



The Man Upstairs?

(Theology: The Nature of God, Part I)

I. Introduction: Who Is God? What is He like? What does He look like?



II. . We'll be studying some basic ideas about God today and next week. What do you think of people calling God, "The Man Upstairs?" (think about this: Is God a man? Is he upstairs?)

III. Some Basic Theological Points

A. We can know God *truly*, but we cannot know God *fully*!

- i. John 17:3, but
- ii. Psalm 139:6; 145:3; 147:5; Romans 11:33-36

B. Some of God's Attributes:

- i. Incommunicable Attributes (Those attributes that God does not share with anyone else)
 - a. Independence (Acts 17:24-25)
 - b. Unchangeableness (immutability) (Psalm 102:25-27; Malachi 3:6)
 - c. Eternity (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 46:9-10)

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- d. Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10)
- e. Unity (more about this next week!)
- ii. Communicable Attributes (Those that may be imitated by human beings, at least to some degree)
 - a. Spirituality (John 4:24)
 - b. Invisibility (1 Timothy 1:17) (special terms: *theophany* = “an appearance of God” and *anthropomorphism* = “having the attributes of a human being”)
 - c. Knowledge (1 John 3:20)(God is *omniscient* = “all-knowing,” but one day “***All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely***” (1 Corinthians 13:12b))
 - d. Wisdom (Romans 16:27)
 - e. Truthfulness (Jeremiah 10:10-11; John 17:3)
 - f. Goodness (Luke 18:19)
 - g. Love (1 John 4:8)
 - h. Holiness (Leviticus 19:2; Isaiah 6:3)
 - i. Justice (Righteousness)
 - j. Jealousy (Exodus 20:5)
 - k. Wrath/Anger (God’s hatred of sin and evil) (Deuteronomy 9:7-8; John 3:36)
 - l. Freedom of Will (Sovereignty) (Psalm 115:3; Revelation 4:11)
 - m. Power (God is *omnipotent*=”having all power”) (Genesis 18:4; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37)
 - n. Perfection (Matthew 5:48)
 - o. Blessedness (1 Timothy 6:15)
 - p. Beauty (Psalm 27:4)
- IV. So What? What is our reaction to God, in light of his nature?
 - A. Love (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

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B. Serve

C. Worship! (Romans 12:1-2)

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. –William Temple