

Defining and defending the Faith 2: I believe in God

- I. Knowing about God.
 - A. General Revelation: Ro 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, [19] because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. [20] For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, [21] because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
 - B. Special Revelation
 1. Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son... [3] who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person...
 2. Joh 14:8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."
 3. Joh 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
 - C. We can know God truly and personally but not exhaustively.
- II. Speaking about God.
 - A. Univocal, Equivocal, and Analogical language.
 - B. The way of negation.
 - C. The way of assertion provided by God's self-revelation.
 - D. We can speak about God truly but not exhaustively.
- III. The personality of God.
 - A. The God of the Bible is a living personal being not a concept. (WSC answer 6: There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.)
 - B. The names of God. (Ex 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" [14] And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
 - C. The attributes of God. (WSC Answer 4: God is a spirit, infinite eternal and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.)
- IV. Applications:
 - A. Because God has revealed himself to man, you can know Him truly and personally yet not exhaustively.
 - B. Because God is a person everyone has a personal relationship with God.
 1. A personal relationship of friendship and blessing. (John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.)

2. A personal relationship of animosity and cursing.