



## God's Character

Theme: Knowing God is the critical, lifelong goal of your life.

### 1. How do you get to know someone

#### a. Start with a name

##### i. Stanislaus

#### b. Spend time with them and know their thoughts

- i. “Even in established relationships, there will always be a sense of mystery, even about your spouse or your close friends. Knowing someone completely is impossible—you will learn new things about them for as long as you know them. How much more mysterious must an invisible and infinite God be to us finite creatures?” Christopher Kou <https://www.logos.com/grow/nook-what-is-the-trinity-doctrine-101/>

#### c. Eventually, you are not just looking for information, but to know their character.

### 2. God's character revealed

#### a. God said to Moses, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty (El-Shaddai), but by my name the Lord I did not make myself fully known to them.” Exodus 6:2-3

#### b. At the burning bush, God then gives Moses a more unique, definitive name, Yahweh.

- i. I exist, I am. And, what I have been I will always be, I do not change.

#### c. God has given several names by which He will be known, but now He gives us a specific description of his nature or character. In Exodus 34:6-7, God does more than reveal his name, He reveals his Character.

- i. <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God,

slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

3. God consistently deals with people according to His character.
  - a. The first two qualities are compassionate and graciousness and the last two are loyal-love and faithfulness. They are surrounding the fifth quality of slow to anger.
  - b. Then, God maintains loyal-love for thousands by forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.
    - i. But, God does make a distinction between the disobedient who hate him and those who love and obey Him.
  - c. While His tendency is to love and forgive, his mercy is balanced by not declaring innocent the guilty.
    - i. “Slow to anger” is balanced with “yet he won’t declare innocent the guilty”.
    - ii. II Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand **slowness**. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”
  - d. To the third and fourth generation:
    - i. It isn’t exact generations, but refers to people repeating their ancestors rebellion against God.
    - ii. “Three things, even four” is a poetic figure of speech meaning however many it takes. However many generations repeat the sins of the ancestors, I will remain a compassionate and gracious God, who is overflowing with loyal-love and faithfulness and who is slow to anger. I will deal justly with them and bring them what they deserve.
    - iii. “This is God’s revelation of His character to the specific people group that He’s made a generational covenant with. So the point is as the generations go by, as we go down the line in this long history of relationship, you can count on me being this way. And this is how I will interact with every generation. So it’s really it’s a statement about the stability of God’s character.” (Tim Mackie, Bible Project, Character of God)
4. How is this character displayed throughout the Bible
  - a. Narrative in historical books
  - b. Jonah 4:1-2 “But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

5. Conclusion

- a. It is important to know God because it will get you through the most difficult of days.
  
- b. I want to talk to two types of people
  - i. First, you've not met this God of loyal love and faithfulness
  - ii. Second, to the many Christians who live with a feeling of failure.