

HE KNOWS

Psalm 139:1-6

“If that’s what God’s like, I want to kill Him!” This very true and shocking response was directed to my friend and seminary professor who had cultivated a relationship with a group of guys from a less attractive part of town. He loved basketball and kids, so several times a week he would walk a few blocks from campus for a pick-up game of basketball in the alley. After an hour or so of rough and tumble street ball, they would sit down, and Phil would talk about God and a personal relationship with Jesus. On one occasion, he was attempting to explain John 3:16, “For God so loved the world...” He went on to say that God loved them in much the same way as their father loved them—even more. That’s when he heard these stunning words from a 14 year old young man, “If that’s what God’s like, I want to kill Him!” After an all-too-brief conversation, my friend discovered the root of the response.

It’s amazing what shapes the image of God in each of our minds, isn’t it? In his book Your God is too Small, J.B. Phillips has pointed out some of the distorted images that too often shape our impressions of God. Some, he says, see God as a kind of “Celestial Policeman” who is just waiting for someone to mess up so He can beat them with His golden Billy club. Country and Western fans may remember Tammy Wynette’s “God’s gonna get you for that; God’s gonna get you for that. Ain’t no use to run and hide, ’cuz He knows where you’re at!” And the insurance companies haven’t helped us with our perception of God by referring to deadly tornadoes, destructive hurricanes, and massive wildfires or floods as “acts of God,” . . . not too favorable.

On the other side of the coin is the concept of God as the kind old grandfather who spoils his grandkids, ignores their selfish behavior, and will do anything to make them happy.

If someone were to ask you, “What is God like?” what would you tell them? Even more importantly, could you show them? Upon what have you established your perception of God? What has shaped His image in your mind?

Secondly, in what ways does your perception or the image you have formed affected what you do? ...how you live life? ...how you relate to others? To take that question even further, “Could you show them?”

It was the theologian Millard Erickson who rightly said, “One’s view of God might even be thought of as supplying the whole framework within which one’s theology is constructed and life lived. It lends a particular coloration to one’s style of ministry and philosophy of life.”

Today we will add another snapshot to our collage in an attempt to capture a true, biblical image of God.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Romans 11:33, “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*”
 - (a) As you focus on Romans 11:33 do so in the context of Psalm 139:1-7. How would you define the depth of God’s knowledge of you personally? (To what degree, detail, depth?)
 - (b) What are some of your first thoughts about the “depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God” in light of His judgments and ways for your life?
2. Think about those moments, ...periods of time, when you felt alone, isolated, or perhaps abandoned, what encouragement do Psalm 139:1-7 and the omniscience of God offer you in these times? (Note the possible thought pattern.)

Psalm 139:1-7

vs 13-18

Psalm 147:3-6

Psalm 40:1-5

3. Imagine for a moment walking into a room (maybe the high school cafeteria, a party, a dinner table at Impact) and seeing someone alone, isolated. How would the omniscience of God be relevant for you, one created in His image, with the capacity to reflect His omniscience if only in the slightest of degrees? What would this suggest for a married couple? A Mini Church or Cell group member? During coffee break?
4. When we think about the “unsearchable” and “unfathomable” wisdom of God from whom are all things (Romans 11:33-36), the influence of the church is immeasurable, isn’t it? What do you think hinders or restricts each of us from reflecting the impression of God’s omniscience?

“None are so safe as those whom God keeps; none so much in danger as the self secure.”
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Psalm 139:1-6

*O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

“Glory be unto the ‘Keeper of Israel’ who is endeared to us under that title, since our growing sense of weakness makes us feel more deeply than ever, our need to be kept.”

Matt 5:45 It rains on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matt 5:48 Therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- An attribute - That which distinguishes or identifies a subject or person.
- More simply stated: What we know about God shapes first our thinking and then our lifestyle and actions.

THE ATTRIBUTE OF OMNISCIENCE

WHAT IS THE PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE . . .

. . . OF KNOWING THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD?

vs 1 PERSONAL

“Me” - Not simply creation

“Lord” Jehovah – All knowing creator

vs 2 PSYCHOLOGICAL

“Knows” me – at my most casual moment

“understands” my thoughts, most private

- vs 3 PURIFICATION
 “scrutinize” to winnow, separate
 “intimately acquainted”
- vs 4 PERFECTION
 Thou dost know it all
 What hope of concealment can remain when the speech with which
 too many conceal their thoughts, is itself transparent before the
 Lord.
- vs 5 PROTECTION
 “enclosed” inescapable
- vs 6 PERCEPTION
 Too wonderful
 Too high (over my head)
 Too much

... OF EXPERIENCING THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD?

- We have the capacity Gen 1:26-27; Eph 5:1
 Man was given the capacity to “PARTIALLY,” in some small degree, draw from
 and reflect many of the attributes of God in his daily life to the degree that we
 grow, mature, or are completed in our relationship with Him.
- Foundational to spiritual growth/maturity Phil 3:10-16
- Enables us to face crisis Isaiah 55:6-13
- Provides discernment 1 Cor 2:10-16

... OF DEMONSTRATING THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD?

- Personal/Spiritual integrity Rom 12:2
- Divine awareness of others
 - Other believers 1 Cor 2:6-7
Speak wisdom
 - Non-believers Luke 8:43-48,
John 8