

Ultimate Question #3

What is God like?

Intro: It would not be enough simply to know that God exists or that He has communicated with His creation. Surely if such a God exists and has communicated we would want to know more about Him. Thus, we consider this question, “What is God like?” It is a very important question.

Not knowing God has profound consequences: Paul speaks of how the Lord will “...in flaming fire take vengeance on those that know not God and obey not the gospel” (2 Thes. 1:9). That makes this question pretty serious.

Knowing God is fundamental to the discovery of who we are and what our purpose is here in this life. Throughout the Scripture God speaks concerning His nature and those who have known God speak as well. What do they tell us about God?

God is eternal

God had no beginning. He has always existed and always will exist (Ps. 90:2).

God is unchangeable (Mal. 3:6). What He is He has always been and will continue to be.

God is omnipotent

He speaks to men as “God Almighty”.

God had the power to speak world into existence. To create this vast universe out of nothing (Heb. 11:3).

This power is seen also in His control of the world itself (Dan 4:35).

The only thing God cannot do is what is inconsistent with His nature.

Otherwise there is nothing too difficult for Him (Jer. 32:27).

God is personal

Jer. 10:10

God is not a thing, an influence or a power.

He possess the qualities that we identify with personality—He thinks and feels. He desires and acts in ways that reveal He is a living personal being.

He is not human—“the man upstairs”. He is not even some kind of “superman”.

He is a personal being of a different kind. For his nature we reserve the word “divine” or “deity”. He has characteristics unique to him as God that no other being possesses in the same fullness.

God is spirit

Jn. 4:24

He does not have physical dimensions as we do.

Because of this God is invisible (Jn. 1:18).

Because God is not localized to any place. He has no body or characteristics that can be defined in terms of size and shape.

He can be everywhere (Jer. 23:24)

He can be simultaneously aware of all that happens on earth (Heb 4:13)

God is independent

Ac. 17:25

He existed from all eternity without us.

He does not depend upon our existence or anything that we provide for Him.

God is perfect

There is no deficiency in God. There is nothing about him that could be improved or made better. In fact, there is no value system by which He may be judged that would not be inferior to His self-revelation.

We may not always understand Him; but He doesn't make mistakes. David spoke of this feature of God in Ps. 51:4.

God is holy

Ex. 15:11

Hab. 1:13

Because of his perfection he has no inclination toward evil. He cannot be lured into doing something evil.

He has a real aversion to the sin and imperfection.

God is sovereign

Ps. 135:6

His role as creator give Him the right to command us. We are not in any bargaining position. We can make no rules for our existence.

He exercises ultimate control over the world He has made. Though we have free will, it exists because He consented to it.

God is just

Ps. 97:2

He is judge of man.

He has the right to dispense with man as He chooses based on

He deals with his creation fairly or in keeping with the principles of His own nature and revelation

God is love.

1 Jn. 5:6

There is in God a feeling that seeks out the good of others. He views them with favor and seeks their well-being.

He wants his creation to know the joy of knowing Him.

God is one

Is. 44:6

This is not to suggest that God reveals himself as a single personality, for we see God manifest in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Yet, all that could be called divine consists of these three who are one in their nature.

Hence, there are no other gods that exist in reality. They are all figments of human imagination and the product of rejecting the true God of creation.

Conclusion: The verses we have studied today are God's own self-revelation and the response of those who have experienced Him. To know what God is like is essential. How could anyone know God and not worship Him? How could anyone know God and not obey Him? How could anyone know God and imagine that they can escape His judgment or exceed His wisdom? Amazingly, this God seeks a relationship with you and me.