

What is God Like?

And How Does That Affect How He Regards Me?

Immanuel 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](#)).

- Immanuel Bible Church Statement of Faith

“Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.’”

Jeremiah 9:23-24

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

John 17:3

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Hosea 6:6



Arthur W. Pink

“That God is great in wisdom, wondrous in power, yet full of mercy is assumed by many as common knowledge. But to entertain anything approaching an adequate conception of His being, nature, and attributes, as revealed in the Scripture, is something which very few people in these degenerate times have done.”



J.I. Packer

“People say they believe in God, but they have no idea who it is that they believe in, or what difference believing in him may make.... Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way, you can waste your life and lose your soul.”



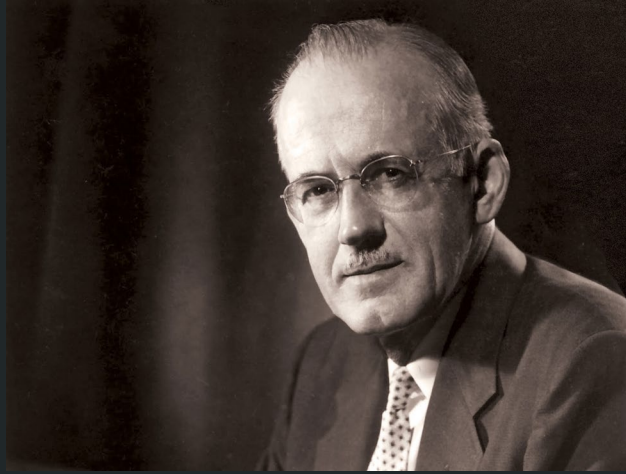
R.C. Sproul

“A coherent understanding of life requires a coherent understanding of God. To know Him is to learn who we are and what the world is all about. Knowing Him must be a holy passion within us. It must fill our frame. It must engage our mind.”



John MacArthur

“Many people, including some Christians, have misconceptions about God. That’s a serious matter because believing the wrong thing about God is essentially idolatry. The common understanding of idolatry is of bowing down to a small figure or worshiping in some ornate pagan temple. But idolatry is much broader; it is thinking anything about God that isn’t true.”



A.W. Tozer

“Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.”

Can we really know what God is like?

“To whom will you liken God, or what likeness compare with Him?”

Isaiah 40:18

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8-9

“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.”

Psalm 145:3

“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in - behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”

Psalm 139:1-6

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”

Romans 11:33-34

We find out about God through Revelation!

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- In Nature
 - In God's Word
 - Through Jesus Christ
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The Trinity

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (A.D. 381)

1. Passages Teaching That There is Only One God

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Deuteronomy 6:4-5: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

1 Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”

1. Passages Teaching That There is Only One God
 2. Passages Teaching That There Are Three Distinct Persons
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Matthew 3:16-17: And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

John 14:16, 26: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

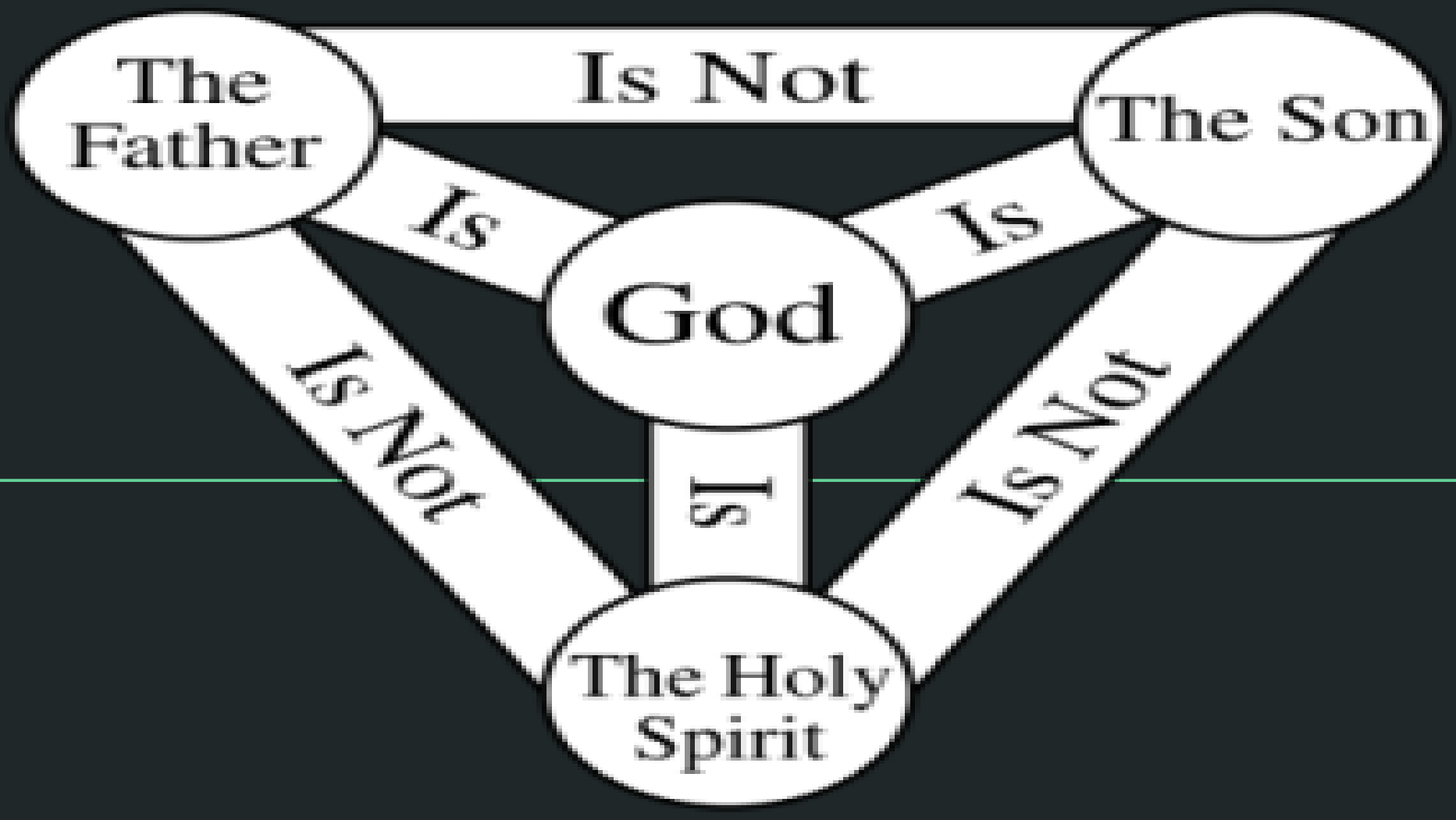
1. Passages Teaching That There is Only One God
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John 1:1-3, 18: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made....No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”

John 10:30: “I and the Father are one.”

Acts 5:3-4: “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.’”



The Attributes of God

An "attribute" of God is "whatever God has in any way revealed as being true about Himself."

-A.W. Tozer

Incommunicable Attributes: Those that humans don't share with God (e.g., infinite, eternal, unchangeable, all wise, all powerful, all knowing)

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Communicable Attributes: Those that humans share with God, albeit in a creaturely way (e.g., holy, just, loving, gracious, good, true)

Caveat: It's possible to know
about God but not know God!

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