

Living For God

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Chapter 1 Introduction

This document was written to be a general articulation concerning Christian living.

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Chapter 2 A Personal Relationship

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Who God Is

If one wants to please God, it is integral that he or she first has a proper understanding of who He is. When man does not take this into account, even if done with the right intentions, he will ultimately create a false god or another Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:1-4¹). These gods take many forms, namely other deities (Islam, Hinduism), the self (Buddhism, Atheism, Satanism), or systems or sets of principles (Confucianism, Communism).

The most pernicious form of false deity is that which is closest to appearing to actually being God. It is much easier for a well-meaning serious Christian to be deceived into believing something not true about God than to wholly fall away from the faith. The danger with this is that as one continues without having his or her error corrected, that error usually and likely grows to affect other assertions about God, leading to a possible complete unraveling of an accurate understanding of the Lord.

Ultimately, it is impossible for any person to fully know everything about God or to be perfectly accurate every time in his or her statements and ideas concerning the Lord; however, God does reveal and define Himself through His word (John 1:1-2²). Thus, using what God says about Himself, we will attempt to get close to understanding who God really is.

One Lord

A major part of the foundation of Old Testament law is that God is one (Mark 12:29-31³). This fact is repeated throughout the Old Testament (Ex: Isaiah 45:5-6⁴, Zechariah 14:9⁵) and New Testament (Ex: Ephesians 4:5-6⁶, James 2:19⁷).

God is not a being with three spheres of consciousness or persons, but is one. Jesus Christ is not separate from The Father, but as recorded in Philippians 2:6-8: “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” The one mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5-6⁸) is both God and man.

¹2 Corinthians 11:1-4 — Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

²John 1:1-2 — In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

³Mark 12:29-31 — And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

⁴Isaiah 45:5-6 — I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

⁵Zechariah 14:9 — And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

⁶Ephesians 4:5-6 — One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

⁷James 2:19 — Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

⁸1 Timothy 2:5-6 — For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

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God is Love

John makes it clear in his epistle that one cannot know God without having love because God is love (1 John 4:8⁹). Love is a defining attribute of God, of which one's perception of and relationship with God will be fundamentally flawed if this attribute is not properly recognized.

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Our Purpose

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Seek Ye First

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⁹1 John 4:8 — He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

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Chapter 3 Habits of a Christian

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Daily Bread

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Without Ceasing

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Cheerful Giving

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Go Ye Therefore

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Chapter 4 Outward Presentation

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