

Chapter Fourteen

GOD AND MAN

AFFIRMATION 16

In deciding to create human beings we discover that God imparted His image roles to us as relational, rational, emotive, and choice-making beings (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 15-17, 24, 25). God may, therefore, be described as infinite in His Being, while we humans are finite creatures of matter, time and space; and hence also of power, knowledge and wisdom. We cannot hence by any human researches or resources either discover Him or know Him; He can be known through divine agency. This self-existent and an eternal infinite Spirit deserves our worship (Ex 3:14; Jn. 4:23, 24); since humankind was created in God's image as a free-moral agent and placed in the beautiful garden, the Garden of Eden to rule as God's emissary and steward on Earth (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; 16, 17).

WHAT IS MAN IN RELATION TO GOD?

- A. Created by God, in His own image - being imaginative, innovative, (pro)creative, associative, communicative, having self-awareness and with capacity to make moral choices - Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7-17; 3:11f; 9:6; 11:1f
- B. Created by God, male and female - Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 5:2; Matt. 19:4
- C. Created by God, for His own good pleasure, good purposes, worship and service – Gen. 1:28; 2:7-15, 19, 20; Deut. 6:13; Is. 43:7; Matt. 4:10; Rev. 4:11
- D. A tri-unity composite of spirit, soul and body - 1 Thess. 5:23; hence possessing spirit (conscience, communion and intuition), a living immortal soul (moral free-will, emotions and mind), and a body (senses, flesh and blood, water, etc); man is also called a living soul or human being - Gen. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:45
- E. God's highest creation - Ps 8:4-8; where every person is uniquely created - Ps 139:13, 14
- F. A human being procreated from Adam and Eve to fill the Earth – Gen. 3:20-24; 5:3; 11:6-9; Acts 17:25-31
- G. A condemned sinner deserving Hell Fire and a rebel needing eternal Salvation since the Fall - Gen 3:1-19; Ps 51:5; Rom 3:23; 5:12-19; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19
- H. When converted, the believer in Jesus Christ becomes born again or a new Creation (Jn. 3:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:17; Tit. 3:5-7). This results of receiving into his heart the very Spirit, life and image or nature of Christ - Acts 2:38, 39; 11:15-18; Rom 8:9, 10; 10:9, 10; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:4-5; Eph. 3:14-19; 4:21-24; 2 Pet 1:3, 4
- I. The true disciple of Jesus Christ gains His presence here on Earth, as recipient of God's Kingdom (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 17:20, 21; Rom 14:17, 18) and an eternal home in Heaven (Jn. 14:1-3).

KEY VERSES – Gen. 1:1, 26-28; 2 Cor. 5:17

THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN (Gen. 1:26, 27)

- Spiritual image (immortal life with justice to search after God)
- Rational image (God of order thinks logically and functions rationally)
- Power and Authority image (Creative and authority to manage and rule over creation)
- Moral image (God is holy, moral choice...)
- Artistic image (God of design....)
- Social image (Inherently relational...)
- Volitional image (free will makes obedience meaningful)
- Personal image (security, self-worth/dignity and significance.)

GOD'S PERSONHOOD IN RELATION TO MAN

- A. In relation to all of humanity:
 - 1. The fact that God made us shows that we belong to Him.
 - 2. This means that God has the right to claim our life.
 - 3. He also has right to demand our total obedience to all His commands.
 - 4. This means we must worship and serve Him only – Matt. 4:10.
- B. In relation to the Christian or all those who trust in Jesus:
 - 1. The fact that God made us and brought us back to Himself shows that we belong to Him two times - by creation and by then redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - 2. This means that God has the right to claim our life.
 - 3. Our first sin is to not admit that God is our Lord and that He owns us. This is going against God. But Christ is our Savior and Lord now.
 - 4. Our most important duty and honor is to serve and give glory to God who made us and brought us out of sin.
- C. The summary truths about God in relation to the Christian or all those who trust in Jesus:
 - 1. You and I are also 'a spirit person living in a physical body' – 1 Thess. 5:23, 24.
 - 2. God became a human being through His Son, Jesus Christ, so He can show Himself to us in a way we can understand.
 - 3. God is Spirit, but we can have a person-to-person relationship with Him through our born-again spirit.
 - 4. We understand that since all humans are religious "people become like the God (or gods) they believe in and worship."
- D. Then what kind of Person is the God we Christians believe in and worship?
His Personhood or Personality is understood:
 - 1. By His Being as the self-existent One – Ex. 3:14

2. By His Nature as the infinite Spirit with distinctive personhood – Ps. 94:9, 10; Jn. 4:20-24
3. By His Form as the only one living and true God, the triune Godhead – Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Thess. 1:9
4. By His distinctive attributes (both immoral [non-communicable] and moral [communicable]).
5. The triune God is one Godhead that is inseparable from each other (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9); once you meet or have the Son, you meet or have the Father and vice versa (Jn. 14:6-9; 1 Jn. 2:23-25; 4:12-16)
6. By His personal self-disclosure of His Nature, in His Works, His Names, etc. It is God's self-disclosure in Jesus as the Son of the living God that is most important to human existence in the now, after and in eternity (Jn. 17:1-3; 1 Jn. 1:13; 2:20-27; 4:12-16; 5:1-5, 11-13; Jd. 1:20-25).

OUR EXPECTED ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD

- A. **We must love Him** (Deut. 7:9; Ps. 2:8; Prov. 3:5, 6; Eccl. 12:13; Matt. 22:37-39; 28:20; Rom. 12:1, 2; Eph. 1:3-6; 1 Jn. 2:23, 24).

How?

- In relating with Him through His Son Jesus;
- In trusting Him, His Word and wholly obeying Him;
- In presenting our lives to Him whole-heartedly;
- In loving Him with all our being.

God deserves our love because of who He is and what He has done.

- a. We love Him when we whole heartedly believe in His Son and obey His commands – 1 Jn 5:1-5 v. 3.
- b. We love God when we are known by Him as accepted in the beloved - 1 Cor. 8:3; Eph. 1:3-23 v. 6; Heb. 12:24-29.
- c. We love Him when we allow the flow of His love from the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5) after we believe in His Son, Jesus Christ – 1 Jn. 3:23, 24.
- d. We love Him when we love the brethren – 1 Jn. 3:23, 24; 4:20.

- B. **We must know those who are involved in our worship? (Jn. 4:21-26)**

Why and How? We are worshippers who worship:

- i. God, the Father (Matt. 4:8-10; 6:9-13; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 14:25; Rev. 19:10).
- ii. God, the Son (Heb. 1:1-6; Rev. 5:9-14)
- iii. God, the Father and the Son (1 Jn. 2:20-26 vv. 24, 25; 2 Jn. 1:1-10 v. 9; Rev. 5:9-14).
- iv. God, Trinity (Ex. 20:1ff; Acts 17:24-29).

- v. With God's people as His children (Eph. 3:14-19; Heb. 10:24, 25; Rev. 19:10).

God deserves we know Him because of who He is and what He has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ.

1. We know God as the Father and the Son, His Son, Jesus Christ – Jn. 4:21-26
 - Who has revealed Himself to us vv. 22, 25, 26
 - Who has given us salvation v. 22; cf. Jn. 14:16; Heb. 10:19-22
 - Who desires our worship v. 23
 - Who is Spirit v. 24
2. We know God as Trinity Jn. 4:19-26
 - Who has revealed Himself to us vv. 22, 25, 26
 - Who has given us salvation v. 22; cf. Matt. 28:19; Jn. 14:16-23; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph. 3:14-21;
 - Who deserves our worship v. 20 (Is. 43:7; Matt 4:10; Rev. 4:11)
 - Who is spirit v. 24
- 3 We know God's people as children and the Church
 - Who worship according to revelation - Jn. 4:21; 1 Cor. 2:9f
 - Who have accepted salvation – Jn. 1:12; 3:3, 5; 4:10-14; 17:1-3; Acts 2:38, 39; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20; Eph. 3:4-7
 - Who worship wholeheartedly - Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 22:37

C. **We must worship Him** (Jn. 4:23, 24).

But How?

- In "Spirit" and
- In "Truth"

God deserves our worship because of who He is and His purpose for creating man.

- i. We worship "in spirit" when we allow His Spirit to cause our born-again spirit to worship Him truly and sincerely from our hearts (Deut. 6:13; Jos. 24:14; Jn. 9:35-38).
 - At the highest level of our being: our regenerated spirit (Rom. 8:9-17; 1 Cor. 14:14, 15)
 - With the help of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:23-27; Eph. 5:18-19)
- ii. We worship God "in truth" when we worship Him by what He shows us through His Word and the Holy Spirit.
 - in sincerity, and conformity with His demands – Deut. 6:13; Jn. 14:6
 - with clean hands and pure hearts - Ps. 24:4
 - walking in the light - 1 Jn. 1:5-9

- God's holiness Ps. 99:9; Is. 6:1-6; Heb. 12:28-29

D. **We must serve Him** (Matt. 4:10; Eph. 4:12; 1 Thess. 1:9).

How?

- In worshipping Him in the beauty of His holiness (Ps. 22:3; Is. 6:3).
- In ministry or works of service as bond servants.
- In edifying one another as believers.

God deserves our service because of who He is and what He has done.

- i. We serve Him when we worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- ii. We serve Him when we do works of service or are in ministry in the church.
- iii. We serve Him when we do edify the church.

E. **We must give or bring Him glory both now and in eternity** (Is. 43:7; Jn. 15:8, 16; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 1:10, 11; Phil 1:11; Rev. 4:11).

How?

- In our life;
- In the things, we do and say;
- In bearing fruit.

God deserves to be given glory in everything we do because of who He is.

- i. We do this in the kind of life we live.
- ii. We do this in the things we do and say.