

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### LESSON 5: ONE GOD TO GLORIFY & ENJOY

#### Intro:

<sup>29</sup>“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. **Deuteronomy 29**”

BIG IDEA: Scripture reveals there is only one God worthy of our glory & delight.

#### WSC Q 4: What is God?

A: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

#### WSC Q 5: Are there more Gods than one?

A: There is but one only, the living and true God.

#### WLC 6: What do the Scriptures make known of God?

A: The Scriptures make known what God is, the persons in the Godhead, his decrees, and the execution of his decrees.

#### WLC 7: What is God?

A: God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

#### WLC 8: Are there more God than one?

A: There is but one only, the living and true God.

#### OT Era

Egypt	Canaan	Babylon
Ra (sun god)	Baal	Nabu (god of scribal arts)
Horus (sky) (Pharaoh was the living Horus)	Asherah (wife of El)	Marduke (national god)
Osiris (the dead, ruled underworld)	Mot (god of death)	Ishtar (goddess of love)
Isis (mother of Horus, wife of Osiris)	Molech (god of fire)	Tiamat (dragon goddess)
Nut (sky-goddess, mother of Isis, Osiris, Nephtys & Seth)	Chemosh	Enurta (god of war)
Shu (god of air, held up Nut)	Dagon (god of fertility)	Anshar (father of heaven)

#### NT & Extra-Biblical Gods:

Greek & Roman Gods, Norse Gods, Hindu Gods, Allah, etc.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. **Psalm 96**

### Cultural Anthropology:

Polytheism => Henotheism => Monotheism

This doesn't fit with the Scriptures which begins with "In the beginning God (Elohim) created ..."

All the elements of creation & life the nations worship, were created by God. Genesis 1 is polemical theology!<sup>22</sup>

1. There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal, most just, and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty. *WCF, II*

- Scripture declares there is only one God. The gods are not \_\_\_\_\_ in any sense.
- God is \_\_\_\_\_ in His being as well as His \_\_\_\_\_. He knows no limits.
- He knows no limits w/regard to \_\_\_\_\_. He is omnipresent: \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere.
- He knows no limits w/regard to \_\_\_\_\_: omniscient.
- He knows what to do w/it- infinite in \_\_\_\_\_. Wisdom requires \_\_\_\_\_.
- He knows no limits w/regard to \_\_\_\_\_: omnipotent or almighty.
- He knows no limits w/regard to \_\_\_\_\_: eternal. He has always been & always will be.
- He cannot become more \_\_\_\_\_, or less \_\_\_\_\_, than He already is.
- God is a \_\_\_\_\_; He is immaterial in his being. He has no physical \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:24).
- \_\_\_\_\_ language so we will understand something about God.
- God has no \_\_\_\_\_ like us. He is pure being. We have parts, & can suffer \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Question of Passions: Does God have emotions?<sup>23</sup>

- God "does not experience mood swings or become depressed, not that he has no cares."<sup>24</sup>
- God is a \_\_\_\_\_ being, not an abstract \_\_\_\_\_. He has emotions: delight, anger etc.

<sup>22</sup> Currid, John. *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament*. Wheaton, Crossway. 2013.

<sup>23</sup> Frame, John. *The Doctrine of God*. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing. 2002, pp. 608-611.

<sup>24</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 37.

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- But unlike us, God is not \_\_\_\_\_ by those emotions.
- Our emotions are often \_\_\_\_\_ from our thoughts, from \_\_\_\_\_.
- He evaluates & \_\_\_\_\_ w/full knowledge & according to His immutable character.
- **Incomprehensible:** does not mean God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- We can't know him \_\_\_\_\_ (comprehensive knowledge).
- *Finitum non capax infinitum* (Calvin): The finite cannot contain or grasp the infinite.
- We can have \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of God in keeping w/our limitations: \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.
- God lisps to us so we can understand: \_\_\_\_\_. He wants us to know Him.
- God never changes, period. He is \_\_\_\_\_ w/regard to attributes & character.
- God is sovereign: working all things according to his ... will.
- While we are also \_\_\_\_\_ creatures, He is not bound by our wills but is “*most free.*”
- His character is loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering ...
- Infinite, holy, wise & righteous love. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is like a \_\_\_\_\_.
- God is righteous => He \_\_\_\_\_ all evil & sin. Reflection of \_\_\_\_\_ & goodness too.
- As righteous He is not *ex lex* (\_\_\_\_\_ the law) or *sub lego* (\_\_\_\_\_ law).
- He is a law unto Himself because His nature is righteous. Character & actions agree.
- **Legislative Justice:** \_\_\_\_\_ righteous laws to His creatures.
- **Distributive Justice:** \_\_\_\_\_ to all their due according to the law.
- **Remunerative Justice:** \_\_\_\_\_ the sincere but imperfect obedience of those who seek Him.
- **Punitive Justice:** rendering the \_\_\_\_\_ due their crimes against His law.<sup>25</sup>

“He cannot change to the better, for that would imply past imperfection; he cannot change to the worse, for then he would cease to be perfect.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>26</sup>

“The attributes of God are the properties of his all-perfect nature. Those are absolute which belong to God considered in himself alone- as self-existence, immensity, eternity etc.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>27</sup>

**Incommunicable Attributes**

**Communicable Attributes (Imago Dei)**

<sup>25</sup> Shaw, pp. 33 for the types of justice.

<sup>26</sup> Shaw, pp. 29.

<sup>27</sup> Hodge, A.A. *The Confession of Faith*. Edinburgh, 1992, pp. 49.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

Infinite	Knowledge
Eternal	Wisdom
Unchanging (immutable)	Power
Sovereignty (authority & power to execute it)	Goodness
Omnipresent	Loving
Omnipotent	Gracious
Omniscient	Merciful
	Long-suffering
	Make choices

“He is not alternately merciful and just, nor partially merciful and partially just. Both are right; both are equally and spontaneously in his nature; and both are perfectly and freely harmonized by the infinite wisdom of that nature.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>28</sup>

“So his eternality is another attribute that should incite our souls to adoration and praise: we are made by one who has the very power of being in himself eternally.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>29</sup>

2. God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself; and is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever himself pleases. In his sight all things are open and manifest, his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands. To him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience he is pleased to require of them. *WCF, II*

- He has being or existence in Himself (\_\_\_\_\_). He is not contingent upon anything.
- John Stuart Mill’s use of the law of \_\_\_\_\_ to deny God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Only \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_. If it has a beginning it is an effect.
- We are \_\_\_\_\_ being: need air, water, food to live.
- His blessedness is not \_\_\_\_\_ on us, or any other creature He has made.
- From the \_\_\_\_\_ of His blessedness, He chose to \_\_\_\_\_ for His glory.
- He has inherent, \_\_\_\_\_ dignity, worth & \_\_\_\_\_.
- Creatures, and creation, have an \_\_\_\_\_ or assigned \_\_\_\_\_.
- With all creation open to Him, His sovereignty takes men’s \_\_\_\_\_ into account.

<sup>28</sup> Hodge, pp. 53.

<sup>29</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 39.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

“God’s choices and actions are determined by his omniscience, righteousness, holiness, and the rest of his attributes.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>30</sup>

How does this help us to glorify & enjoy God now and forever?

**Conclusion:**

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<sup>30</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 51.