

fellowship, friendship with Him. We must never reduce God to a series of propositions or doctrines. It is not *what* we believe that determines our rightness with God, but *who* we believe.

God is not a "Force" or a "Principle"- He is our Father, Lover, Redeemer and Lord.

If you don't know God in your own life, it's time to meet Him! Ask Him to come and make Himself known to you. Spend time talking to Him and listening to Him. Read about Him in the Bible. Worship and adore Him.

# NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP WHAT WE BELIEVE #2

## Who Is God?

### **Introduction**

The Bible never tries to prove or argue the existence of God. It starts with the statement "In the beginning God..." (Gen. 1:1). However, it does say a lot about who God is. It's important that we have a good picture of who God is; as many observers have noted, people ultimately become like the god they worship.

### **God is BIG!**

God created the whole Universe out of nothing and with a simple command. He keeps the Universe in existence- Paul says He holds all things together (Col. 1:17). The Psalms portray God as someone who rides on a storm. Theologians use the word omnipotent which means all- powerful.

God is bigger than the Universe. He is everywhere we go. "Where can I go to flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:7). Theologians call this omnipresence. God is not a part of the creation, as some people think. He is everywhere at the same time, but separate from it all.

God is also present at every time in the whole of creation, and again He lives outside of time. He sees the whole history of the Universe all at once. He knows how you will die from before you were born.

God sees into our hearts and understands our motivations for

doing things. "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sam 16:7).

### **God is Love!**

Just as any normal human father has great love and compassion for his children, so our Heavenly Father has immense love and compassion for us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16).

God is not out to punish people. He is not vindictive or arbitrary. He loves people with a love that is far deeper and more powerful than we can imagine.

All through the Old Testament God constantly refers to Himself as a husband to His people. At times He grieves over their unfaithfulness, but He continues to call them back to Himself.

God's love is ultimately seen in sending His Son Jesus to pay the price of our sins. Not wanting any of us to perish He takes upon Himself the punishment of the sins of the whole world. This will be discussed more in another edition of "What We Believe."

### **God is Holy**

"Holy" is a word that really means "different or separate from the world". God is "different" to the world in the sense that He is righteousness. "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5).

God has never done anything that is wrong, selfish, unrighteous, bad or evil. He is the opposite of all these things. Because He is so perfectly good, and because He sees the thoughts and motivations of our hearts, He is able to judge us perfectly.

### **God is Trinity**

The Trinity is the biggest source of confusion and misunderstanding in the Christian faith. And yet it is very straight forward.

We affirm that there is one God. This is the heart of Jewish and Christian belief. This sets us apart from pagan religions.

Yet it is also true that God has related to the world in three different ways.

The Father... who is creator and judge  
The Son... who became a human being and lived  
among us and died for our salvation  
The Holy Spirit... God in us.

Traditionally theologians have talked about three persons in one God, which makes us think of three personalities trapped in one head, or of three separate gods.

Perhaps it is easier to think of the word manifestations or modes. God is one God, but He comes to us in three different ways. At the same time we need to understand that these three "parts" of God are separate but interdependent. When Jesus was baptised the Holy Spirit came upon Him and the Father spoke from a cloud.

If it is too hard to understand, don't be surprised. After all God is bigger and more complex than our limited minds can contain.

### **God is Personal**

We must always keep in mind that God is He not "It". This is not to say that God is male and not female, but it does say that God is personal.