

GOD QUESTIONS?

Questions about God, faith, and what we can know.

Does God exist?

Series Overview

Can we know that God exists? Does my life have purpose? Can you trust what the Bible says? In this short series, we'll address these and similar questions so that we can have confidence in what we believe and be prepared to give an answer to those who are searching (1 Pet. 3:15).

Sermon Introduction

Does God exist? Can we really know? In Romans 1, the Apostle Paul offers an incredibly profound answer; that we can't not know God exists, and yet we can deny his existence to such a degree that we no longer know what we once knew.

Passage: Romans 1:16-21 (NIV)

Rom. 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Rom. 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Rom. 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom. 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom. 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Rom. 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing?

2. Do you think it's possible to *prove* or *disprove* God's existence? Do you think it's possible to *know* with certainty that God exists or not?
3. In what ways do you think God's invisible qualities are seen in creation (v. 20)? Are there examples of God's "eternal power and divine nature" in nature that have confirmed his existence to you?
4. In vv. 18-21, Paul argues that the reality of God is unavoidable—God has made it plain—but that we can suppress the truth because we don't want to give God the credit (glory & gratitude) he deserves. What's wrong with *not* giving glory or gratitude to someone who deserves them? How does that impact our relationship with God, specifically?
5. Throughout this passage, Paul argues that the truth we suppress concerns both God's existence and morality. Romans 2:14-15 says that unbelievers "who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them." How does our having a conscience—a moral sense of right and wrong—reveal God?
6. People often assume that their beliefs about God are purely based on reason or evidence. But Paul contends that people don't believe in God, at least in part, because they don't *want* to believe he exists. If belief is a matter of *volition* (will) rather than *cognition* (knowledge), how might that change the kind of answer you give someone "who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have" (1 Pet. 3:15)?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- Praise God for the wonder of his creation and for how he reveals himself to us through nature and in our lives.
- Confess anyways that you've suppressed the truth of God's presence and power in your life whether in your attitude, actions, or thoughts.
- Thank God that while we are deserving of wrath for having tried to make ourselves gods in his place, Jesus, who gave his life to rescue us from sin and death, is the full revelation of God's love for us.
- Ask God to strengthen your faith that he is real, he is present, and he loves you.