

The Nature Of God

No. 232

Introduction.

- I. The writer of the 19th psalm declares. (Psa. 19:1).
 - A. As we look at this world and into the vast heavens, we know there must be God.
 - B. All of this splendor and precision could not have happened by accident or blind chance.
 1. This evidence is so strong, so powerful, so overwhelming that the psalmist labels the one who denies God as a fool. (Psa. 14:1).
 2. This evidence is so strong, so powerful, so overwhelming that Paul affirms that those who deny God are without excuse. (Rom. 1:18-25).

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 ¶ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- a. **Paul argues that the existence and design of material creation** shows there must be an eternal, powerful, intelligent Maker. No one will be able to plead ignorance of God's existence in the judgment. They will be "without excuse." There will be no defense.
- b. Sue Bohlin, in her article "**Evidence For God's Existence**, wrote,

"Probably the greatest evidence of design in creation is DNA, the material of which our genes are made, as well as the genetic material for every living thing on the planet. One of the startling discoveries about DNA is that it is a highly complex informational code, so complex that scientists struggle hard to decipher even the tiniest

portions of the various genes in every organism. DNA conveys intelligent information; in fact, molecular biologists use language terms -- code, translation, transcription -- to describe what it does and how it acts. Communication engineers and information scientists tell us that you can't have a code without a code-maker, so it would seem that DNA is probably the strongest indicator in our world that there is an intelligent Designer behind its existence.”

II. It is clear from DNA and all creation that there is a God, but creation does not tell us about the nature of God.

- A. It does not tell us what God is like.
 - B. This information is gain by studying the inspired word of God.
 - C. The whole Bible helps us to understand the nature of God, but as one read the writings of the apostle John he finds that John tells much about the nature of God. In his writings there are three brief statements that deepen our understanding of the nature of the Almighty God of heaven.
- I. **God Is Spirit** - The first statement is made in the gospel of John.
- A. Listen to part of Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. (Jn. 4:19-24).

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. 22 "You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- 1. Jesus declared to the Samaritan woman that “God is Spirit.”
 - 2. God is not fleshly or materialistic in nature. Though He can appear in some form, He does not have a physical body. (Matt. 16:16, 17; Col. 1:15).
- B. The Bible tells us that the invisible Spirit of **God cannot be confined** to a building, or to a city, or to a mountain, or to any particular place.
- 1. **His presence permeates the universe** . He is everywhere. (Prov. 15:3; Jere. 23:23, 24; Acts 17:27b, 28).
 - 2. Yes, “God is Spirit” and this fact teaches us some important practical lessons.
 - a. Since “God is Spirit,” let us not attempt to make the Almighty God fleshly as you and I and impose on

Him our fleshly limitations. You and I are limited, but not God. (Matt. 19:26).

b. Since “God is Spirit,” let us **worship Him in “spirit and truth.”** (Jn. 4:24). Explain

c. Since “God is Spirit,” we should **not attempt to flee from Him.** (Psa. 139:7-10).

d. Since “God is Spirit” and seeing that we cannot escape His presence, let us **learn the blessedness** of living with Him, of conforming our lives into His will.

e. This will bring us immerse happiness. (Psa. 1:1, 2).

II. **“God Is Light”**- The second statement revealing the nature of God is found in 1 John.

A. **John wrote.** (1 Jn. 1:5). John affirms that “God is light.”

1. In the **physical realm**, light is the splendor in which all else is revealed.

2. In the **realm of intelligence**, light is knowledge.

3. In the **realm of morals**, light is purity.

B. God is the Supreme expression of splendor and intelligence and moral excellence.

1. God is **splendor without equal.** (1 Tim. 6:16).

2. He is **intelligence without limit.** God knows all things. Nothing is hidden from His knowledge. His knowledge is far, far, above our knowledge.

3. God is **purity without stain.**

a. **God is without sin.** He cannot sin and cannot even be tempted to sin. He does not tempt us to sin. (Jas. 1:13, 14).

b. John tells **“in him is no darkness at all.”** There is no darkness of ignorance, or of sin, or of deceit in the holy God of light.

C. The fact that “God is light” should motivate us to walk in the light and to depend on the light of God’s word for guidance. By doing so we have fellowship with God. (1 Jn. 1:6, 7).

III. **“God Is Love”** - The third statement revealing God’s nature is found in 1 John 4:8.

A. **John wrote.** (1 Jn. 4:7, 8).

1. Some think of God in terms of **“indifference”** or even **“cruelty.”**

2. Some believe God is **“impersonal Force”** or **“Love without pity.”**

B. John, who was guided by the Holy Spirit and by personal experience says, “God is love.”

1. God manifests He is love by **blessing us with material things** (Jas. 1:17).

2. God manifests He is love by **protecting us and comforting us.** (Psa. 147:3; 2 Cor. 1:3).

3. God manifests His love by **giving His Son on the cross to die for our sins.** (Rom 5:8).
 4. God manifests His love by **inviting us to come to Him and be His children and to enjoy His eternal blessings.**
- C. The fact “God is love” should stir our hearts and motivate us to love Him back and to love all men. (1 Jn. 4:19-21).

Conclusion.

- I. **How very much truth is embedded** in the three three-word statements in writings of John: “ God is Spirit, “ “God is light,” and “God is love!” All the collective wisdom of man does not teach us as much about the nature of God as these three little expressions.
- II. **I once read about 2 brothers, Tom and Joe, who lived with their father on a farm.** Tom was quite careless and one day left the bars of the pasture fence down. The cows wandered out into the field where they devoured much of the crop. The father told him that if this happened again he would be forced to punish him severely. Everything went along all right for a few weeks, and then Tom was careless again. Once more the cows went into the field and destroyed more of the crop. The father took Tom to punish him, but Joe, the elder brother, interceded. He stood before the father and said, “Father, do you remember reading the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah at breakfast this morning? “Yes,” said the father, “it is a wonderful chapter.” Then Joe said, “That chapter told about how One suffered for another and I want to suffer for Tom - let me take his punishment.” And then the tears came into the father’s eyes. He put his arms around both of the boys and the three wept together. There was no punishment for Tom that day and never again did he forget, never again did he leave the bars of the pasture fence down.
- III. **Beloved, that is what Jesus did for us.**
 - A. We had sinned and deserved to be punished, but God sent His Son into the world to die for us. Jesus died for us that we might not have to suffer punishment we deserve. Oh, how we ought to love the God of love and our Savior who loved us so much that He gave His life for us!
 - B. Why not love God back? Come and submit your life to Him through His Son. Be baptized and live for Him. Come as we stand and sing.

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