

WK Five Theology Discussion

Summary statement:

God shares some of His attributes with us. Those attributes that we can see in God give us examples to imitate. "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children." Looking at God long and hard actually has a transformative affect of us, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." We become like what we behold. That gives a particular importance to these communicable perfections of God because our looking at them in God can perfect them in us!

Questions:

1-How should the unity of God be expressed in your life? What are the barriers that often stifle that unity of attributes in you?

2-The spirit is more potent than the physical as is seen by the fact that God is spirit and precedes the physical world...the spiritual always animates the material. Do you spend more time on the spiritual or the material/physical? How might you seek to shift that (if applicable)?

*Leader: a small example from my own life: I used to exercise first thing in the morning. It occurred to me later that what I do first is a reflection of what I think is most important. I cared more about training my body than about training my spirit. I needed to change my daily schedule to reflect what is really of primary importance.

3-God has graciously imparted the righteousness of Christ to us (2 Corinthians 5:21) so our position in the heavenlies is secure, but we still bear responsibility for growing in practical righteous (Psalm 84:11). What area(s) of your life need reform in the righteousness department (how you treat your spouse, financial stewardship, conduct at work,etc...)?

4-What is the path to growing in a unity of attributes, a concern for the spiritual over the physical, and a practical righteousness?

*Leader: If you haven't already, read 2 Corinthians 3:18 from the summary statement and help underscore the point that we become like what we behold. Beholding God more and more in His Word, in prayer, and in experiential obedience, will shape us into imitators of God.

5-Often we are content to be saved by God but feel no compulsion to be like the God who saved us. Do you struggle with that complacent spirit? How might we stir one another up toward godliness?