

What Missionary Baptists Believe About...

The Doctrine of God

What do we believe about God? We believe in one, true God who has always existed and always will exist.

1. The Bible does not attempt to prove the reality of God; it takes it for granted and expects the same of all men. Psalms 14:1; 53:1
2. God exists; he is not just an imaginary being.
 - a. Psalms 19:1 - The heavens and firmament declare that God exists.
 - b. Hebrews 1:10,11 - The fact that there is an earth, heaven, and a universe proves that God exists.
 - c. There is sufficient evidence of God all about us. Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:19,20
3. To deny the reality of God only leaves us with suppositions.
 - a. And one man's theory is as good as another.
 - b. There would be no sure foundation upon which to base our knowledge of either the origin or termination of things.
 - c. True knowledge is based upon the knowledge & fear of God. Proverbs 1:7

I. THE NATURE OF GOD

1. God is a Spirit. John 4:24
 - a. To physical man, God is invisible. Colossians 1:15; I Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27
 - b. God is not to be represented by any graven image. Isaiah 40:25; Deuteronomy 4:14-24
 - c. God is not bound by any limitation.
 - d. God is not hindered from thinking, seeing, or smelling. Genesis 11:5-7; 8:21
2. God is Light. I John 1:5
 - a. Being light, God is a revealer. Daniel 2:47
 - b. God brings comfort & assurance. Psalms 27:1; 56:13; Isaiah 2:5
3. God is Love. I John 4:16
 - a. Love that is impartial, unselfish, sincere & abounding. Acts 10:34
 - b. Love caused him to give. John 3:16
4. God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:29
 - a. His presence.
 - b. His judgment.
5. God is a person.
 - a. Not just a cold, impersonal force, law or substance.
 - b. God is not just a principle, "higher power".
 - c. God is a person who loves and hates, can see & hear, knows and feels, has desires and affections. Genesis 1:26,27

- d. God possesses the three necessary elements of personality:
 - 1. Intellect; The power to think. Genesis 8:1
 - 2. Sensibility; The power to feel. Genesis 6:6
 - 3. Volition; The power to will, or do. Genesis 6:7
- e. Personal pronouns referring to God to prove he is a person.
Psalms 116:1; John 17:3
- 6. God is a Trinity.
 - a. The Bible reveals a plurality of persons in the Godhead.
Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7
 - b. The persons named. Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 12:4-6;
II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:13,18
 - c. Yet God is one – Triune, Three in One
 - d. The scriptures declare there is one God. Deuteronomy 6:4;
I Timothy 2:5; James 2:19
 - e. Nothing else possesses the qualities of absolute Deity.
Isaiah 44:8; 45:22
 - f. The three are one, in unity & harmony, in nature, attributes, perfection
& expression. They may have different duties, but all work together
for the same purpose.

II. THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.

- 1. What is God like?
 - a. The attributes of God can be divided into two divisions.
 - 1. The natural attributes
 - 2. The moral attributes
- 2. The natural attributes of God:
 - a. God is self-existent. John 5:26; 14:6; Romans 8:2
 - 1. He is not dependant upon anything else, unlike everything else.
 - 2. This is because the Godhead IS the source of life.
 - 3. God exists without beginning or origin
 - 4. God shall always exist. Psalms 90:2; Isaiah 40:28; 44:6; 57:15
 - 5. God is eternal. Genesis 21:33; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2
 - b. God is Omnipresent
 - 1. Means “always present”
 - 2. God is present everywhere at the same time. I Kings 8:27;
Isaiah 66:1; Jeremiah 23:23,24; Matthew 28:20
 - 3. God is not limited to time, place & space.
 - c. God is Omniscient
 - 1. Means “knows everything”
 - 2. He is all wisdom and knowledge.
 - 3. Knowledge is unlimited in God. Psalms 147:4; Matthew 10:29;
I John 3:20
 - d. God is Omnipotent
 - 1. Means “all powerful”

2. God has all power, yet is only by his wisdom and will. Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26
- e. God is Immutable
 1. Means “God does not change in nature or attributes.” Psalms 102:27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17
 2. However, God does change in manner of doing things. I Corinthians 12:4-6
3. The moral attributes of God.
 - a. God is perfect in wisdom. Psalms 104:24; Ephesians 1:8; Romans 11:33
 - b. God is perfect in holiness and righteousness. Psalms 99:9; I Peter 1:16; Psalms 145:17; John 17:25
 - c. God is perfect in love. I John 4:7-8
 - d. God is perfect in grace & mercy. Psalms 103:8
 - e. God is perfect in Truth. Deuteronomy 32:4; John 14:6

Conclusion: We believe that God loves mankind, and seeks their salvation from sin and death. To love this one true God, will make one’s life fuller & happier, and their eternity more blessed. Mark 12:30; Matthew 6:33