

## The Existence and Being of God

The study of biblical doctrine [teaching] should have as its main goal learning truth about God. That said, we must know that a full knowledge of God is not possible except for God Himself. Yet, we can have true knowledge of God limited though it may be.

### **Romans 11:33**

**Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**                      **ESV**

**The Existence and Being of God** is the first doctrine we should take up. It is the first doctrine to grasp because it is the first thing we find in the Bible. The doctrine of the existence of God:

### Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

This is a simple statement that assumes the existence of God.

The Bible simply states the existence of God.

Two examples; Acts 17:22-34 and Romans 1:20

### Acts 17:22-34

**22** So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. **23** For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

**24** The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, **25** nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

**26** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, **27** that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, **28** for

"In him we live and move and have our being";  
as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we are indeed his offspring.'

**29** Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. **30** The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31** because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." **33** So Paul went out from their midst. **34** But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

## Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

There are arguments that attempt to “prove” that there is a God.

***Cosmological:*** that every effect has a cause.

***Teleological:*** everything leads to something.

***Moral:*** our awareness of good and bad.

***Universal belief in ‘god’:*** every civilization has some religious belief.

None of these arguments can produce saving faith.  
These arguments may support faith but they cannot produce faith.  
Cf. Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

The True God can be known:

John 17:1-3

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

*Deism* teaches that there is a God but that He made the world and then left it to itself and that He cannot be known.

What do you say to someone who says, "I like to think of God as...."?

Since it is possible to know God, to what extent may we know Him?

**Romans 11:33**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

How does God sometimes reveal Himself? *anthropomorphisms*

## ANTHROPOMORPHISM

The practice of describing God in human terms, as if He has feet (Exodus 24:10), hands (John 10:29), a face (Matthew 18:10), a heart (Hosea 11:8), and so forth. Although the Old and New Testaments deny any literal similarity of form between God and His creatures (Job 9:32; John 4:24), the Bible frequently uses such human language to affirm that God is personal and active in His creation.

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### Exodus 33:12-23

**12** Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' **13** Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." **14** And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." **15** And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. **16** For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

**17** And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." **18** Moses said, "Please show me your glory." **19** And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. **20** But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." **21** And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, **22** and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. **23** Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

God condescends to use human terms to give us knowledge of His attributes.

God is Spirit and God is *infinite*.

## INFINITY

A theological term that implies that God is not bound by time and space (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3). God does experience everything that happens within the universe He has created. Not even a sparrow falls to the ground apart from His will. He numbers the very hairs of our head (Matthew 10:30). But at the same time, He is not limited to the process of finite space and time for His experience. God is the great and eternal I AM (Exodus 3:14) who, like the burning bush before Moses, burns with dynamic activity, yet is not consumed (Psalm 139; 147; Isaiah 45:1). Only an infinite God who is greater than His creation can determine the number of the stars and keep them in their courses.

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Since God is Spirit and Infinite, how do we understand Exodus 33:23 and John 5:37?

Exodus 33:23

Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

John 5:37

And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen,

When God chooses to do so He gives appearances of Himself.  
God uses language that we can understand.

A characteristic of God's essential being is *personality*.

Personality exists where there is mind, intelligence, will, reason, individuality, self-consciousness, and self-determination. Although the Bible does not specifically state that God is a person it describes God with all of these characteristics.

God is a person as opposed to *pantheism*.

Hinduism and New Age is pantheism.

Pantheism: Everything is god.

Jesus Christ is the final proof that God is a Person.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 14:8-11

**8** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

“And so we see that the glorious truth we have been trying to look at is just this, that this infinite, absolute, sublime, transcendent, glorious, majestic, mighty, everlasting being who is Spirit, who is Truth, who dwells in light no one can approach, this God has been graciously pleased that you and I should know Him and that we should worship Him. And He is prepared to listen to us, to meet with us, and receive our unworthy and poor worship, and our praise and adoration. Blessed be the name of God!”

**{God the Father, God the Son, Volume 1, page 56, Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones}**

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