

Knowing God:

The Foundation
for Life

Write down the first thought that comes
to you when you hear these words:

Dad

Father

God

Jesus

Jesus, "This is eternal life:
that they may

KNOW YOU

the only true God

and Jesus Christ

whom You have sent"

John 17:3

Who is He?

What is He like ?

Is He:

? ? *A stern Judge*

? *A wonderful friend*

? *The creator and unlimited source of all that is*

? *A sovereign who created us, then told us to worship Him ? A dictator ? A manipulator ??*

? *All powerful, all knowing, all present, loving ?*

If so?

Why all the evil and suffering ? ! ? ! ? !

Is He like my Dad ?

my Mom ?

How can I know ?

Our idea of who God is and what He is like comes primarily from our **Authority Relationships**

1. **Healthy** - balanced in truth & love / discipline & grace
2. **Detached** - neglect, permissive, lack of accountability,
3. **Performance** - demanding, confrontational,
4. **Harsh** - verbally, physically, emotionally, spiritually
5. **Absent** - physically or emotionally disconnected

Moses, David, & Paul referenced **God's Self description** in Exodus 34 as the source for their concepts of God

Ex 33:11 The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, **as a man speaks with his friend**

12 Moses said to the LORD, ".....You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with Me.'

13 If you are pleased with me, **teach me your WAYS** that I may know You"

17 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing **you have asked**,"

Ps 103:7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried Me and for forty years **saw what I did.**

That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and **they have not known My ways.**'

So I declared on oath in My anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'

Heb 3:7-11

18 Then Moses said,

"Now show me your **GLORY**"

19 And the LORD said,

"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you,
and I will proclaim **My name, the LORD** in your
presence.

Ps 9:10 Those who **know Your name** will
trust in You, for You, LORD, have never
forsaken those who seek You.

Prov 18:10 The **name of the LORD** is a strong
tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.

Then the LORD came down and **proclaimed His name**, the LORD.
"The LORD, the LORD,

- the **compassionate**
- and **gracious** God
- **slow to anger**
- **abounding in love**
- **abounding in faithfulness**
- **maintaining love** to thousands
- **forgiving iniquity, rebellion and sin**

Motive

Attitude

The Act

Ex 34:5-7

by no means clearing the guilty,
visiting the **iniquity** of the fathers
upon the children
and the children's children
to the third and the fourth generation

:5-7

You shall worship no other god, for the LORD,
whose name is **Jealous**, is a **jealous** God

:14

David

Psalms 103:

The LORD is

compassionate *and*

gracious

slow to anger

abounding in love

He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever

He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him;

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him;

for

He knows how we are formed,

He remembers that we are dust.

Who is David talking to in this Psalm? :1-2

Praise the LORD, **O my soul**;
ALL my inmost being, praise His holy
name.

Praise the LORD, **O my soul**,
and forget not all His benefits

? *What kind of father did David have ?*

*Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel
said to him, "Are these all the sons you have?"*

*"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered,
"but he is tending the sheep."*

Blessed be **God**,
even the **Father** of our Lord **Jesus Christ**

the Father of compassion
the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our troubles,

so that

we can comfort those in any trouble
with the comfort

we ourselves have received from God

When you pray, say:

Father....

Luke 11:2

Matt 6:1-18 10 x's

How great is the love **the Father** has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God! **And that is WHAT WE ARE !**

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

Dear friends, now **WE ARE children of God**, and what we will be has not yet been made known. BUT **we know** that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

Col 1:9-14 . . we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with **the knowledge of His will** through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

¹⁰ And we pray this **in order that** you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might **so that** you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Col 1:15-20

He is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.

For

by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things were created by Him and for Him.**

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

in Christ **all the fullness of the Deity**
lives in bodily form,

and

you have been given fullness

in Christ,

Who is the head over every power and
authority.

Col 2:9-10

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, **but Christ lives in me.**

The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,

who **loved me**

and **gave himself**

for me

Gal 2:20

SINCE then, you have been raised **with Christ**,

Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

For you died, **and** your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is your life, **appears**, then **you** also will appear with him in glory.

Col 3:1-10

Therefore, put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature:

sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires
and greed, which is idolatry.

Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these:

anger, rage, malice, slander,
and filthy language from your lips.

Do not lie to each other,

since you have
taken off your old self with its practices
and have

put on the new self,

which is being **renewed** in knowledge
in the image of its Creator.

Col 3:1-10

When the

kindness and **love** of

God our Savior appeared,

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of **His mercy**

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He **poured out on us generously**
through **Jesus Christ our Savior**,

so that,

having been justified by His grace,

we might become heirs having the **HOPE** of
eternal life



Paul, a servant of God for the faith of God's elect
and the knowledge of the truth that leads to holiness

– a faith and knowledge **resting on** the
HOPE of eternal life, which God, who
does not lie, *promised* before the
beginning of time

Titus 1:1-2

How should this impact US ?

We are to become **like Him**,
to be partakers of His divine NATURE

2 Peter 1:4

I pray for those who will believe in me

that all of them may be one, Father

just as

you are in me and I am in you

John 17:20-21

Saul to Paul ! An example of a healed life

What kind of man was he ?

What kind of church leader was he ?

- we were gentle among you, **like a mother** caring for her little children. **We loved you so much** that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, **because you had become so dear to us.**

1 Thess 2:7-8



My dear children, for whom I am again in **the pains of childbirth**
until Christ is formed in you

Gal 4:19

What kind of a Father are you ?

What kind of Grandpa are you ?

What kind of Husband are you ?

What kind of Leader are you ?

What kind of a Man are you ?

You are imprinting the image of God !

What kind of a Father are you ?

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What kind of a Father are you ?

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You are imprinting the image of God !

New York Times Interview with Tim Keller

NYT – *WHAT I ADMIRE MOST ABOUT CHRISTIANITY IS THE AMAZING GOOD WORK IT INSPIRES PEOPLE TO DO AROUND THE WORLD. BUT I'M TROUBLED BY THE NOTION THAT PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN ONLY IF THEY HAVE A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. DOESN'T THAT IMPLY THAT BILLIONS OF PEOPLE — BUDDHISTS, JEWS, MUSLIMS, HINDUS — ARE CONSIGNED TO HELL BECAUSE THEY GREW UP IN NON-CHRISTIAN FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD? THAT GANDHI IS IN HELL?*

TK – THE BIBLE MAKES CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS THAT YOU CAN'T BE SAVED EXCEPT THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS (JOHN 14:6; ACTS 4:11-12). I'M VERY SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR CONCERNS BECAUSE THIS SEEMS SO EXCLUSIVE AND UNFAIR. THERE ARE MANY VIEWS OF THIS ISSUE, SO MY THOUGHTS ON THIS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED *THE* CHRISTIAN RESPONSE.

BUT HERE THEY ARE:

YOU IMPLY THAT REALLY GOOD PEOPLE (E.G., GANDHI) SHOULD ALSO BE SAVED, NOT JUST CHRISTIANS.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT CHRISTIANS DO NOT BELIEVE ANYONE CAN BE SAVED BY BEING GOOD. IF YOU DON'T COME TO GOD THROUGH FAITH IN WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE, YOU WOULD BE APPROACHING ON THE BASIS OF YOUR OWN GOODNESS.

THIS WOULD, IRONICALLY, ACTUALLY BE *MORE* EXCLUSIVE AND UNFAIR, SINCE SO OFTEN THOSE THAT WE TEND TO THINK OF AS “BAD” — THE ABUSERS, THE HATERS, THE FECKLESS AND SELFISH — HAVE THEMSELVES OFTEN HAD ABUSIVE AND BRUTAL BACKGROUNDS.

CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT IT IS THOSE WHO ADMIT THEIR WEAKNESS AND NEED FOR A SAVIOR WHO GET SALVATION. IF ACCESS TO GOD IS THROUGH THE GRACE OF JESUS, THEN ANYONE CAN RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS WHY “BORN AGAIN” CHRISTIANITY WILL ALWAYS GIVE HOPE AND SPREAD AMONG THE “WRETCHED OF THE EARTH.”

I CAN IMAGINE SOMEONE SAYING, “WELL, WHY CAN’T GOD JUST ACCEPT EVERYONE — UNIVERSAL SALVATION?”

THEN YOU CREATE A DIFFERENT PROBLEM WITH FAIRNESS. IT MEANS GOD WOULDN’T REALLY CARE ABOUT INJUSTICE AND EVIL.

THERE IS STILL THE QUESTION OF FAIRNESS REGARDING PEOPLE WHO HAVE GROWN UP AWAY FROM ANY REAL EXPOSURE TO CHRISTIANITY. THE BIBLE IS CLEAR ABOUT TWO THINGS — THAT SALVATION MUST BE THROUGH GRACE AND FAITH IN CHRIST, AND THAT GOD IS ALWAYS FAIR AND JUST IN ALL HIS DEALINGS.

WHAT IT DOESN’T DIRECTLY TELL US IS HOW BOTH OF THOSE THINGS CAN BE TRUE TOGETHER. JUST BECAUSE I CAN’T SEE A WAY DOESN’T PROVE THERE CANNOT BE ANY SUCH WAY.

IF WE HAVE A GOD BIG ENOUGH TO DESERVE BEING CALLED GOD, THEN WE HAVE A GOD BIG ENOUGH TO RECONCILE BOTH JUSTICE AND LOVE.