

Lesson 3 - The Doctrine of God

1. The Purpose of Knowing God
 - a. To glorify Him
 - b. To enjoy Him
2. God's transcendence & immanence
 - a. There is a contrast between God's transcendence, His exaltation over the world, and His immanence, which is His engagement with the world.
 - b. Consider Psalm 113 for an example of this.
 - c. This is what you find in 2.1
 1. His transcendence: There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory;
 2. His immanence: most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal, most just, and terrible in His judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty. Note that part of this comes from Ex. 34:6-7.
 - d. You can see this in briefer form in WLC 7. WLC 7 What is God? A. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.
3. God's sufficiency
 - a. God doesn't need anything. For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:36).
 - b. We are dependent on Him. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' Epimenedes, Cretan philosopher cited by Paul at Athens.
 - c. Beautifully stated in WCF 2.2. God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He hath made, not deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them: He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself pleaseth. In His sight all things are open and manifest; His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or

obedience He is pleased to require of them.

- d. Our response: religious devotion. We acknowledge all we have is from Him. So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” -- Jesus, in Luke 17:10
4. God's Tri-unity
 - a. WLC 8 Are there more Gods than one? A. There is but one only, the living and true God. Little debate about this.
 - b. WLC 9 How many persons are there in the Godhead? A. There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.
 - c. WLC 10 What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead? A. It is proper to the Father to beget the Son, and to the Son to be begotten of the Father, and to the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.
 - d. WLC 11 How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father? A. The scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such names, attributes, works, and worship, as are proper to God only.
 - e. Here is an article I wrote that explains the rationale behind the doctrine of the Trinity:
<https://www.weswhite.net/2020/05/why-do-we-believe-in-the-trinity/>