



WHO IS THIS GOD WE SERVE ?

Study 6 God

There are so many different opinions about God that before we look at what he's really like we had better clear up the wrong ideas first.

1/ God is not just a "god." Most heathen religions believe that there are many gods: gods of war, gods of harvest, gods of fertility etc. It is true that there are angels (yes and demons) but there is only **one God!**

Write Deuteronomy 4: 35 here.

2/ God is not just "nature." It is surprising how many think God and nature are the same. They say that he is in the flowers and in the trees. Such an idea seems lovely at first, but when you think about it, it's really quite ridiculous. Study Romans 1: 25 and explain why this theory doesn't make sense.

3/ God is not just a "force." Science fiction stories like to depict God as a mysterious force - an impersonal "power" like electricity or magnetism, which runs through the universe. But throughout the whole Bible God reveals himself as a **person!** He sees; he hears; he loves; he cares. Only a real person can be like that. Moses asked God his name. (Exodus 3: 13-14) What did God say?

4/ God is not just "somewhere up there." Many people believe there is a supreme being of some sort, but he is very far away and cannot be known in a personal way. They should read Psalm 145: 18 and Acts 17: 27.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Our natural minds have difficulty grasping things like this. However it **is possible** to understand what God is like, and he wants us to. (Jeremiah 9: 24)

God is SPIRIT. Write John 4: 24 here:

That means God cannot be confined to a material existence.

- He cannot be seen by natural sight. (_____)
- He cannot die. (_____)
- He has no beginning or end. (_____)

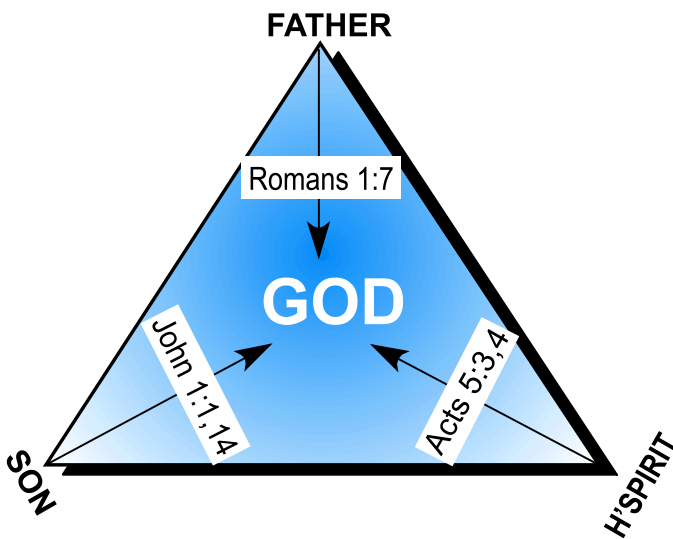
These facts are shown in 1 Timothy 1: 17. Select three words from this verse and put them into the brackets next to the statements above.

God has NO LIMIT. Everywhere the Bible shows how infinite (limitless) God is. Read for example Isaiah 40: 12-15, 25-28, and Psalm 139: 1-10.

- He is limitless in power. (omnipotent) (_____)
- He is limitless in knowledge. (omniscient) (_____)
- He isn't limited to one place. (omnipresence) (_____)
- He isn't limited to time. (eternal) (_____)

Place the appropriate verses next to each description above. (Psalm 90: 2, Psalm 147: 5b, Jeremiah 23: 24, Jeremiah 32: 17)

God is a TRINITY. The Bible also teaches us that there is one true God, but that he is revealed in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28: 19) They are distinct from each other (Matthew 3: 16-17) and yet they are one. (John 10: 30-33) Human explanations aren't really adequate when describing the trinity because God is "spirit," however it may be helpful to visualise the Godhead as a triangle.



Compare the verses in the adjacent diagram, then write John 1:1 and the first part of verse 14 here:

HAS ANYONE EVER SEEN GOD?

No! *"No one has ever seen God, but ... _____"* (John 1: 18)

What does this mean? It simply means that no one has seen the Father, (See John 6: 46) but God **may be seen** in bodily form through the Son. Carefully study John 14:8-10, Hebrews 1: 3, Colossians 1: 15. Write Colossians 2: 9 in the box.

God is "spirit" (the Father and the Holy Spirit may not be seen) but God is fully and completely and visibly expressed to us **through the Son.**

WHAT MAKES GOD TICK?

In many ways God is like us. He has feelings (emotions); he thinks; he makes decisions. But the selfish things which motivate men are not what makes God "tick." Otherwise he would be no different to the ancient Greek gods who got angry, vengeful, and jealous like us. Write out Isaiah 55: 9.

When God thinks, his thoughts are **holy**. When he acts, he is **righteous** and just. God is also **merciful** and he can be totally relied on because of his great **faithfulness**. These "moral attributes" of God are revealed in the Bible. They are what make him **act**, and **think**, and **be**, the way he is. Read the following scriptures and connect them (with an arrow) to the relevant description of God's nature.

Deuteronomy 7: 9	HOLY
Isaiah 6: 3	MERCIFUL
Micah 7: 18	FAITHFUL
Psalms 119: 137	RIGHTEOUS

However the main driving force in God's nature which determines **everything** that he does, or decision he makes, is this:

His _____ (Supply answer from 1 John 4: 6)

What motivated God to give his Son?

His _____ (Supply answer from John 3: 16)

How strong is this "driving force" in God?
Romans 8: 38-39 assures us that nothing can separate us from him. Yes, the thing that makes God the way he is, and the reason we may rely on him, is this: **HIS LOVE!**
Write 1 John 4: 16 here.