

## Orthodoxy Corner

In these first 20 questions of the New City Catechism we are looking at biblical orthodoxy regarding God, Creation, Fall, and Law. Let's stand at the corner where our lives intersect God's revelation to learn about him and worship him.

Question 2:  
What is God?

Answer:  
God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

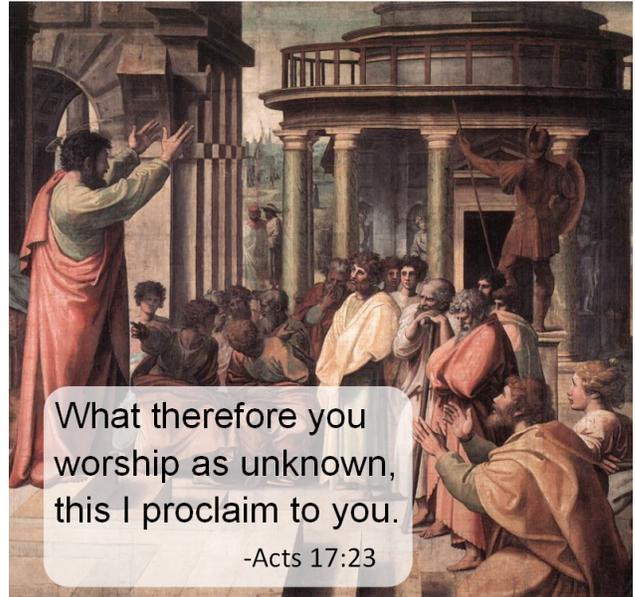
The Psalmist writes about God as Lord in this way,  
*8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.  
9 All the nations you have made shall come  
and worship before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.  
10 For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.  
15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love  
and faithfulness. - Psalm 86:8-10, 15*

The psalmist does not believe there is more than one true God when he refers to "gods" in verse 8 (see Deuteronomy 6:4). However, he does live in a world where people believe and worship other 'gods', and to them they are real. They promise reward if you worship them and they threaten judgment if you don't. Yet all these gods are false and cannot give what they promise or take away anything from a life they did not give.

The writer is telling us that all the nations that worship other 'gods' will have to one day acknowledge with all people that there is one true God to worship. And this God is the only God who does great work in creating and sustaining all that he has made. His great works are the everyday evidence of his nature. These works are all according to his own will and worked through him. The psalmist is not proving the existence of God, but he's revealing what God is like.

This revelation about God in our question and text helps us to ask ourselves and others, 'What do we mean when we use the word God?'. The good news is that the God of the Bible is self defined. Our answer may come from our own experience, thoughts, or subjective feelings. But God answers definitely about himself. Are you listening to what he says about himself?

He's the God of transcendence. He's independent of and above time and space and history. He's the God of immanence. He's active in time and space and history which he creates and sustains to depend on him. He's infinite and eternal. He's unchangeable and all powerful. He's righteous and holy. He's faithful and love. He's far above us and he's with us. As God reveals himself in the whole of Scripture we have to learn the whole of his nature. We cannot take only the parts of God we like and put the others into another god we don't like. We have to take his sovereignty together with his goodness. We have to take his love together with his righteous



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judgment. In fact we cannot know his love unless we know his holy justice meted out on his only Son, as he judged our sins in him as he died for us on the cross.

We must ask God again and again, day after day, to reveal himself to us so that we may know him and turn our hearts to him in trust and worship each day. We must also ask him to forgive us when we put anything in his place as 'god', knowing it and turning in our hearts to trust and worship it. This is idolatry, to have any other gods before him, the true God. Let us run from our false gods to the true God in repentance and faith as he reveals himself. Nothing compares to him.

## Informational Meeting September 22nd

On Sunday September 22nd immediately following morning worship we will conduct an informational meeting. The elders of Christ Covenant Church desire to communicate with the congregation our current financial situation and ask the congregation to join us in prayer and generous participation in the worship, life, and ministry of Christ Covenant Church. We will be handing out a five day devotional on generosity. We want to encourage every member and regular attender to use this devotional during the week for reading, discussion, and prayer prior to Sunday September 29th. We will gather for worship on Sunday September 29th and be encouraged from God's Word to live with the gospel at the center of our lives expressed in generosity. We thank you in advance for your planned participation.



## Reformation Day Picnic - October 26th 11:00-2:00

This year's Reformation Day Picnic is on Saturday October 26th 11:00 - 2:00 at 3100 Covenant Road. Scott Dinkins will be putting together an event team to organize this year's picnic. If you're interested in being a part of that event team please contact Scott at the church or by email [scott@ccotc.org](mailto:scott@ccotc.org).

## Christ and Culture

You and someone you know struggles with loneliness. A 2018 CIGNA study found that half of Americans report "sometimes or always feeling alone." These same people reported that 47% of Americans say they don't have meaningful in person social interactions, such as an extended conversation with a friend or quality time with family, on a daily basis. One strategy that many Americans employ in dealing with loneliness is to use the right tool to fix the social machine that is broken. The world has changed and the old tools need to be replaced by newer shinier ones. One of the largest companies in America was theoretically designed to do just this. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, says - "We built Facebook to help people stay connected and bring us closer together with people that matter to us."

Thanks to social media networks, we can have instant access to our friends anytime we want via the small device in the palm of our hand. What could be better for helping us stay connected? But some are saying this is not the way it works in practice. NPR reported the following:

"It turns out that the people who reported spending the most time on social media - more than 2 hours a day - had twice the odds of perceived social isolation than those who said they spend a half hour per day or less on those sites. And people who visited social media platforms most frequently, 58 visits per week or more, had more than three times the odds of perceived social isolation than those who visited fewer than nine times per week."

The mechanistic tools of our times do not solve the human problems of loneliness, unhappiness, and anxiety. The studies actually tell us that they increase these human dilemmas. "We are creatures who want to share our lives with others. We want our lives to have witness. And witnessing another person's life requires more than simply sending them strings of letters via an electronic device. It requires time. It requires physical presence. It requires affection." (Jake Meador) We must be careful that our social networking does not end up pulling us even more out of our physical spaces than we already are. God created physical spaces for his image bearers to inhabit in community. The common good of human relationships reflecting the image of God in community is realized in spending time with our family, church family, and neighbors. "It's not good that the man should be alone." (Gen.2:18)