

Essence of God

The Bible teaches that we have one God but three persons in the Godhead. God is one in essence which means that God has certain absolute characteristics common to all three persons of the Godhead. In this study we will review the essence or makeup of our holy God.

The Bible reveals the essence of God as being composed of Sovereignty, Righteousness, Justice, Eternal Life, Love, Omnipotence (All powerful) , Omniscience (All knowing), Omnipresence (All presence), Immutability (Unchanging), and Veracity (Truth).

The Godhead has three persons; Father, Son or Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The first indication of the Trinity is Genesis 1:26 where we see God saying, “Let US make man in Our image (essence), according to our likeness (personalities) ...”. Also see Genesis 3:22 and 11:7. Further evidence of the Trinity in John 10:30 where Jesus said, “I am the Father are one (in essence).” In 1 Peter 1:2; all three members of the Trinity are mentioned; “ according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ ...”. Also in 2 Corinthians 13:14 we note; “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God (Father), and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

In the Old Testament the Trinity is noted in Psalm 110:1 which says, “The Lord (Father) says to my Lord (Jesus Christ), ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet.’” We also note in Isaiah 48:16 “Come near to Me, listen to this; From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God (Father) has sent Me (Christ), and His Spirit (Holy Spirit).” These are but a few of the Bible scriptures that teach the Trinity.

All cultures and civilizations believe in some type of deity. This is because there are things in the world that man cannot explain through mere human logic or reason. God has put into every human soul the desire to discover and know Him. For example, Romans 1:19 says, “because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.” This innate knowledge of God is designed to cause man to seek Him. In Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

If man concludes that there is no God then it is because he has blinded himself with perversions and have created false religions and philosophies that further darkens their hearts (Romans 1:21). Those who do this think they are wise but in fact they are fools (Romans 1:22) and they exchange the glory of God for worship of animals, symbols, and idols (Romans 1:23).

What does God say about Himself in the Bible?

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The Bible teaches us that God is the Supreme Being of the Universe and the highest King (Hebrews 6:13, Psalm 2:7, 47:7). Because of this, God does whatever He wants without mankind’s approval or disapproval (Psalm 115:3). God choose to give mankind freewill so anyone can choose for or against belief in God. We note the phrase “whosoever”

demonstrates the freewill of mankind (John 3:16, 3:36, Acts 14:2). Man can choose to believe in Christ and gain eternal life (Acts 16:31) or he can choose any other belief system and reap the consequences of his rebellion against God. Since God is Sovereign, all mankind is accountable to Him whether they accept it or refuse His offer of salvation. God's Sovereignty tells me that my life is under His authority and care.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

God is absolute righteousness which is a sharp contrast to the relative righteousness of mankind. In Psalm 145:17 we read, "The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds." In contrast mankind's righteousness is called "filthy garment or filthy rags" in Isaiah 64:6 and cannot be contrasted with the righteousness of God. The result of mankind's unrighteousness is noted in Romans 3:10-12 where mankind is called unrighteous, does not have understanding, does not seek God, has turned aside and is useless, does no good (God's type of good), is an open grave (stench before God), deceitful, full of cursing and bitterness, have feet that are swift to shed blood, suffer destruction and misery, do not know the true path of peace, and have no fear of God.

Because of God's absolute Righteousness and mankind's corrupt unrighteousness there can be no fellowship between God and mankind without something drastic taking place (Isaiah 59:2). In order to have fellowship with God a creature must have the kind of Righteousness that God has (Romans 3:23). This can only be accomplished by faith in Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior since only Christ was Righteous, died on the cross for our sins, and His sacrifice for sins satisfied God the Father (2 Corinthians 5:21).

JUSTICE

Perfect Justice of God means that He cannot be unfair in His character or divine plan for mankind (2 Chronicles 19:7). God set up a divine plan that included the salvation of the entire human race and sent Christ to die for the sins of the whole human race (1 John 2:1-2). God the Father was satisfied with Christ's work on the cross for the human race (Colossians 2:14). God is Just to forgive sin (Romans 8:1) as well as Just to condemn those who reject Christ (John 3:18).

If anyone rejects the Biblical Christ then he must be punished (John 3:36). This is God's Justice in action. He is fair to give everyone the same opportunity to express their freewill and believe in Christ. If someone rejects Christ then they have rejected God's offer and they must be punished (Romans 6:23). No one can ever claim that they were mistreated unfairly by God because Justice is based upon God's Righteousness which is never wrong.

LOVE

God, as to His essence, is love (1 John 4:8). From His love God has decided to treat mankind in grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). Love must be in compliance with Righteousness and the Justice of God. Since mankind is unrighteous, God cannot love him directly for that would violate His Righteousness (Isaiah 59:2). He can love mankind through His Son's work on the cross and the imputed righteousness received from God at salvation. God loves His Son, the Son died for our sins, we believe in the Son and receive God's Righteousness, therefore God can love us! All the barriers have been removed! If someone rejects Christ then they have rejected God's Love through Christ and they must face God's wrath and the Lake of Fire (John 3:36, Revelation 20:11-14).

ETERNAL LIFE

Only God is eternal. He has existed from eternity past and exists in eternity future. Time is but a small parenthesis to Him (Psalm 90:2). In order to live with God forever, temporal man must be given the gift of eternal life. Eternal life is a gift from God. It never ends nor can it be taken away once it is given. Jesus Christ the Son was willing to leave His home in heaven, become God incarnate, and die for the sins of the world so that anyone who believes in Him will gain eternal life (John 10:17-18). God enjoys sharing His eternal life with believers in Christ (John 10:27-28, 1 John 5:11-12). However, those who reject Christ have no eternal life and will not reside in heaven when they die (1 John 5:12).

OMNISCIENCE

Omniscience means that God knows all things before they happen and all the alternatives to what could have happened or would have happened (Colossians 2:3). It is linked to His Foreknowledge. God is never surprised by what we think, say, or do. He knows the outcome of all events before they occur. God reads our minds and knows who are His believers and those who are not believers (2 Timothy 2:19). God has devised a plan so that all things work for good for believers who love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). The Christian who studies the Word of God will learn about God, His divine plan, and how to live his life before God (1 Corinthians 2:9-12, 2 Timothy 2:15). We will never be omniscient but we can have great wisdom imparted to us through the Word of God.

OMNIPRESENCE

God is everywhere at the same time. He is here on earth and at the North Star or some other place in the universe equally. He knows all things and witnesses all things in His creation at the same moment (Proverbs 15:3). Anyone who thinks that he can hide from God does not understand His omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-12). When we face tests in life then we may find rest in God's promises because He is omnipresent and knows about our circumstances (Matthew 28:20 " Lo, I am with you always...")

OMNIPOTENCE

Omnipotence means that God is all powerful. He has limitless power and is in authority over all creation and its creatures (Matthew 28:18, Hebrews 1:3). God has the power to save anyone who accepts Christ as their Savior in a split second (Hebrews 7:25). Salvation is not a process rather it occurs the second someone believes in the Biblical Christ as their Savior. Once the new believer begins his new life then God has the power to keep a person saved forever and will never let them lose their salvation (1 Peter 1:5, John 10:28). Further, God has the power to resurrect the deceased believer in the future (1 Corinthians 15:43). In heaven God will share His power with His believers (Philippians 4:13).

IMMUTABILITY

Immutability refers to the unchangeableness of God. He never becomes less Righteous, less Just, less Love, less anything. He is always perfect God and makes no concessions nor compromises (Matthew 3:6, Hebrews 13:8). He always keeps His promises so they are a source of power and comfort to Christians. God is always faithful because He never changes. God sets forth a divine plan of righteousness. When mankind changes his mind one way or the other then God must treat them accordingly. If a believer sins and acts in an immoral manner then God's Justice kicks in and treats the believer in loving discipline. The believer

cannot lose his salvation but he can lose his inner peace and stability when he lives in sin. God does not desire this for His believers so the discipline is designed to correct them as a loving father corrects his erring child (Hebrews 12).

VERACITY

Veracity means truth of God. God cannot lie nor is there any time that He is wrong (Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18). God's truth is eternal (Psalm 117:2) and never changes. God's veracity was seen in the person of Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6). God recorded His truth for us in the Bible and He holds it higher than His own reputation (Psalm 138:2). God's truth is recorded in the Bible and is called "teaching" or "doctrine".