

"Get in the Word"

Lesson 25 of 94

Revised: September 17, 2018

Who God Is- Your View of God

Lesson #10

Who is God?

How a person sees God can be a significant indicator of their spiritual and emotional health. Take Jessie for instance, she has always had difficulty believing God could accept her. She has been a faithful member of a local church since she can remember. Her life is packed with church attendance, Bible study, and Christian activities, yet she still has a problem believing God could really forgive her and accept her just like she is. To her, God is distant.

The way Jessie sees God has a direct impact on how she feels and how she lives. This is true for you and I as well. Let's look at some views of God that are commonly held even though they are inaccurate.

A Demanding God. This is the view that God will NEVER be pleased with you or anything you do. When it comes to God it is simply a "no win" situation. No matter what you do or how hard you try God's response will always be, "You could have tried a little harder" or "You just never do anything right!" This view of God is nearly always accompanied by a feeling of rejection and discouragement. No matter how hard the person works at their relationship with God he or she never gets the sense that He is pleased.

A Mad God. The small black puppy lay cowering on the ground in front of me. He seemed to be communicating, "Please don't kick me. I'll do anything, just don't blow up and hurt me." As I walked past the puppy I noticed that he did this to everyone that approached him. He expected all humans to be angry and hurt him. This puppy's reaction is not much different than the person who sees God primarily as angry and vengeful. This view of God creates a strong feeling of fear in the individual. This may be expressed as worry and anxiety or in extreme forms, paranoia about God "getting them."

A Distant God. "God never seems very real to me," Ben said to his student minister. "I just always get the sense that he created everything, flung it into space, turned his back and walked away. I have never really been able to connect to God. I suppose it will always be this way." Ben seemed to be convinced that God was always aloof and detached. This view of God can result in a person feeling abandoned. It is the sense of being truly alone in the world.

A Powerless God. This is a person who sees God as unable to change a situation or unable to empower him or her to cope with the situation. It is like God has power but is limited much like Superman has power but is limited by kryptonite. This view of God results in a person feeling discouraged, depressed, and hopeless. They see God as wanting to help, but unable to do so for whatever reason. If this hopelessness continues it can turn into a despairing of life.

An Everybody's God. This is the view that God is all things for all people. God could be in all things (example in mountains and in your chair) for one person and be non-existent for another. People can even view themselves as God. This view allows that whatever a person believes about God is fine. Judges 17:6 declares that when there is no King or ruler in a person's life (godly authority) that all of the people just did what they "thought" was right.

A Cultural God. This is the view of a "Sunday morning religion God;" or the "God of my Grandmother"; or the "God of my society and culture." Cultural examples dictate how a person lives because that is how everyone else is living. This view results, either intentionally or unintentionally, in a daily lukewarm and permissive lifestyle because it only matters how a person behaves once a week at a certain "religious" place (as on a Sunday morning in a church building), but the rest of the week "I can live pretty much how I want". This view denies that people need a relationship with God as the Savior from sin because they gauge themselves as "good" since "They are not being as bad as certain other examples" of people in their world. This view denies that people were created by a Heavenly Creator and that, as His property, we have a responsibility in how we conduct our lives and how we exist in the world around us. Proverbs 16:25 declares that what "seems" right to people may end in death!

Let me assure you that these views of God are inaccurate. It seems that today's society is a lot like the world during the time of Acts 17. The people were very religious and superstitions, but did not really know who they were really worshipping.

1. What does Romans 8:38-39 declare?

Application

With which view of God do you most identify? Write it down in the space below. Have you had a feeling that accompanies that view of God? Maybe you had a different feeling than the one mentioned. Can you see how one's view of God impacts your feelings?

Ever throw a Frisbee back and forth with some friends? It is strange how a little flat piece of plastic can be so much fun...except when the person you are playing with is absolutely horrible and you have to constantly run all over the place. It's not like a ball. A ball is not so sensitive to the wind, the angle, the lift. The aerodynamics are totally different.

If we are not careful we'll be like a Frisbee out of control. We can't let our world impact us to the point that we can't influence our world for Christ.



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