

THE INVISIBLE GOD

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Never in human history has there been a time when anyone has seen God, the Father, in His full glorious spiritual essence except Jesus Christ, His Son (**John 1:18**). Some holy men, including Moses, did see a partial view of Him, according to **Numbers 12:8**. The reality is that God is a Spirit (**John 4:24**), and spirits are concealed from human eyes. Men are divided over the existence of God; however, God has provided ample proof of His existence both in the things He created and in His word.



Everything that exists has a creator, save the self-existing members of the Godhead. For example, the heavens and the earth are the handiwork of God as is written: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (**Genesis 1:1**). Again, the psalmist declares, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork"* (**Psalms 19:1**).

As well, God created mankind. *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them"* (**Genesis 1:27**).

Please take a few minutes to examine how your body functions.

Are you a living being by accident?
Are you fearfully and wonderfully made?
Are you going to evolve into some other kind of being?

The psalmist describes anyone who does not believe that God exists as foolish: *"The fool has said in his heart, there is no God."* He goes on to describe such people as *"workers of iniquity"*. In other words, they are sinners. (**Psalms 14:1, 4**).

James, under the influence of the Holy Spirit sent from God, writes, *"Do not be deceived, my*

beloved brethren. Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (**James 1:16-18**).

Apart from the wonderful functioning of the human body, man is so intelligent that he has bettered his life through inventions as well as by taming wild animals, birds, reptiles, and some creatures of the sea (**James 3:7**). Man has made these accomplishments because God, the Creator, gave him wisdom above all His other earthly creations (**James 1:5**).

The fact that man has a spirit is further proof of the existence of God. There is a spirit in man, and God embedded within him the ability to reason. *"But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding"* (**Job 32:8**). The spirit of man is that which seems to know God and is capable of communicating with Him. Man is made a little lower than the heavenly beings (**Psalms 8:5**).

The Athenians believed in an unseen spirit that created all things but lacked the proper way of reaching out to Him. The Apostle Paul tries to help them by proclaiming the God who created the world and everything in it to them:

For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing Him I proclaim to you (**Acts 17:23-24**).

The Bible itself speaks to the existence of a God with infinite powers. For example, prophecies given hundreds of years before they came to pass, and yet happening exactly as the Bible said they would, prove conclusively they were beyond man's ability to produce. *"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (**2 Peter 1:21**).

Sundays at 6:30 AM



October Topics

10/6 Sermon #1216
Conversion of Cornelius

10/13 Sermon #1217
Saved by Grace

10/20 Sermon #1218
Created in Christ

10/27 Sermon #1219
God's Plan for Unity

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Science proves God exists. We find in **Isaiah 40:22** that the earth is circular and **Job 26:7** that it hangs upon nothing. Several years later, scientists came to confirm these scriptures. While atheists like Charles Darwin used science to try to disprove God's existence, other former atheists and great scientists like John Clayton are using science now to prove the existence of God.

Thus, even though we have never seen God with our eyes, nor shall we as long as this world exists, evidence of His existence surrounds us everywhere.

TREATMENT OF SINNERS

Joey Hickey

Denton County Church of Christ, Lewisville, TX

When we become aware of someone who is living in unrepentant sin, the Bible makes it clear we have a responsibility to speak with that person and to try to get him to see the error of his way. The Bible also makes it clear that what we say to that person is significant and that how we say it is equally significant: *"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection"* (**Colossians 3:12-14**).



As Paul addresses "the elect of God, holy and beloved," he directs his remarks to the church and communicates the spirit we are to use as we speak with our fellow Christians: we are to show love, kindness, and respect.

Tender mercies. We must be forgiving and compassionate.

Kindness. Some belittle kindness, but kindness is as much a part of this instruction as any of the other points.

Humility. It's not about the Christian showing how holy he is—it's about doing everything we can to help others get to Heaven.

Meekness. Meekness is power under control. The ancient Greeks illustrated this word by speaking of a

horse that was powerful yet so tame a child could ride safely on its back. We must control ourselves.

Longsuffering. We have to be patient. What if God were as impatient with us as we are with those who are struggling? Sometimes, we have to swallow hard to implement this characteristic.

These qualities make up the Christian's spiritual wardrobe—they are Spirit-like attributes that we are to develop in our lives after baptism. Paul speaks directly about **how** we should speak with struggling brothers and sisters:

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (**Galatians 6:1**).

This scripture definitely says it does matter what we say and how we say it. The apostle teaches gentle restoration for our spiritual brothers and sisters, thus, ruling out rude, pompous, reckless tirades. While proper rebuke is appropriate, we must be careful about the manner in which we do it. Some people counter this idea by citing **Galatians 2:11** as a one-size-fits-all solution for every confrontation. *"Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed."* If this is our template for every confrontation, we will find our actions out of harmony with scripture.

The real question is, Why did Paul confront Peter? The answer is that Peter had refused to eat with Gentiles because of his fear of the Jews; and in doing so, he influenced others to join in his hypocritical behavior. Paul had to stop this behavior for the sake of the Cause.

Jude 20-23 illustrates there is more than one way to speak with a brother who sins: *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."*

The distinction in approach is based on the individual. If someone is confessing sins before being caught, if someone is striving to do what's right, if someone is a babe in Christ, let's not use a hammer to remove a fly from his forehead. At the same time, when a mature Christian imperils his soul with a casual attitude, we are charged with pulling him out of the fire. But we are responsible for *making a distinction* before we act.



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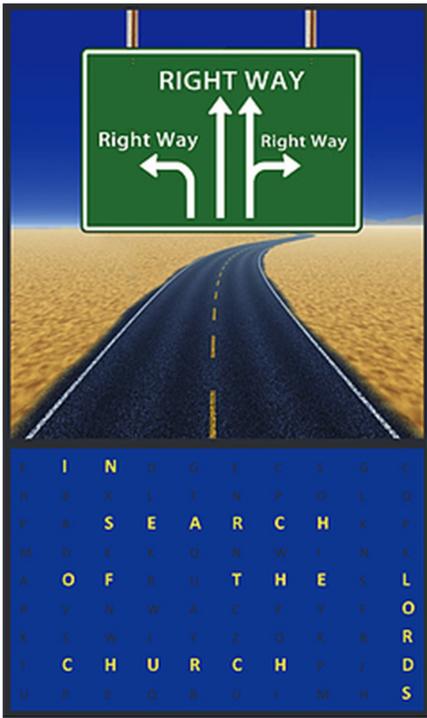
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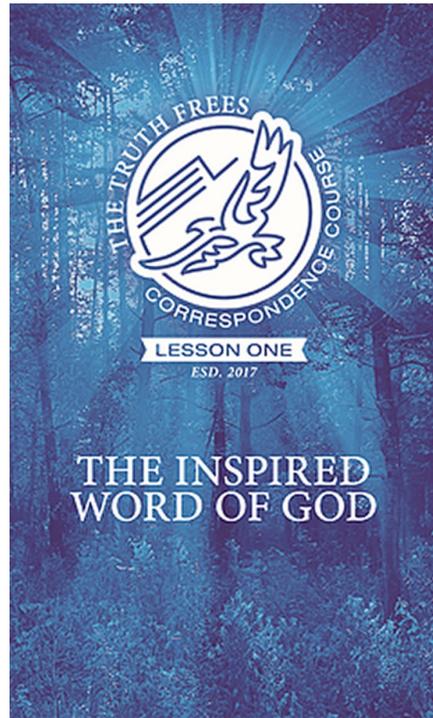
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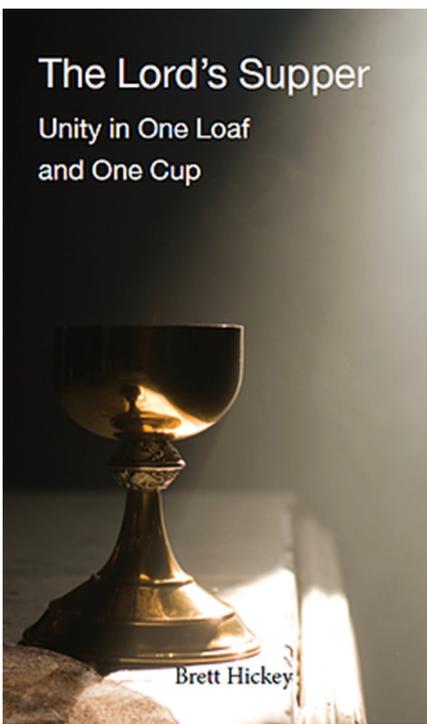
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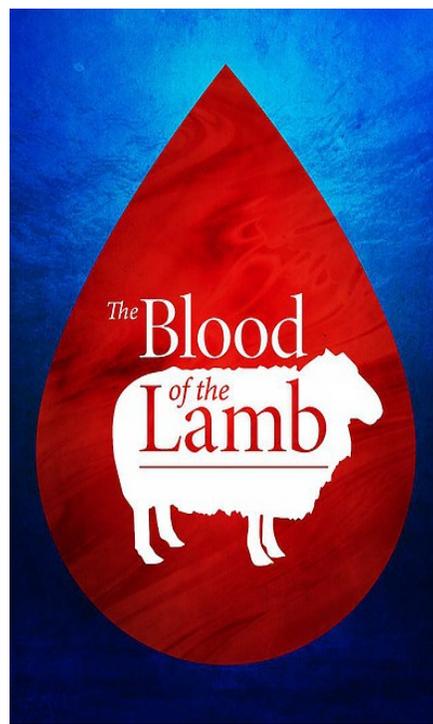
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