



**Who is God
Various Texts
Westport Christian Church
May 23, 2010**

A 3rd Grader explaining God!

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth."

"He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk, He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime."
"God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this."

"Because He hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him."

"But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore, He could stay in heaven. So He did."

"And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important."

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the times."

"You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God."

"Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can."

"It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases."

"And that's why I believe in God."

by Danny Dutton, age 8, from Chula Vista, California, for his third grade homework assignment to "Explain God."

What a beautiful explanation of who God is, only from the mouth of Babes. We see this third grader thoughtfully attempting to explain who God is and we can learn from this. I believe that we need to take an example from the innocence of children.

Sometimes, I think we attempt to compromise our beliefs. We try to explain who God is from logic and reason. We try to explain everything from a scientific perspective. When we do this, we cannot discover at all who God is. God cannot be seen, but rather we must accept his existence by faith.

In order to come to an understanding of who God is we need to look at Him in two ways: We need to Look at those Characteristics of God that are His alone that reveal to us who He is, secondly we need t. In other words it is important that we look at God himself. We will then need to secondly look at God and what he is to us in this world. We first are looking at the

A) Characteristics of God within himself that are His alone.

These characteristics belong to God and describe his nature.

The only way we should attempt to describe God is by looking at scripture. He has given us His inspired word in order to reveal to us. There are many things the Bible says about God. For purpose of today's message we will focus on those attributes which are in relationship to us.

1) God is Omnipotent

Omnipotent-definition is all Latin term meaning "All powerful"- He is El-Shaddai- "God Almighty"- God can do anything. Jeremiah 32:17 says ⁷'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have ⁶made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You."

In Genesis 17:1 God appeared to Abraham and immediately identified himself as "God Almighty" or El-Shaddai. Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; We sing songs of God's might. That is why we sing, what a mighty God we serve. Our God is a mighty and powerful God. It is good to look at God's power and might, but there is a second characteristic of God we should look at.

2) God is Omniscient

Omniscient –means that God has infinite knowledge. That means he has all the knowledge within himself that we could possibly know anywhere at any time. Can you imagine that? We are finite creatures, which means, we are limited to that which are creator has given us. I know I cannot imagine anyone having all the knowledge that could ever exist anywhere, but that is exactly what God has. We read Hannah's prayer in the Old Testament to God in 1 Samuel 2:3 where she is rejoicing and exalting God: "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth, For the LORD is a God of knowledge, ¹) And with Him actions are weighed." Since God has all knowledge we can see a two other characteristics that come out of this all knowledge.

- a) God is wise: Paul closes His letter to the church in Rome says in chapter 16:27 “to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.” God is the only truly wise. In Job 12:13 we read: ¹³“With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding. James 1:5 says of us : ⁵“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
- b) God is Good: When we think of God. We can see many passages that describe God as a Good God. Part of God’s nature is His goodness. He can have no part of evil. If God is all knowledgeable and wise he must then also be a “good” God apart from evil. David said it this way in Psalm 34:8 “O taste and see that the LORD is good How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

There is a third characteristic of God that we need to look at and that is:

3) God is Omnipresent

Omnipresence: means that God is ever present. Jack Cotrell in his book: Faith, Once for All describes Omnipresence like this: “God is infinite with respect to space; he is not limited by space. Since God is everywhere, we cannot escape his presence: David sums up this concept the best in his Psalm 139:7-10 ⁷“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. God is ever present. There is scriptural reference to the fact that God is both near and far from his creation. We are always in his presence at all times. This can best be seen in Lukes’ writing in the book of Acts 17:27-28 where he records the words of Paul to the Greeks on Mars Hill “that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for^Ein Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' What a beautiful concept to know that God is among us. I don’t know about you, but that gives me great comfort.

We have looked at those characteristics of God which are God’s alone and they help us to understand who God is. But who is God to us, those he made in his image. If we look at all three of the attributes of his character described above, we will be able to see:

B) Who God is to us personally: We shall see who God is to us within those Characteristics we have just described. Firstly:

I. God is our creator- Omnipotence

We read in Genesis 1:1-“In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth” Psalms 102:25 reads: ⁵“Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens

are the work of Your hands. In Job chapter 38: God answers Job by asking him questions. These questions show our God as creator and also show his Omnipotence. In verse 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of earth/" In verse 8 we read "Or enclosed the sea with doors, When from bursting forth in went out from the womb. In verse 12 we read "Have you ever in your life, commanded the morning and caused the dawn to know its' place. All of these questions show a God who is creator over all and it displays his awesome Power. He is God Almighty our Omnipotent God.

But God is also:

II. God is our Law giver-Omniscience

We see in Genesis that God commanded both Adam and Eve to leave the garden when they had disobeyed his command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He gave them instructions or laws to live by. We this again when God calls the Israelites to go into their promised land to worship Him. He gives Moses Laws: The Ten Commandment to live by. These, however were the only laws and instructions they were to live by. We have a whole books that were written that gives us the initial Law handed down to the Israelites: They are our first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. God is the giver of our Laws in which we are to live by. Jesus, God in the Flesh fulfilled the Law. "Jesus said, recorded in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 5 we see Jesus given instruction on how we should live. Jesus said himself in verse 17 ⁷"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹"Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus takes the Laws of Old and applies them to how we should live today, therefore in fulfilling the Law, we need to follow Jesus in order for us to know how to live each day.

We have as described earlier in or message an omniscient God. We have a God who is both wise and just, knowing how it is we should live our lives. God is the giver of Law, now to us through his son Jesus. We have a last point to mention in order for us to see who God is to us.

God is our:

III. God is our redeemer-Omnipresence

1) God loves us. He loved his people as recorded in Old Testament times. He gave them the Old Covenant which was one of bloodshed to atone for their sins. We see this first recorded in Genesis when God first shed blood to cover Adam and Eve with skins after they had committed Sin against Him. God allowed this animal sacrifice to atone for His people's sins. We see recorded in many Old Testament scriptures where God is described as the redeemer of man.

In Psalm 19:14: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Isaiah 63:16 For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us
And Israel does not recognize us
You, O LORD, are our Father,
Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

2) This comforts us along with us knowing that he is ever present among us. God redeemed His people and dwelt among them in the Old Testament until they rejected Him. God's plan was also to redeem us once for all by sending a perfect redeemer. This was Jesus: God in the flesh, who dwelt among us.

Acts 4:10-12 says " let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health. ¹¹"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. ¹²"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be save

Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Colossians 1:12-14 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. ¹³For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

God is our Salvation through Christ Jesus. John 3:16 says:¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

God also gave us His spirit to live within us. His ever presence can be felt through the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps guide us, intercedes for us and comforts us.

Jesus said recorded in John 14:25-26 ²⁵"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

People we have an all powerful, all knowing God who is ever present in our lives. He is our creator, our giver of Law. He is our Salvation.

In closing today. I want to ask you. What more do we need to know. God is our creator who loves us and wants us to come to him. He loved us so much that he wanted to reconcile us to him, save us.

Where are you at today? Have you taken Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Jesus went willing to die for you and for me. He suffered on the cross. He shed his blood for you and me. Who is God to You?

AMEN