

God: His Character and Attributes

1. **Why is it important for a Christian to learn of God's character and attributes?**
 - We are commanded to imitate God – Eph 5:1
 - The purpose of Salvation is for us to be conformed into His likeness – Rom 8:29
2. **How important is this compared to learning other things about the Christian faith such as salvation, the church, prayer, evangelism, etc...?**
 - It is absolutely vital for from these truths flows all other issues of the faith
 - It is imperative to teach to a disciple and to continue to weave these truth's through all future teaching, this is the MAIN THING

Intro –

1. **Psalms 89:7-8** - 7 A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him? 8 O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. NAS

2. God says He is One and there is no other.

Throughout the bible, God explicitly states that He is the only ONE, true and living God. He is distinct from all other beings, whether natural or supernatural, all other beings were created by the ONE God and for His purposes. All other beings are *dependent* upon God for their existence, but God being *self-existent* is dependent on nothing. He alone is God, the Almighty, Eternal and Transcendent Creator and Sustainer of all things. (Duet 6:4, Isaiah 44:6, Jeremiah 10:10, 1 Cor 8:4, Col 1:15-18, 1 Tim 2:5)

Isaiah 45:5 - "I am the LORD, and there is no other; **Besides Me there is no God**. NAS

Isaiah 44:8- "Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. **Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock**; I know not one."

1 Timothy 1:17- "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only God**, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

The importance of Knowing God –

1. **It is equated to eternal life – John 17:3**

2. **He is the source of life –**

Acts 17:24-26 - 24 " The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since **He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things**; NAS

How can one know God –

Condescension – The supreme revelation of the character of God is the man Christ Jesus in the flesh. **John 14:8-9, Col 2:9**,

Hebrews 1:1-3 - 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature**, and upholds all things by the word of His power. NASU

God's Attributes –

	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Eternal-	Ps 90:2	John 1:2, Rev 1:8	Hebrews 9:14
Omnipotent-	Daniel 4:35	Hebrews 1:3	Rom 15:19
Omniscient-	Jer 17:10	Rev 2:23	1 Cor 2:11
Omnipresent-	Jer 23:24	Matt 18:20	Ps 139:7
Holy-	Rev 15:4	Acts 3:14	Acts 1:8
True-	John 7:28	Rev 3:7	1 John 5:6

Why these are important in discipling

1. **Holiness** – Teaches us fear(reverence) God, hate sin, to pursue personal holiness
2. **Righteousness and Justice** – Teaches us that there are objective and absolute standards for right and wrong, judgment, justice is important to God, to pursue personal holiness
3. **Sovereignty** – Teaches us to fear(reverence) God, trust Him, find our comfort and hope in Him, to understand the purposes of life and creation, gratitude, humility
4. **Eternality** – Teaches us to fear(reverence) God, encourages faith and trust,
5. **Immutability** - Teaches us to fear(reverence) God, encourages faith and trust,
6. **Omniscience** – Teaches us to fear(reverence) God, trust Him, find our comfort and hope in Him, to understand the purposes of life and creation
God's Providence - Relationship between eternity, immutability, omniscience and the unchangeableness of God's purpose - Decree, Foreordination
7. **Omnipresence** - Teaches us to fear(reverence) God, trust Him, find our comfort and hope in Him, to understand the purposes of life and creation
8. **Omnipotence** - Teaches us to fear(reverence) God, trust Him, find our comfort and hope in Him, to understand the purposes of life and creation, gratitude, humility
9. **Love** – Teaches us to pursue love in our lives first and foremost, find our comfort and hope in Him, gratitude, humility
10. **Truth** – Teaches us that there is objective and absolute reality, encourages faith and trust
11. **Mercy** – Teaches us gratitude, humility, to show mercy

Application –

1. Every heresy begins with a misconception of the nature of God – therefore every fundamental and proper understanding comes from a proper understanding of the nature of God
2. The character and nature of God is the plumb line or measuring stick for all sound doctrine and truth
3. The character and nature of God is a VITAL element in disciple making of utmost priority and importance. From it flows all proper teaching. He is the object of our worship and the center of the Universe. Everything exists for His purposes and we are to first understand Him in order to have a right understanding of anything else.