

BACK TO BASICS

Week 2: What is God like?

This week we began with an understanding of the nature of something. Everything has a nature.

Question: Everything has a nature. Even triangles, giraffes, and ice cream. God's nature is "whatever is best." What do you think is the nature of a human being, or the nature of us?

St. Anselm wrote the following when talking about God: "It is a conceptual truth, or, so to speak, true by definition, that God is a being than which none greater can be imagined." This can really help us to define "whatever is best" and what that means for us today. God then is perfect. But perfection is something that we struggle with. Try to imagine the perfect person. What do they look like? How do they act? Does any real person come into your mind?

Its hard for us to imagine a perfect person because we are far from perfect. But for God, this is God's very nature. This isn't something new or even something that needs to be achieved, it just is. There is a connection between the perfection of God and worship as well. Really, only something that is perfect in everyway is worthy of being worshipped. That doesn't keep us from trying to worship loads of other things anyways.

Question: Worshipping less than perfect things is the definition of idolatry. In the Old Testament, they worshipping other gods . . . like real golden statues of gods. How do we worship other gods today and what are those gods?

For us, I think that it is important to realize in what ways that God is perfect. There are three ways in which the Bible teaches us that God is perfect.

God is all powerful

God is all knowing

And God is perfectly good

Bible Study: Study up on some verses that speak to how God is all powerful, all knowing, and perfectly good. Here are some verses to get you started. Can you find more?

Jeremiah 32:17, Hebrews 1:3, Romans 4:17, Psalm 33:6, Isaiah 44:24, Job 11: 7-11, Isaiah 46: 9-10, Isaiah 40:13-14, Psalm 136:4, Psalm 139: 15-16, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Romans 11:3, Hebrews 4:13, Luke 12: 7, 1 John 1:5, Exodus 33:19, James 1:17, Luke 18:19, Psalm 31:19, Psalm 107:1, Romans 8:28, Isaiah 55:8-9, 2 Peter 1:3

All of this is really great news for us because if all of these things are true, it means that we can trust God. Pastor Kel talked about this and came up with these three examples:

If God were all powerful but not perfectly wise, then God could be destructive.

If God were all knowing but not perfectly good, God could be villainous.

If God were perfectly good but not all wise or all powerful then God would be useless.

Have you known anyone fictional or real that got close to embodying these qualities? Were they able to be trusted always?

Trusting God is a big deal and its not something that is easy for people to do. Having the knowledge of what God is like teaches us that we can trust God. The real question becomes,

Do you trust God?