Gospel is “How can I worship a God that I can’t see?” This same dilemma presented itself to people in the time of Christ. In fact in the first century they even stopped trying to figure out who God was! Listen to what Paul found upon visiting the city of Athens, Acts 17:23 NKJV for ***as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:***

From the beginning of time mankind has had an innate desire to know their creator and He in turn has a desire to be known by them. Acts 17:26-27 NKJV ***“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, (27) so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;”***

So if we desire to know the true character of God and He desires to be known by us what is the problem? Many have opted to suppress the true knowledge of God because they refused to submit to His Lordship and instead climbed up onto the throne themselves. This is not as God desires it to be and has eternal consequences. Romans 1:18-21 NKJV ***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, (21) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***

Jesus Christ came to earth that we might have a visible representation of God the Father. While many in the church tell us to have a relationship with God the Father, it is virtually impossible until we have an accurate perception of His true character. If you truly desire to know God intimately and His desire is to have you know Him, what can stop you? Listen to what the Apostle Paul said in his letter to Christians in Rome, Romans 8:38-39 NKJV ***“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, (39) nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

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Questions for Group Consideration

1. What is the desire of most human beings and of God Himself? (that we know His true character) What has prevented this from happening? (We can't see Him and we don't want to acknowledge His Lordship in our lives.)
2. To glorify God is to give the correct opinion of who He is. What is the result of failing to do this? (consider Romans 1:18-21)
3. How did Jesus say to His disciples that they could know the true character of God? (consider John 14:7-9) How can we employ the same technique today? (by observing and studying His life as recorded in the gospels)
4. What part does the Holy Spirit play in imparting true knowledge of God to us? (Consider John 14:15-21 and discuss the fact that the Holy Spirit in the person of Jesus Christ comes to live in us. As we die to self we allow His manifestation to become increasingly evident.)
5. As we understand God's desire to be known by us and our desire to know Him what can be our confident expectation? (Consider Romans 8:38, 39 and speak about true intimate knowledge only being available in the context of a true loving relationship.)