

**What is God Like?**  
**IBC Statement of Faith - Section 3**  
**July 2, 2023**

Immanuel Bible Church Statement of Faith

## God

We believe there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 2:5) in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; John 6:27; John 10:30; 1 Corinthians 3:16); one in nature, attributes, and glory. These three are one God (2 Corinthians 13:14), infinite (Malachi 3:6; Acts 17:24), eternal (Hebrews 1:8), unchangeable (James 1:17), all wise (Romans 11:33), all powerful (Isaiah 40), all knowing (Psalms 147:5), holy (Isaiah 6:3), just (Psalms 9:16), loving (1 John 4:7-21), gracious (Romans 3:23-24; Galatians 3:18), good (Psalms 100:5), and true (Isaiah 45:19). He is everywhere present, yet not part of His creation (Psalms 139:7-12).

I. Why is it important to study God and know Him?

II. Can we really know what God is like?

A. Scripture teaches that God is beyond human comprehension.

1. Where do we see incomprehensibility in Scripture?

2. Incomprehensibility is rooted in the vast gulf that exists between God as creator and human beings as creatures.

3. Why is it important that we affirm that God is beyond human comprehension?

B. Although we cannot know God fully, we can know God truly.

C. We get our knowledge of God through revelation.

1. God has revealed Himself to us:

a) In nature. Romans 1:18-20

b) In His Word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

c) In Jesus Christ. John 1:1, 14; John 10:30; John 14:9; Matthew 11:27.

2. Our human language about God is analogical; God speaks to us in human language accommodated to our understanding.

### III. The Trinity

A. True or False: The Bible expressly teaches the doctrine of the Trinity.

B. The Doctrine of the Trinity emerged as our Church Fathers responded to heresies that developed in the early church.

1. Tritheism

2. Modalism

3. Arianism

- C. Christian teaching about the Trinity was expressed in credal statements written by church councils.
- D. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (A.D. 381) focuses on the Trinity
- E. Making a Case from Scripture for the Trinity
1. Passages teaching that there is one God.  
Deut. 6:4-5; Isaiah 45:5-6; Isaiah 46:8-9; 1 Cor. 8:5-6; 1 Tim. 2:5
  2. Passages teaching that there are three distinct persons. Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:18-20; John 1:33-34; John 14:16, 26; John 20:21-22; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 4:4-6
  3. Passages teaching that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all divine. Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 18; John 6:27; John 10:30; John 16:8-11; John 20:27-28; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 9:5; 1 Cor 8:4-6; Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Titus 2:11-13; Heb. 9:14
- F. Why is the Doctrine of the Trinity considered an essential doctrine of the Christian faith? (John 1:1-18; John 5:19-30; John 14:10-11; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:18)

#### IV. The Attributes of God

- A. Theologians organize God's attributes into two categories: Incommunicable attributes and Communicable attributes.
- B. Caveat: It's possible to know about God and still not know God (John 5:39-40; James 2:19; 1 John 2:3-6)
- C. How do you move from knowledge about God to knowing God?

D. Resources on the attributes of God:

1. *Knowing God*, by J.I. Packer
2. *The Knowledge of the Holy*, by A.W. Tozer
3. *Gleanings in the Godhead*, by Arthur W. Pink
4. *The Character of God*, by R.C. Sproul

V. “God is everywhere present, yet not part of His creation.”