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Section: Doctrine of God

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q4. Does God have a beginning or an end?**

No. God is eternal, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He is not subject to time, and He has no beginning and no end.

**Q5. Does God have a body?**

God is spirit.

God the Son, Jesus, took on flesh at the incarnation and will have that body forever.

1. When you specifically think of God, have you always thought of Him as *without* a body as we learned tonight, or have you thought of Him *with* a body?
2. How does learning that God is spirit, and has a kind of existence that is unlike anything else in creation—a kind of existence that is far superior to all our material existence—affect the way you praise God?
3. We learned some important Bible reading tools & terms (Didactic, Anthropomorphic, Anthropopathic). What do each of these three terms mean? How do you think these will help improve your understanding when reading Scripture? If you’ve known these from prior teaching, how has knowing them helped you?
4. Read Hebrews 2:14 & 17-18 together: *Since therefore the children [those whom God is saving] share in flesh and blood, he himself [Jesus] likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ... Therefore he [Jesus] had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.* (cf. Philippians 2:4-11)

As we saw in the lesson, and as this passage teaches, Jesus had to take on flesh to accomplish the work of salvation for His people. How does this gospel truth heighten your praise of God?

1. Why is a proper understanding of God’s eternal existence important?
2. In what ways did tonight’s teaching on the eternal existence of God correct or help shape you into having a more biblical understanding?
3. The aseity of God helps us understand that He is self-contained, self-existent, self-sufficient, and independent. To say that God is greater than us is an understatement. How does this affect the way you will praise God?
4. From Romans 11, we saw:

*That all things are “from” God expresses that He is the source of all things.*

*That all things are “through” God expresses that He is the means of all things.*

*That all things are “to” God expresses that He is the goal of all things.*

These three statements are central to the Christian faith. Do you find comfort in these things or do you struggle with one of more of them?

1. Though God is immaterial, Scripture affirms the original goodness of our human bodies and reminds us that we will live eternally in a resurrected and embodied state. What are some ways that we can delight in and glorify God through our embodiment in the material world?
2. Imagine that later today an unchurched friend asks you what you are learning in this study. How would you explain God’s eternal and self-existent nature to that person?

Final Application and Takeaways:

1. How can I teach these things to family, friends, and coworkers?
2. How can I honor and glorify God based on these truths?
3. How can I grow in my understanding of who God is?

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