



Week 2: Just who is God? What is God like?

Sunday, October 30th, 2022

† A crucial clarification

Colossians 1:16

God will never violate His nature in order to carry out His purposes, and the full, complete, and exact revelation of God's nature- what God is like- is Jesus!

† God is like JESUS

Colossians 1:15, 19; Colossians 2b-3, 9; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:1-2, 18; John 10:30; John 14:8-10; 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

† If God is like Jesus, then what is God's greatest and highest nature? Is God pure WILL, or is God pure LOVE?

1 John 1:5; 1 John 4:7-12, 16

† God doesn't COERCE
Romans 2:4; Titus 2:11-12

† God doesn't CONDEMN
John 3:16-19, John 8:10-11, Romans 8:1-4

† God is self-sacrificing and humble
1 Peter 3:18, Matthew 11:28-30

† If God is like Jesus, what does this mean for you?

Questions for reflection and discussion

- Read through the “God is like Jesus” scriptures from the outline. Identify and describe the different ways we see the relationship between God and Jesus.
- In his message opening, Pastor Ethan asserted “God is not the author of sin, suffering, or injustice.” Do you agree? What questions does this bring up for you? Does this challenge your view of God and how he works? Does this challenge some beliefs/clichés of Christian culture? What is the difference between saying God is *at work* in all things, and God *causes* all things?
- Is God's greatest attribute His freedom to do anything He wills, or is God's greatest attribute love? If we believe that anything is just and good if God ‘wills it’, what issues might this bring, both in how we think about God, and our actions as God's people?
- How do the attributes of the “Christ-like God” impact how we live and engage the world around us? How might the truth that “God will never violate His nature to accomplish His purposes” challenge how we engage our culture today?

Credit: This message drew upon concepts from the books ‘A More Christlike God’ by Bradley Jersak, and ‘Sinners in the hands of a loving God’ by Brian Zahnd

Next week: Colossians part 2, week 3- Holy, pure, and free! Col 1:21-23
