

Theology 1
The Doctrine of God & the Greatness of God
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2/15/23

*The doctrine of God is **the central point** for much of the rest of theology. One's view of God might even be thought of as **supplying the whole framework** within which one's theology is constructed and life is lived. It lends a particular coloration to one's style of ministry and philosophy of life.*

The Transcendence of God

- Transcendence means that **God is separate** from His creation – **high & lifted up**.
- Biblical pictures of God's Transcendence – Psalm 113:4-6, Isaiah 6:1-5, John 1:1
- The **Implications** of Divine Transcendence
 - There is something higher than human beings.
 - God can never be completely captured in human concepts. (Psalm 139:6)
 - Our salvation is not our achievement.
 - There will always be a difference between God and human beings.
 - Reverence is appropriate in our relationship to God.
 - We will look for genuinely transcendent working by God.

The Immanence of God

- Immanence means that **God is present & active** within His creation, and within the human race, even those members that do not believe in or obey Him. He is **close**.
- Biblical pictures of God's Immanence – Psalm 113:7-9, Isaiah 6:6-13, John 1:14
- The **Implications** of Divine Immanence
 - God is not limited to working directly to accomplish His purposes.
 - God can and does use persons and organizations that are not Christian.
 - We should have an appreciation for all that God has created.
 - We can learn something about God from His creation.
 - There are points at which the Gospel can make contact with every unbeliever.

The Greatness of God

- The essence of God can be summarized into a list of at least five characteristics:
 - Spirituality – God is not composed of matter and does not possess a physical nature (John 4:24). This does not discount theophanies or Christophanies.
 - Life – God is alive! Our faith is bound in the fact that God lives (Heb. 11:6).
 - Personality – God is personal, desiring a relationship with other personal beings.
 - Infinity – God is not bound by any of the space, time, knowledge, or power constraints that humans are limited to. He is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.
 - Constancy – God is immutable – He does not change (see Mal. 3:6, James 1:17, and Heb. 13:8).