

# ALL THINGS NEW: The Character of God

2 Corinthians 5:17

**MAIN IDEA:** We need to have a right picture of who God is if we are to trust Him and His promises.

- I. God is bigger; Job 11:7-9, Deuteronomy 29:29
- II. God doesn't change; Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 11:8
- III. God longs to be known: He reveals Himself through...
  - A. His Creation; Psalm 19, Romans 1:20
  - B. His word; 2 Timothy 3:15, 2 Peter 1:20-21
  - C. His Son; John 14:6-10, Colossians 1:15

The Attributes of God

- I. Holiness; Psalm 111:9, 1 Samuel 2:2
  - A. He is absolutely pure; James 1:17, Psalm 12:6
  - B. He is absolutely perfect; Romans 12:2, Psalm 18:30, Deuteronomy 32:4
  - C. He is absolutely separate; 1 Peter 1:15-16

Why are we unable to capture the fullness of God in language?

What is the difference between understanding God and knowing about God? Why can't we completely understand God and yet still know Him?

Since God doesn't change, how do we need to change our understanding so we don't divide God between the Old Testament (mean, wrathful God) and New Testament (loving, merciful God)?

List the things you can know about God simply by looking at nature.

Define the biblical word *holiness*. How does this word create the foundation for all the other attributes of God (love, just, righteous, compassionate, etc.)?

When you consider last week's discussion on the sinfulness of man and compare our nature to the holiness of God, how does this comparison give you a better understanding of Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

Have you ever thought of God as "too busy", "too tame", "too mean" or "impossible to please"? How did you come to think that way? How has your view of God impacted your relationship with Him and your ability to trust Him?

Have you ever thought of God in human terms; like a man, only better? What is the problem with comparing God to humans?

Why would we have to set aside God's perfection if we affirmed same-sex marriage or that there are more than two genders? Consider Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18, 21-24.

Meditate this coming week on the names of God and how each one reveals God's character. Find scripture that speaks directly to any misunderstanding you have about who God is and memorize it.

Pray:

- Thank God for revealing Himself in so many ways, that He can be known.
- Confess any ideas of who God is that don't align with who He reveals Himself to be.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into a deeper relationship with Jesus as you meditate on the character of God.

## REPRODUCE

Pay attention to how you speak with others about God. Are you painting the right picture of His character in your conversation? Does the other person have a right understanding of God's character? How might you grow together in your understanding of who God truly is?

Consider how corporate worship declares the character of God. How do the different elements of a Sunday worship service point to His attributes?

## KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Job 11:7-9
- Deuteronomy 29:29
- Romans 1:20
- John 14:9
- Romans 12:2
- Psalm 18:30
- Deuteronomy 32:4
- 1 Peter 1:15-16

Additional verses from the study:

- Malachi 3:6
- Hebrews 11:8
- Psalm 19
- 2 Timothy 3:15
- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Colossians 1:15
- Psalm 111:9
- 1 Samuel 2:2
- James 1:17
- Psalm 12:6
- Genesis 1:26-28
- Genesis 2: 18, 21-24