

God Is Good

Long Beach Alliance Church • Happy Father's Day! • June 15, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.**

**A God of faithfulness
and without iniquity,
just and upright is he.**

~Deuteronomy 32:4 (ESV)

1) What You Think About God Is Very Important

- A) In his famous book, *“The Knowledge of the Holy,”* A.W. Tozer, noted Christian & Missionary Alliance pastor and author from the middle 20th Century, wrote “what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
- B) Imagine our lives if, rather than engaging each situation from a world-centered viewpoint, we engaged it from the distinctive perspective of the Spirit (John 14:26-27, Romans 8:5).
- C) When faced with various situations (some sinful, some difficult, most pleasurable, James 4:1-3), The Spirit of God takes the Word of God (Colossians 3:16-17) and applies it our varied situations (John 17:17).
- D) This is the significance of being “transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Romans 12:1-2). The Spirit takes lifeless words on the pages of our Bibles and breathes life into them, and into us (2 Corinthians 3:3).
- E) This is why we do “Bible Study.” We are engaging a relationship of learning about God (knowledge of His character) with the crucial purpose of being transformed (by His Spirit in us) from the inner person to the outer person. Our character is transformed by the character of God, through relationship with Jesus, who is alive in us by His Spirit!

2) The Most Important Attribute Of God

- A) The Bible is packed with descriptions about God. God is love (1 John 4:8), God is perfect/holy (Psalm 18:30), God is merciful (Deuteronomy 4:31), God is most wise (Psalm 104:24), God is gracious (Exodus 34:6), the list is as endless as God's infinite attributes!
- B) The reason we study these different descriptions about God are because they reveal His character. The character of God is the "raw material" of the Spirit for our transformation. Jesus Christ came to reveal God's character, He is God in the flesh, He is the good news for our salvation, and Jesus is also the good news for transformation!
- C) Foundationally, there is one attribute of God which carries the greatest significance for daily living. Simply, God alone is good (Mark 10:18). All God does is "worthy of approval" and is the "final authority on the standards of good" (ST, Grudem, 197).
- D) God's essential essence (the substance of God, His "God-ness") is approval worthy, or more directly, "God is good." God is infinitely good and no higher standard possible for goodness can exist than God's character and His approval of whatever is consistent with His character.
- E) God is good because He alone is worthy of His own approval. Why is something good? Because God approves of it, because He is good.
- F) Mankind actively experiences God's goodness, which can produce worship (Psalm 34:8), or idolatry (Romans 1:24-25). Just as God appreciated His "very good" creation (Genesis 1:31), we can also recognize God's good works (James 1:17), and worship Him!

3) A Transformed Spirit-Driven Perspective

- A) Living the authentic Christian life can be extremely difficult. We are pressed from within the church (religious pressure), outside the church (evangelistic pressure) and from within ourselves (guilt pressure).
- B) Rather than bend over fear of 'rules, hypocrisy, and failure,' God has given us Himself as the perfect example, Jesus Christ (God in flesh), who lived by the Spirit. He lived out the good life. He is the good news.
- C) Jesus is the good life! Living the 'good life' means living like Christ. Jesus redefined EVERYTHING. He took the old and made it new. Seeing the Gospel in every situation (Jesus' eyes) will radically transform your everyday life (1 Timothy 1:13-14, 6-7), and eternity (Revelation 21:3-5)!