



Session #8 – God's Nature

True or False:

Please answer the following True or False questions based on what you believe about God's nature.

- 1) T ___ F ___ We cannot fully understand who God is or why He does certain things.
- 2) T ___ F ___ God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and there is absolutely nothing He cannot do.
- 3) T ___ F ___ God is a personal being and we can therefore cultivate a personal relationship with Him.
- 4) T ___ F ___ God the Father is the most powerful person in the Trinity.
- 5) T ___ F ___ The word 'Trinity' is never used in the Bible to describe God's nature.
- 6) T ___ F ___ The Holy Spirit is the Creator of all things and holds all things together.
- 7) T ___ F ___ We can know and understand everything about God by reading His Word.
- 8) T ___ F ___ Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man at the same time.
- 9) T ___ F ___ Jesus confessed that God the Father was greater than Himself.
- 10) T ___ F ___ God is so far above mankind that it is not possible for us to know Him personally.
- 11) T ___ F ___ Every created thing (eg: man, animals, nature, air, etc.) is a part of God.
- 12) T ___ F ___ God dwells in His creation and is everywhere present in and inseparable from all His works.
- 13) T ___ F ___ God is perfect, and He is therefore unable to change in any way.

Facts About Theology

- 1) The word 'theology' is derived from the Greek words *theos* (meaning 'God') and *logos* (meaning 'word' or 'reason') and is defined as 'the study of the nature of God and religious belief'.
- 2) Theology's goal is to break down complex ideas about God, faith, and religious experience into understandable concepts. However, the theological terms used to break down these ideas often seem as complex as the ideas themselves.
- 3) The word 'Trinity' is not found in the Bible. The term was coined by a 2nd-century theologian named Tertullian to describe the doctrine of one God existing as three distinct co-eternal persons.
- 4) A creed is a formal statement of core beliefs, guiding principles, or religious tenets. If you were to put into words exactly what you believe, that would be your creed. Some well-known creeds include the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.
- 5) A Christian's creed (what they believe) should align with Biblical doctrine (what the Bible teaches).



Who is God?

We cannot *fully* understand who God is or why He does certain things and that's a good thing - because He would not be God if our finite minds could fully comprehend Him. He is beyond what man can even imagine. However, God has chosen to reveal certain aspects of His nature to us in His Word.

- 1) God is _____ (**Psalm 90:2, Psalm 102:25-27, Isaiah 43:10, and Rev. 1:8**)
 - a. God existed before time and is completely independent of it. Time began in Him and will end in Him. He pays no tribute to it and He experiences no change from it.
 - b. God created time, space, and matter which are the building blocks of the entire universe and the framework of our own existence.
 - i. **Genesis 1:1** sums this up in one verse. *"In the beginning (time) God (assumed to be pre-existing) created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)."*
- 2) God is _____ (**Rev. 4:8, Lev. 19:2, 1 Samuel 2:2, Exodus 15:11, and Matthew 6:9**)
 - a. God's holiness is the foundation of his righteousness, justice, and goodness, permeating every other attribute.
 - b. God's holiness makes him distinct, separated from the world and incomparably superior to all of His creation.
 - c. Only by Christ imputing His righteousness to us through His sacrifice can we have communion with a holy God.
- 3) God is _____ – _____ (Omniscient) (**Psalm 147:5**)
 - a. God has complete and perfect knowledge. He doesn't need to learn anything new or have anything explained to Him. He knows everything that has happened, everything taking place now, and everything that will happen in the future. (**Isaiah 46:9-10 and John 16:30**)
 - b. God knows everything about us. (**Psa. 139:1-6, Matt. 6:8, Heb. 4:13, and 1 Jn. 3:20**)
- 4) God is _____ – _____ (Omnipresent or Immanent) (**Psa. 139:7-10, Prov. 15:3, and Jeremiah 23:24**)
 - a. Immanent means God is *present* everywhere at all times in His creation.

"It means simply that God is here. Wherever we are, God is here. There is no place, there can be no place, where He is not. Ten million intelligences standing at just as many points in space and separated by incomprehensible distances can each one say with equal truth, God is here. No point is nearer to God than any other point. It is exactly as near to God from any one place as it is from any other place. No one is any further from or any nearer to God than any other person is in mere distance." -A.W. Tozer (from The Pursuit of God)
 - b. Immanent DOES NOT mean God is 'part of' or 'the sum of' His creation. This belief is called pantheism.



5) God is _____ – _____ (Omnipotent) **(2 Chronicles 20:6, Psalm 62:11, Jeremiah 32:27, and Matthew 19:26)**

- a. God can do anything that does not contradict His nature. There is no challenge too difficult for Him, no circumstance out of His control, and no problem beyond His ability to solve. There is no one more powerful than God.
- b. God is sovereign which means He possesses and wields ultimate power. **(Job 42:2)**
 - i. Whatever He sets out to do (His sovereign will) will be done.
- c. However, there are some things God *cannot* do, including:
 - i. God cannot lie. **(Hebrews 6:18)**
 - ii. God cannot tempt us or be tempted Himself. **(James 1:13)**
 - iii. God cannot deny Himself or act against His own nature. **(2 Timothy 2:13)**
 - iv. God cannot change.

6) God is _____ (Immutable) **(Mal. 3:6, Hebrews 1:10-12, Hebrews 6:17-18, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17)**

"He is immutable, which means that He has never changed and can never change in any smallest measure. To change He would need to go from better to worse or from worse to better. He cannot do either, for being perfect He cannot become more perfect; and if He were to become less perfect, He would be less than God." -A.W. Tozer (from The Pursuit of God)

7) God is _____ God in _____ Persons (Trinity or Godhead)

- a. God the _____ **(Jeremiah 31:9, John 20:17, Matthew 6:9, Psalm 68:5, and Matthew 6:31-32)**
 - i. The Father is eternal. **(Psalm 90:2)**
 - ii. The Father is Creator. **(Isaiah 64:8 and 1 Corinthians 8:6)**
 - iii. The Father is truth. **(2 Samuel 7:28 and Isaiah 65:16)**
- b. God the _____ **(John 3:16, John 1:14, Col. 1:15, Phil. 2:5-11, and Matt. 1:23)**
 - i. Like the Father, the Son is eternal. **(John 1:1-2, John 8:58, and Revelation 1:8)**
 - ii. Like the Father, the Son is Creator. **(John 1:3-4 and Colossians 1:16-17)**
 - iii. Like the Father, the Son is truth. **(John 14:6)**
- c. God the _____ **(John 14:16-17, John 14:26, and 1 Cor. 6:19)**
 - i. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is eternal. **(Hebrews 9:14)**
 - ii. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is Creator. **(Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13, and Job 33:4)**
 - iii. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is truth. **(John 16:13, John 4:24, and John 16:13)**



- d. There is _____ within the Trinity
- i. Though all three persons of the Trinity are equal in their nature, each has a different relational role within the Godhead.
 - ii. All three Persons voluntarily submit to each other, respecting the roles they each perform in creation and salvation.
 1. The Father sent the Son into the world (**1 John 4:9-10**). The Son never 'sends' the Father.
 2. The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus and 'proceeds from the Father' to testify of Christ. (**John 15:26**)
 3. Jesus perfectly submitted His will to His Father's. (**Luke 22:42, John 14:28, and Hebrews 5:8**)
 - a. Jesus assumed a subordinate role to the Father to accomplish redemption.
 4. In the beginning...
 - a. The *Father* initiated creation as its supreme source. (**Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:26-27**)
 - b. The *Son* (the Word) acted as the agent through whom all things were made. (**John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:16**)
 - c. The *Holy Spirit* hovered over the waters (**Genesis 1:2**), bringing life (**Job 33:4**) and order to the creation.
 5. Our salvation is based on...
 - a. The *Father's* power, mercy, and love. (**John 10:29, Eph. 2:4-6, and John 3:16**)
 - b. The *Son's* death and resurrection. (**1 John 2:2, Colossians 2:12-14, and Hebrews 5:9**)
 - c. The *Spirit's* regeneration and seal. (**Titus 3:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 4:30, and 2 Corinthians 1:21-22**)

8) Of Course, God Has Many _____ Attributes

- a. God is loving, merciful, gracious, just, kind, patient, forgiving, compassionate, wise, faithful, and so much more.
- b. We can never fully explore the depths of God's nature in our lifetime, but we will have eternity with Him to do so.

"What a broad world to roam in, what a sea to swim in is this God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." - A.W. Tozer (from *The Pursuit of God*)



How Can We Relate to God?

If God is so infinite and man is so finite, how can we possibly hope to know Him and have a personal relationship with Him? The Bible shows us it *is* possible and how to do it.

- 1) God is _____ (**Psalm 139:1-5, Psalm 139:17-18, and Isaiah 1:18**)
 - a. God is a personal being and we can therefore cultivate a personal relationship with Him.
 - b. Like us, God thinks, wills, enjoys, feels, loves, and desires.
 - c. He communicates with us through the avenues of our minds, our wills, and our emotions.
- 2) God is _____ (**Psalm 145:18, Isa. 55:6, Eph. 2:13, Psalm 73:28, and James 4:8**)
 - a. Remember, God is present everywhere (immanent) in His creation.
 - b. When God seems far away, think...who has moved?
- 3) God is _____
 - a. Diligently seek to know God. (**Psalm 46:10 and Jeremiah 29:13**)
 - b. God reveals Himself through Christ, His Holy Spirit and His Word. (**John 14:7, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, and Jeremiah 9:24**)
- 4) God is _____ and _____ (**Hebrews 4:16**)
 - a. Barriers (eg: the veil and sin) have been removed and God is accessible to all through Jesus Christ. (**Heb. 10:19-22, Eph. 2:14 and 18, Eph. 3:12, 1 Tim. 2:5, and Heb. 7:19**)
 - b. God is welcoming, friendly, gentle, and easy to talk to, making Him approachable by all.

Verses about God's Nature

Practice finding verses in your Bible by looking up the following verses concerning the nature of God. Write the verse or a summary of the verse in the space provided. Choose your favorite verses and commit them to memory.

Psalms 90:2 - _____

Revelation 1:8 - _____

1 Samuel 2:2 - _____

Exodus 15:11 - _____

Psalms 139:1-6 - _____

Hebrews 4:13 - _____

Psalms 139:7-10 - _____

Jeremiah 23:24 - _____



Jeremiah 32: 27 - _____

Hebrews 1:10-12 - _____

Job 42:2 - _____

Malachi 3:6 - _____

Hebrews 13:8 - _____

1 Corinthians 8:6 - _____

Philippians 2:5-11 - _____

Colossians 1:15-17 - _____

John 1:14 - _____

Genesis 1:26-27 - _____

Colossians 2:12-14 - _____

Ephesians 2:14-18 - _____

1 Timothy 2:5 - _____

Hebrews 10:19-22 - _____

Ephesians 3:12 - _____

Hebrews 4:16 - _____

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 - _____

Jeremiah 29:13 - _____

Psalms 46:10 - _____

Isaiah 1:18 - _____

James 4:8 - _____

Isaiah 55:6 - _____

Psalms 145:18 - _____

Psalms 139:17-18 - _____