

Class 1 "There Is A God"
Flame Alive Course: Basic Christianity
2024

Topic Summarized: There is a God

Topic Examined: Gen. 1:1a; Psa. 119:68; 115:3 (135:6); Acts 17:23-31; Romans 11:33-36; 1 John 4:8b

1. The Transcendent Existence of God

- a. The eternity of God – no beginning, no end, immutable (Psa. 90:2; John 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:17)
- b. The spirituality of God – not defined by material reality (John 4:24; Romans 1:20)
- c. The self-existence of God (aseity of God) – God’s existence does not rest on anything or anyone; He is the uncaused Causer, the unsustained Sustainer, the unmoved Primary Force in the universe
 - i. God does not need.
 - ii. God is not dependent upon.
 - iii. God is not assisted by.
 - iv. Nothing contributes to His being.
 - v. All things come from Him.
 - vi. All things are dependent upon Him.
- d. The sovereignty of God: authority, power, and rightness; providence (see below for sovereign goodness)
- e. The oneness of God (the singularity of God; simplicity of God) – cannot be divided up into parts, the Trinity is three persons in one Godhead
- f. The holiness of God – two aspects:
 - i. Totally separate – transcendent
 - ii. Totally pure and righteous in every respect
- g. The perfection and immutability of God (Deut. 32:4; Psa. 18:30; 19:7; Matt. 5:48) (See 2.a.i. for immutability)

2. The Attributes of God (Personhood)

- a. Incommunicable (there is a type of incommunicability to everything God is, because God is to the degree that no one else can be; however, there are certain qualities of the Godhead that no human can ever share)
 - i. Immutability (perfection) – Malachi 3:6; Psa. 102:25-27; Exo. 3:14; Heb. 13:8; Jas. 1:17
 - ii. Greatness of God: Jer. 10:6; 1 Chron. 16:25; 29:11; Psa. 96:4; Isa. 55:9; Eph. 3:20
 1. Omnipotence
 - a. The potential of omnipotence
 - b. The interchange between divine power and divine will
 2. Omnipresence
 - a. Simultaneous presence
 - b. Pervasive presence
 3. Omniscience
 - a. Comprehensive knowledge of God
 - b. Divine wisdom
 4. Sovereignty – 1 Tim. 6:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 8:28; Col. 1:16-17; Isa. 45:7-9
- b. Communicable – That which humanity shares with God through the image of God in creation in measure but also in finitude (having limits or boundaries). Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Peter 1:15-16

- i. The holiness of God (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- ii. The purity of God (Matt. 5:48)
- iii. The knowledge of God (mental operation, wisdom and understanding)
 - 1. Knowledge about God
 - 2. Knowledge from God
 - 3. Knowledge through God
 - 4. Knowledge in keeping with God
 - 5. Forbidden knowledge (Eve in the Garden of Eden)
 - a. Knowledge outside of what is right
 - b. Knowledge outside of what is God's will
 - c. Knowledge outside of what is good
- iv. The joy of God
 - 1. Joy in the Lord
 - a. In the Lord's person
 - b. In the Lord's goodness
 - c. In the Lord's promise
 - d. In the Lord's provision in Christ
 - 2. Joy because of the Lord
 - 3. Joy in spite of life and its hardships
 - a. Joy that is not a denial of pain
 - b. Joy that is overcoming
 - c. Joy that sustains
 - d. Joy that anticipates the eternal promise in Christ
- v. The love of God – 1 John 4:7; two greatest commandments
- vi. The peace of God
- vii. The life of God in Christ for the Christian through the Holy Spirit

- 3. The Sovereign Goodness of God – 1 Chron. 16:34; Psa. 25:8; 23:6; Mark 10:18; Jas. 1:17
 - a. Sovereign goodness expressed in creation
 - b. Sovereign goodness expressed in revelation
 - c. Sovereign goodness expressed in providence
 - d. Sovereign goodness expressed in redemption in Christ

4. Practical Issues concerning God:

- a. Summary about the Being and Significance of God:
 - i. The unsourced Source
 - ii. The unsustained Sustainer
 - iii. The uncompelled (uncoerced, unconstrained) Strategist
 - iv. The unrivaled Sovereign
 - v. The unassisted Savior
- b. Problems that arise without a right understanding of God; without God we have no basis for proper reasoning for the following:
 - i. Ultimate reality, material reality, and the integration of each
 - ii. Life, human existential existence and significance, and meaning to everything
 - iii. Moral understanding and moral application to life
 - iv. Human interaction in relations

- c. The relationship between God and humanity:
 - i. Creation and Imago Dei
 - 1. God creating humanity in His image
 - 2. Humanity's meaning and purpose in the image of God
 - ii. Human Accountability, Responsibility, and Judgment
 - 1. Divine truth and goodness revealed in moral law
 - 2. Human accountability to God
 - 3. Human responsibility in view of accountability
 - 4. Divine judgment of humanity
 - a. Judgment through Law
 - b. Judgment through death and eternity before God
 - iii. Redemption and Divine Grace
 - 1. The covenant of redemption
 - 2. The promise of redemption in the Messiah
 - 3. The fulfillment of redemption in the incarnation
 - 4. The offer of redemption in Christ and His saving work