

God Is Not

Introduction. Some people hold beliefs about God that simply aren't true, because these beliefs are contrary to what's been revealed in the Bible. The apostle Paul taught that no man can know the mind of God unless God reveals it to him (1 Corinthians 2:11-12). We want to understand God as best we can because that's the key to righteously obeying Him. Let's examine four things that God is not.

I. God Is Not a Respector of Persons

- A. Calvinism's doctrine of unconditional election falsely states that God has already chosen the individuals who'll be saved and lost, regardless of what they do or believe.
- B. According to the apostle Peter, this simply can't be true (Acts 10:34-35; cp. Paul in Romans 2:11). We've all sinned (Romans 3:23). And unless Christ comes again soon, we'll die and face God in the judgment (Hebrews 9:27; Acts 17:31).
 - 1. Our acceptability before God is conditional. We must fear Him and work righteousness (Hebrews 11:32-33).
 - 2. God hasn't singled you out for salvation or damnation. This is a choice that you must exercise yourself.

II. God Is Not Unaware of Your Life

- A. Said another way, God is intimately aware of every person (Psalm 33:13; Luke 12:7). Being omniscient and omnipresent, God knows both who we are and what we do (Proverbs 15:3). This point is easily proven by seeing how God knew and cared for His people in the past:
 - 1. He knew when Moses was frustrated (Numbers 11:11-15).
 - 2. He knew when Elijah was depressed (1 Kings 19:1-4).
 - 3. He knew when Paul was struggling (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
 - 4. He knew when Mary was happy (Luke 1:46-49).
- B. This is a comforting thought if we're doing good, but a horrifying realization if we're doing evil, for it just so happens that this God, who knows everything that we do (Numbers 32:23), will judge us on the last day (Hebrews 4:13).

III. God Is Not Mocked

- A. While God is patient and merciful, our sins won't be ignored (Galatians 6:7-8). The idea behind "mocking God" is that God can somehow be outwitted by man.
- B. God can't be fooled (Ezekiel 18:4). We're not going to sneak anything past Him. In fact, Paul was emphatic about not deceiving yourself (1 Corinthians 3:18, 6:9, 15:33). If we ignore the warnings of Scripture, and live a life of pride, rebellion, and disobedience, we'll reap what we sow (Obadiah 3-4).

IV. God Is Not Out to Get You

- A. Some have the idea that God's just waiting to catch them doing something wrong so He can punish them. Nothing could be further from the truth.
- B. While God's righteousness requires Him to punish sin, the Bible tells us that God is merciful and forgiving (Psalm 103:8-12; Ezekiel 33:11).

1. The New Testament repeatedly presents Jesus as the clearest picture of the Father's heart, and He came to save sinners, not to hunt them down (Ephesians 2:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:3-4).
2. Therefore, when you feel dread, that feeling is real, but it isn't the same as God's actual attitude toward you.

Conclusion. Do you know God? Whether you do or don't, these four points present action opportunities for us every day:

- Since God is not a respecter of persons, then make a decision to follow Him and Jesus, and live by the revelation of the Spirit.
- Since God is not unaware of your life, then put your trust in God and draw close to Him through devotion and meditation.
- Since God is not mocked, then fear Him and keep His commandments, and put His kingdom first.
- Since God is not out to get you, then come to the cross. The world may frown, yet you shall wear a glorious crown.

It's appropriate for us to invite you to respond. You may need a response where you obey the first time. You may need a response where you come back to God and faithfulness. But you may need a response where you pray to God right now for forgiveness and strength, knowing what your future might be without it.

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