Knowing God (1 John 1:3-4)

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Our goal is to know God more deeply.

“I have trouble enough getting to know people. How can I get to know God? I can’t see Him. I can’t even hear Him. And even if I could meet Him, how would I know I would want to meet up with Him?”

Question: What is God like? Use 2 minutes to write down many adjectives describing something about God.

• Can we really know God?
  God is so great. Can He really be known? Elihu rightly reminded Job, “Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; the number of His years is unsearchable” (Job 36:26).¹

• Who or what is God?
  Throughout the history of man, many various concepts of God have been suggested and deeply believed. Perhaps it is helpful to begin with a contrast to better understand these differences on a larger scale.

  Transcendent
  • The meaning
  • The danger
  • The implication

  Immanent
  • The meaning
  • The danger
  • The implication

• 1 John 1:3-4
  The Bible is the reliable ancient book delivered from our Creator so that we could come to know Him. In exploration of this topic of knowing God, let us focus on three questions from 1 John 1:3-4. Each tackles a significant aspect to knowing God. (1) Can I know God? (2) How do I get to know God? (3) Does knowing God bring a change in my life?

  “And indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete” (1 John 1:3-4).

(1) Can I know God?

  “And indeed our fellowship is with the Father” (1 John 1:3).

¹ All scripture is quoted from NASB unless otherwise stated.
Knowing God

- Implications of fellowship (koinonia) (Acts 2:42)

  - "He (Jesus) was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him" (John 1:10).

  - "And so they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me, nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also" (John 8:19).

  - "This is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

Knowing A Personal God

- God is personal in contrast to an impersonal force and to be known on a personal level.
- God mystically blends aspects of transcendent with immanent.
- Persons are distinguished by their desire and purpose.
- People can know things about God without personally knowing Him.
- God, the infinite Creator, reveals Himself in the scripture as One that wants to engage in a personal relationship.

(2) Do I know God?

> “And indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

- Design – Started off great - in the garden (Genesis 2-3)

- Historic – The relationship was broken (Genesis 3; Eph 2:1-3)

- Reality – Man couldn’t fix it (Romans 1; Isaiah 59:2)

- Update – God Himself solved the problem.
  - Inward corruption (Isaiah 59:15-16; 63:10, 66:18)
  - His intervention to help (Isaiah 53:10, 63:5)

> “And I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me; And My wrath upheld Me” (Isaiah 63:5).

(3) Does knowing God bring a change in my life?

> These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete." (1 John 1:3-4)

- Knowing God brings change

  - “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit” (Matthew 7:16-17).

- Don’t be superficial and confused by religion

- Summary Questions

  - Do you know God? How do you know for sure?
  - What kinds of beliefs do people around you have?
  - Would you say that the purpose of life has to do with knowing God? Why or why not?
  - Why is sincerely following a religion not the same as knowing and loving God?
  - Does the knowledge of God and works always lead to worship and obedience? Why or why not?
  - What areas of my life should see greater change because I know God?
  - What steps do you practically take in your life to better know God?