

A Biblical Foundation for the Christian Life

Lesson 4 – Theology – God

Knowing God

Introduction to Biblical Theology

- I. Knowing God
 - A. General Revelation – Creation is Evidence of a Creator (Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 17:23, 27).
 - B. Special Revelation – The Creator is Knowable and Desires to be Known (1st John 1:3; 1st Corinthians 2:9-16).
 - C. Knowing About God is not the same as Knowing God (John 5:39-40; 14:6; 17:3; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Hosea 6:6).
- II. Introduction to Biblical Theology – One God, Three Persons
 - A. Two Difficult Concepts
 1. Infinity – Psalm 90:2; Micah 5:2; Revelation 22:13
 2. Trinity – God does not reveal himself in a contradiction. Three does not equal one. He is not three in the same sense as He is one. He is one in essence and three in person.
 - B. One God – Monotheism
 1. God (Elohim - אֱלֹהִים) is introduced in the first verse of the Bible (Genesis 1:1).
 2. The personal name (I am - אֲנִי) and memorial name (YHWH - יְהוָה) of God are revealed to Moses (Exodus 3:14-15).
 3. YHWH is the most common name for God in the Old Testament where it appears over 6800 times. אֱלֹהִים Elohim (a plural noun) is also widely used, appearing over 2300 times in reference to the one true God.
 4. YHWH is God and there is no other (Deuteronomy 4:35-39).
 5. The Unity of God in the Shema, Israel's commanded prayer (Deuteronomy 6:4).
 6. Other applicable passages include Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 43:10-12; 44:6-8; 45:5-7; 1st Corinthians 8:4; James 2:19).

C. Three Persons – Trinity

1. The whole of scripture declares one God who is eternal, self-existent, and uncreated. Yet God reveals Himself as three distinct persons who have equal claim to the same essence and attributes.
2. All three share one Name (Matthew 28:19).
3. The apostles speak of the Father, Son, and Spirit cooperating to redeem a people for Themselves (2 Thess. 2:13–14; 1 Peter 1:2).
4. The Logos was face to face with God, yet was also God, showing a distinction yet also a unity. Here we see eternity, creative power, and self-existence attributed to the Logos, who is Jesus. John 1:1–4
5. In 1 Corinthians 8:1–6, Paul affirms the oneness of God yet ascribes deity to Christ. He distinguishes between the Father and the Son, and he notes that all things are “from” the Father and “through” Christ, and that we exist “for” the Father and “through” the Son.
6. In John’s gospel, Jesus makes a number of “I am” statements: “I am the bread of life” (6:48), “Before Abraham was, I am” (8:58), “I am the door” (10:7), “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (14:6), and “I am” (18:5–6).
7. Lying to the Holy Spirit equals lying to God (Acts 5:3–4).
8. God’s attributes of Omniscience (1st Cor. 2:10) and Omnipresence (Ps. 139:7) are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.