

GOD KNOWS NO RIVALS

EXODUS 50:11 Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

PSALM 89:6-7 For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings? ⁷In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

PSALM 113:5-6 Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, ⁶who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

*ROMANS 11:33-35 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”
³⁵ “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?”*

1. If God is infinitely wise and loving, and we are finite in wisdom and understanding, how much more perfect, good, and pleasing are his ways than ours?
2. If God is infinite in power and Satan is a created being, how much greater is the one who is in us than the one who is in the world?
3. If God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-wise, and COVID 19 was a part of his eternal decree, how much greater is God than the crazy moment we live in?
4. How can we display our confidence in God’s wisdom and knowledge in our response to the pandemic?
5. The heart of the original sin (and every sin after that) is rivalry with God. Rather than letting God be God and allowing him to set our limits, we want to set our own limits and determine our own boundaries. Why is this complete insanity on our part? Why is it far better to patiently wait on the Lord?

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SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

GOD IS... INFINITE

A GENTLE REMINDER THAT GOD IS BIGGER THAN OUR MOMENT

SELECTED PASSAGES

Several years ago, J. B. Phillips wrote a book entitled, “Your God Is Too Small.” In the book, he describes our tendency to think about God in comfortable categories. We remake God in our image and bring him down to our level. For instance, we often think of God as a doting grandfather. Someone who smiles at our foibles, spoils us with lavish gifts, let’s us order anything off the menu, picks us up when we’ve fallen, and tenderly nurses our bumps and bruises. Granted, God is somewhat grandfatherly. He is very old. He is tender. He is affectionate, and he delights in giving good gifts to those he loves. He tells wonderful stories. But He is so much more.

A. W. Tozer tells us, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. We tend, by a secret law of the soul, to move toward our mental image of God (Knowledge of the Holy).

Over the next few weeks, we want to challenge the limits of our imagination. We want to think about God’s transcendence and why that is profoundly comforting to us. More than anything else, we want to remember that God is bigger than the moment we find ourselves in. Much bigger.

We want to enlarge our vision of God by considering his attributes. We want to listen to how the biblical writers describe God and grow in our passion and devotion for Him.

We want to start by reminding ourselves that God is infinite.

GOD KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

1 KINGS 8:27 "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built."

JOB 11:7-9 "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? ⁸ They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? ⁹ Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.

PSALM 145:3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

ISAIAH 40:12-13 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³ Who can fathom the Spirit ^h of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counselor?

ROMANS 11:33-35 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"

1. In Sunday's message, we shared C. S. Lewis' illustration of the infinite. If you were to take a piece of paper and extended its margins beyond every horizon, then walked to the center of the paper and drew a small dot. The dot would represent time, and the paper would represent eternity. How does this illustration help you conceptualize the infinite? What other illustrations come to mind? Why are all of these ultimately inadequate?
2. How do the biblical writers describe the God who knows no boundaries?
3. Which of these descriptions is most meaningful to you? Why?
4. Why is it important to remember that God is infinite, and we are not?

GOD IS UNDIMINISHED IN HIS PERFECTIONS

When we speak of God's attributes or his perfections, we often divide them into two categories. Some attributes are true of God alone, and there are others, which to a small degree, he shares with redeemed humanity as we are conformed into the image of His Son.

GOD ALONE IS...

Infinite, Self-Existent, Self-Sufficient, Eternal, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent

GOD IS, AND WE CAN BE...

Holy, Loving, Just, Good, Merciful, Gracious, Wise

The fact that God is infinite not only means that he knows no boundaries; it also means that he is boundless in all his perfections. He is not only holy; he is infinitely holy. He is not only loving; he is infinitely loving. He is also undivided. He is infinitely holy and infinitely loving at the same time. His holiness never diminishes his love, and his love never diminishes his holiness.

1. What happens when we pit one of God's attributes over and against another, for example, we stress God's love at the expense of his holiness (or his holiness at the expense of his love)?
2. What is the supreme demonstration of God's love and holiness? Explain your answer.
3. What are some meaningful ways we can maintain the tension between God's love and God's holiness as we seek to reflect his heart and character in our lives?