

Colossians - Part 3  
What is God Like?  
06/16/2024

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*Romans 2:4 (GWT) Do you have contempt for God, who is very kind to you, puts up with you, and deals patiently with you? Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to him and change the way you think and act?*

*Col. 1:15-20 (ESV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

What is God Like?

1st) Look at **JESUS**.

*Col. 1:15a (ESV) He is the image of the invisible God,*

- Simply look at Jesus

Four Characteristics of God:

A) God is **GRACIOUS**.

*Luke 15:1-2 (ESV) Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."*

- He was attractive to the worst of the worst
- When you do the right things the right people enter your life

*"Zacchaeus, you come down. For I'm going to your house today."*

- The instant cure for guilt is simple confession

B) God is **MERCIFUL**.

- Mercy is the act of withholding deserved punishment, while grace is the act of endowing unmerited favor.
- She is caught in the act and the Law condemns her
- What God does reveals who he is

C) God is **COMPASSIONATE**.

- Correction upward is rebellion
- Your goals decide who and what you should ignore
- Jesus starts to cry
- He's hurt, that He feels heavy and He begins to weep

D) God is all **POWERFUL**.

2nd) Look at **CREATION**.

*Col. 1:16 (ESV) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

- We are the stewards
- Everything is created by Him.

3rd) Look at the **CHURCH**.

*Col. 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church*

- Where is your hope?
- Who are you trusting in?

*Romans 12:2 (CSB) Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

- Make better decisions

*2 Cor. 1:12 (HCSB) For this is our confidence: The testimony of our conscience is that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, with God-given sincerity and purity, not by fleshly wisdom but by God's grace.*

- What we desperately need is to hear from God
- The world or the Word

*1 Cor. 1:20b (MSG) I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots.*

4th) Look at the overall **PICTURE**.

*Col. 1:19-20 (ESV) For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

- Understanding the nature of God really matters
- We live in a world where nothing stays the same - everything changes!
- Is there anything in the world that is permanent?

*James 1:17 (ESV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Three Things That Never Change:

A) God's **LOVE**.

*Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV) "I have loved you with an everlasting love."*

B) God's **WORD**.

*Isaiah 40:8 (Living Bible) "The grass withers and flowers fade, but the Word of our God shall stand forever."*

C) God's **PURPOSE**.

*Isaiah 14:24 (NIV) "The Lord Almighty has sworn, 'Surely as I have planned it, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.'"*