

Christ in the Psalms

Am I Alone?

A holistic vision of God's desired state for believers to live in union with Him and one another.

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Knowing God via the Social Order

A “Desired State” of Relationships

*“The LORD God said, ‘It is **not good** for the man to be alone.’”*
Genesis 2:18

*Is this a **qualitative** statement? (i.e. “could be better”)*

*Is this an **ethical** statement? (i.e. “is not right; ought to be different”)*

*Against **what standard** does God refer to in the context of this statement?*

*Aloneness is bad in an **ethical** sense because it **contradicts the nature of God**, who is three-in-one: God Himself exists in community and relationship; man, who is made in His image, is supposed to do the same. This concept forms the basis of a true, God-centered understanding of the social order.*

To go against God’s design is to deny His character.

The Triune Nature of God

Unity, Relationships, Roles, Equality, Authority, Submission

The Son with the Holy Spirit

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I am going away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will prove the world wrong concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”

John 16:7-8

Psalm 139 – God's Intimate Knowledge and Presence

Emphasizes God's personal and intimate relationship with individuals

Psalm 139 profoundly reflects the personal and intimate relationship between God and His creation. It portrays God as deeply involved in every aspect of our lives.

Key Verses:

Psalm 139:1-2 "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."

Psalm 139:7 "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

Key Themes:

- Emphasizes God's omnipresence and omniscience, affirming that we are never alone.
- Highlights the intimate connection between God and individuals.

Psalm 133 – The Beauty of Unity Among God's People

The unity and harmony of God's people reflect His relational nature

Psalm 133 celebrates the unity of believers, which mirrors the unity within the Trinity and reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Key Verses:

Psalm 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Psalm 133:3 "It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."

Key Themes:

- Highlights the corporate aspect of the union between believers and God.
- Depicts unity as a source of blessing and a reflection of God's desired state for His people.

Psalm 16 – The Joy of God's Presence

Showcases the fulfillment of abiding in God's presence

Psalm 16 captures the essence of eternal life and the joy that comes from living in God's presence.

Key Verses:

Psalm 16:8 "I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Key Themes:

- Speaks of the joy and security found in a close relationship with God.
- Emphasizes the eternal and fulfilling nature of being in God's presence.

The Union between God and You

Christianity is rooted in a living relationship with God

John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*

Colossians 1:27 *"Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

Psalms 139:7-10 *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."*

Psalms 73:23-26 *"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you."*

Psalms 16:8 *"I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."*

The Union between Christ and the Church

The "Bride of Christ" and the "Body of Christ"

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body."*

Ephesians 5:25-27 *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy."*

John 17:20-21 *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."*

Psalms 133:1 *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

Psalms 22:22-25 *"I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him!"*

Psalms 87:3-5 *"Glorious things are said of you, city of God: 'I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me—Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush—and will say, 'This one was born in Zion.' Indeed, of Zion it will be said, 'This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her.'"*

The Union between Husband and Wife

Marriage reflects the relationship between Christ and Church

Ephesians 5:31-32 *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church."*

Genesis 2:24 *"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."*

Matthew 19:5-6 *"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

Psalms 45:6-7 *"Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."*

Psalms 128:3-4 *"Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD."*

Potential Dysfunctions and Barriers

That which disrupts your relationship with God and others

Numbers 15:38-39 *"You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by chasing after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes."*

Jeremiah 2:13 *"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."*

1 John 2:15-16 *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them."*

Psalms 106:35-37 *"They mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them."*

Psalms 51:10-12 *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

The Heart of the Christian Gospel

Restoration of a covenant relationship with God

John 17:3 *"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

John 14:16-17 *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."*

Psalms 16:11 *"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."*

Psalms 23:1-4 *"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul."*

Psalms 34:8 *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*

Who is God? What does He want?

The God of Order and Relationships

*“Dominion and awe belong to God; He establishes **order** in the heights of heaven.” Job 25:2*

*“For God is **not** a God of **disorder**...” 1 Corinthians 14:33*

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21

“For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:35

Social Disorder is a Human Pathology...

*“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find **disorder** and every evil practice.” James 3:16*

God's Desired State for His Church

Are we to be Overcomers?

How to Overcome and be Right with God...

“If anyone says ‘I love God’ and yet hates his fellow Christian, he is a liar because the one who does not love his fellow Christian whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And the commandment we have from Him is this: that the one who loves God should love his fellow Christian too. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves the child fathered by Him. By this we know that we love the children of God: whenever we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments. And His commandments to not weigh us down, because everyone who has been fathered by God overcomes the world.” 1 John 4:20 – 5:4

Resources

- *The Truth Project* – Focus on the Family
(<https://tinyurl.com/57ua3m5f>)
- *Why you Think the Way You Do : The Story of Western Worldviews from Rome to Home*; Glenn S. Sunshine (<https://a.co/d/bFLzCAR>)