

Our Relationship with God in 2018: Estranged or Intimate?

A Study of the Character of God as He has Revealed Himself vs.
the Substitute Idols of our Neo-Pagan Culture

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Lesson 4: Sunday Late AM, 2 Sep

Introduction & Review

Review of use of 4 points on each of God's attributes

Will cover two attributes again in this session

God Alone has OMNISCIENCE

1. Must begin with special revelation of His omniscience found throughout His historic revelation [Slide 36 citing John 1:47–48 and Ps 139:2, 13–16 to show His knowledge of our hearts that none of us can fully fathom] [Slide 37 citing Isa 41:21–23 to show His knowledge of all creation and all of its history and citing Matt 11:21–22 to show He knows all the “what-ifs” of history] Also read excerpt from C.S. Lewis’ *The House and His Boy* (from the *Narnia Chronicles*) to show how Lewis imagined God’s deep knowledge of our lives.
2. Learn our finite analog to His knowledge because we are made “in His image.” [Slide 38 shows the limitations of human knowledge with just an elementary explanation of this very detailed pictorial that is rarely, if ever, discussed in today’s secular education. NOTE: See further discussion at <https://www.bibleframework.org/multi-lesson-series/thinking-more-deeply-about-the-bible-science-reason-and-language>]
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of omniscience try to create some sort of substitute for God’s omniscience. By making man the *inventor* of truth rather than the *discoverer* of truth it has never been able to justify the uniformity of nature and the universality of the laws of logic. Two failed attempts in recent history: (1) the so-called Enlightenment with its “reason without revelation” belief; and (2) the Romantic movement with its faith in “feelings” as the source of knowledge.
4. Concluding blessings to us
 - Gives me confidence in discovery & logical thinking (which is why science arose in Western civilization influenced as it was by biblical concepts)
 - Reminds me that God knows me better than I do. He made me—including my natural and future resurrection bodies—according to His plan for my life so I look to Him for my “identity”, not to my private feelings.
 - Discourages me from “knee-jerk reactions” to other people whom I falsely think I know to the very depths and motives of their heart (Jas 1:19)
 - Incentivizes me to trust God’s responses to my prayer requests because He knows what is best for me.

God Alone has PERFECT STABILITY (IMMUTABILITY)

1. Must begin with special revelation of His immutability found throughout His historic revelation [Slide 39 citing the comment of Dr. Albright, dean of American biblical archeologists, on the unique feature of the nation Israel—the only known nation in history possessing a contract with God. Thus, God’s stable character over centuries in fulfilling the terms of these contracts could and was observed giving empirical evidence of His immutability]

[Slide 40 citing Ps 89:33–35 for an example of how OT saints with this perspective spoke of God’s immutability as His “loving-kindness”]

2. Learn our finite analog to His immutability because we are made “in His image.” We want to, and have to, rely upon the stability of nature and of those people we have a relationship with.
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of immutability try to create some sort of substitute for God’s immutability. Two failing attempts: (1) adoption of the doctrine of “uniformitarianism” by historical sciences—belief that not only does natural law remain the same but also that rates of natural processes and the kinds of processes have remained unchanged throughout all time—both conditions are increasingly suspect by recent observations of catastrophic events like Mt. St. Helens that created a “miniature Grand Canyon” within a few years and the tsunami that moved the entire Japanese archipelago 8 inches eastward very quickly; and (2) over-trust in people and institutions that results in serious disappointments over and over again.
4. Concluding blessings to us
 - Supplies me with a vision of stability when in chaotic social situations
 - Supplies me with the basis for trust in natural law and true constants
 - Supplies me with a model for abiding truth
 - Supplies me with a model for consistent ethics