****

Section: Doctrine of God

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q7. Describe God: What is God like?**

He is holy, He is good, He is love, He is wrath, He is just, He is wise, and He is in control of all things.

1. When you think of God, have you primarily thought of Him in light of only one or a few of His many attributes, or have you thought of Him in a biblically complete way?

* How does tonight’s teaching help you in this? If you’ve had imbalance, discuss how this teaching helps you correct that.

1. We learned in this study that God does not change (all of His attributes are eternally permanent). Read these three passages:

**Malachi 3:6a** “For I the Lord do not change"

**Numbers 23:19a** “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind.”

**James 1:17** … [In God] there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Have you been tempted to see a “different” God between the Old and New Testaments or tempted to see Him changing in some other way/time?

* Why is it important to affirm God as eternally unchanging?

1. In your walk as a professing Christian, have you spent dedicated and consistent time looking to grow in your understanding of God in the word and through trusted Bible-based resources? What can you do to prioritize this? Discuss with your group changes you can make in your scheduling choices to make this happen.

Recommended resources for further study:

-Disciples Church Bible reading plan

-The support verses for the attributes in your catechism

-Book: *The Attributes of God* by Arthur W. Pink

1. Read the following verses: **1 John 4:8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**Romans 12:9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

How does the overview we did of the biblical truth about love reveal the falseness of what the world often calls “love”?

1. We saw tonight that God's omniscience is tied to, but different than, His wisdom. Wisdom is based upon knowledge, but wisdom is not simply knowledge. God's wisdom is that He decidedly ordained all things perfectly, including the best ways to accomplish His decisions.

* How does knowing that God has ordained all things perfectly for His glory and the good of those who love Him affect your everyday life?
* How does this increase your confidence in Him in the tough moments of life?

1. In thinking about all three Persons of the Trinity, how does learning that all the attributes of God are full and equal in each Person affect the way you think about and praise God? (Perhaps you’ve wrongly attributed one Person as more loving, another as wiser, etc.)
2. In each of us, our characteristics/attributes often work against each other. For example, I cannot perfectly love others, because my love can be affected by being mistreated and produce a sinful desire for revenge in me that needs to be repented of. But in God, each attribute is dependent upon and works in perfect unity with the other attributes. None of God’s attributes are ever against another of His attributes, for He is not like us. How does the great difference between us and God produce in you worship for Him?
3. Imagine that later today an unchurched friend asks you what you are learning in this study. How would you explain a biblical understanding of the nature and character of God to that person?

*Final Application and Takeaways:*

1. How can we honor and glorify God based on these truths?
2. How can we grow in our understanding of who God is?
3. As a group, talk about how you can point each other to God this week.