



NCF (CSF) Weekly Gathering - October 12

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What is God Like? God is Trinity Part 2

What is God like? How we answer this foundational question will impact every single area of our lives. *What is the purpose of life? How do I make things right when I make mistakes? What should I do with my money? What career should I pursue?* We all have some assumptions about what life is about, whether we believe in God or not. These assumptions, if we think of them, are connected to our understanding of what is Ultimate Reality. “God” is simply the word we use for this ultimate reality. It begs the question - who or what is God? How do Jesus and the Holy Spirit relate to God? Is God far off or near? What does God desire of me? This semester we are going to investigate these questions.

God = There is an Ultimate Reality which we name God (against atheism) who is personal (against Panethsim). God interacts with creation (against Deism) but is not exactly the same as creation (Panttheism).

How does Jesus relate to god?

The early church debated and wrestled through a lot of ideas:

- Jesus is fully God and just pretending to be human?
- Jesus is human just like us, maybe some sort of prophet?
- Jesus is the same person as God the Father?
- Jesus is some sort of mix of God and human but not fully either?
- But they settled that Jesus is fully God because God is Father, Son and Spirit.

New Testament - Jesus is clearly divine in some way, more than merely a human though still human. There is no verse we can quote that says “God is Trinity.” Yet, the seeds are planted in the NT that would lead later theologians to develop doctrine of Trinity.

- The early church prayed to and worshipped Jesus. Thus, Jesus had to be God.
- For salvation to work Jesus has to be God - God cannot save what God has not fully become.

Read John 1:1-14

What does this tell us about who God is and what God is like?
How is the Word (Logos) related to God
How did creation come about?
Who is Jesus?

1:14 – We have seen his glory

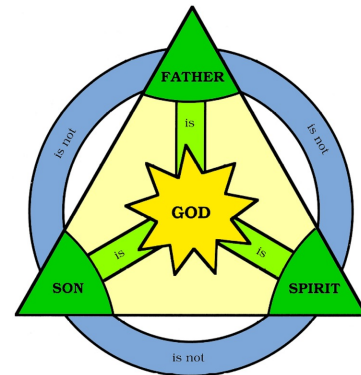
- In the OT glory was The presence of God amongst His people (Exodus 19:16-18; Exodus 40:34-38; I Kings 6:13); The glory of God dwelling in the Temple (2 Chronicles 7:1).
- 3:14-15 – As Moses lifted up the serpent, so the Son of Man will be lifted up
- 8:28 – when the Son of Man is lifted up
- 11:40 – you will see the glory of God
- 12:23 – the hour has come to be glorified; 12:32 – the Son of Man will be lifted up *17:1 – glorify the Son so the Son may glorify the Father
- 18-19 – Jesus is lifted up on the cross
- 20:28 Thomas worships Jesus as “the my Lord and the my God”

Wrapping up - Why it Matters

Speaking of God

*When we speak of God our words for any person of God apply to all of God unless they are about what that person uniquely does.

- Father, Son and Spirit all are almighty, infinite, creator, sustainer.
- The Father SENDS - the Son INCARNATES - the Spirit INDWELLS
- Though even here it is not that 1/3 of God is seen in Jesus - when we think of 1 we always think of the 3 at the exact same time.
- God is not divided but God is a diversity



Life with God

*God identifies with Humanity in the Incarnation of the Son and we Identify with God through Faith to become co-heirs with Christ.

*The Holy Spirit who is the love between Father and Son dwells in us to bring us into life in the community of God.

When we become like Christ we become like God (and we become fully human)