Who is God? It seems like a simple enough question. But if you ask 100 different people who God is, you’re likely to get 100 different answers. Some people believe in God, but they can’t tell you why, and they can’t tell you what they think he’s like. Even those who believe in God have a whole range of ideas of what he’s like, and some of them aren’t very biblical at all.

Last week we started talking about making sure that we have a biblical worldview, that we are looking at our world through the lens of Scripture, and making sure that what we believe really lines up with the truth of Scripture. All of that begins with what we believe about God.

In worldview terms, this called the Prime Reality. Prime Reality is what you believe is the ultimate reality, what makes all other life possible. People have all kinds of ideas about what that is.

Some people believe in God. Some people believe that God created the world, but has nothing to do with it now. Some people believe there are multiple gods, all responsible for different parts of our world. Some people believe that there is no Prime Reality, that there is no God, there is nothing outside of what we can see, and hear, and touch in this world. Some people believe they are their own Prime Reality, that they are the highest and best thing in the universe. Some people believe in a life force that connects all people, all of creation, together as one.

If you pay attention, and you know what to look for, you will find these kinds of ideas pop up in culture all around us. If you are a fan of Star Wars, you might remember when Obi-Wan Kenobi explained the Force to Luke as "an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together.” It even happens in Disney movies. *Mulan* prayed to her ancestors as her higher power. *Pocahontas* believed that every rock, and tree, and creature had a spirit within them. The more recent movie *Moana* was based on the different gods and demi gods who created and controlled the world.

In a world that has so many different ideas about God, it can be a challenge to make sure that you keep a biblical worldview, that you have biblical beliefs about who God is and what he’s like. But it is also so vitally important. What we believe as Christians, and what the Bible teaches, is that the Prime Reality is the God who reveals himself in the Bible, and reveals himself in the world he created.

**Romans 1:19-20 ESV** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

That God is our Prime Reality. That God is the ultimate existence. That God is the supreme being that makes all other life in our universe possible.

The first thing you have to understand about God is that there is no way that I could ever tell you everything you need to know about him, not in one sermon, not in a lifetime of sermons. We will never understand everything that there is to know about God. Because God is infinite, and we are not. Which means our human brains and our tiny piece of experience in this life can never comprehend the vastness and the majesty of God.

We can work our whole lives to understand God, and we should, just know that as much as we can learn about God, there is always more that we have to learn. We will never fully understand him, because if we could, he wouldn’t be much of a God. Because God is so much higher, and so much greater than us, because he is so far out of our realm of understanding, there is nothing we could do to get to know him on our own. The only reason that knowing God, and growing closer to him is possible at all is because he has revealed himself to us in the pages of the Bible, and in the world that he created.

There are all kinds of things that we could talk about today, all kinds of characteristics of God that are important for us to understand. But two of the things that are absolutely vital to having a biblical understanding of who God is are that God is one God, and God is a personal God. One of the things that sets Christianity apart from many of the different religions and worldviews around us is that we believe that there is only one God. One of the Scriptures where we see this most clearly is in:

**Deuteronomy 6:4 ESV — 4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

This is what was known as the Shema to the Israelites. It was one of their primary Scriptures. Think of the way that we quote John 3.16, or Psalm 23, or the Lord’s Prayer, that was how they treated the Shema. Each time the word Lord is used in that verse, it is all capitalized in our English versions. Which means the Hebrew Scripture didn’t use the word for Lord, Adonai, it used the actual name of God that he gave to Moses at the burning bush. We pronounce it Yahweh or Jehovah today.

See God wanted his people to have a constant reminder that in a world full of people who believed there was a god for fertility, there was a god for the sea, there was a god for the sun, and the moon, and on and on it went. God wanted them to know that in a world like that, there was only one true God, and he was the God who had led his people throughout their history. It was a pretty unique thing to believe in one God at that time. That’s called monotheism.

In fact, in ancient times, the Jewish people, and Christians as well, were accused of being atheists because they did not believe in the plethora of gods that everyone else did. Today, Christians are not the only ones who are monotheistic. However, Christianity is unique because we not only believe that there is one God, we believe that there is one God who exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We call that the Trinity today. Even though the word Trinity never appears in the pages of the Bible, we see that truth clearly on display throughout the Bible. One of those places is when Jesus is baptized in:

**Matthew 3:16–17 ESV — 16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

In these couple of verses, we find all three persons of the Trinity mentioned in one place. Another place like that is the Great Commission in when Jesus tells us to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some people might see this as worshiping three separate Gods, and in fact, in the early days of the church, the Jewish people accused Christians of worshiping other gods because of this belief. It’s one of the things that Islamic people today have against Christians as well.

Sometimes you’ll hear people say that the God that we worship as Christians and the god, Allah, that Islam worships are the same god, but that’s not true at all. This is one of the primary reasons why. Because the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is also God, and Islam firmly denies that belief

So how do we explain that we believe there is one God, that exists in three persons? – well if you figure out how to perfectly explain the Trinity, you let me know

* My daughter Addy and I have talked about this often, and I’m always impressed by how much she really understands about theology, more than a lot of adults I know
* One day she told me, “I’m having a hard time understanding how God is just one God, but he’s also three different people at once.” – she’s seven
* This is one of those things about God that is so difficult for us to understand, so hard to wrap our minds around

People try to come up with all kinds of examples to explain it, and they are helpful to a point

* One is that the Trinity is like a three leaf clover, each leaf is separate but still a part of the same plant, still made up of the same material or the same substance
* But it doesn’t explain how each part of the Trinity serves a different function
* Others try to explain it with liquid water, ice, and steam – all three have the same chemical makeup – yet they all three appear in different forms
* But when those things are in their separate forms, they are no longer one entity
* Those examples make sense in many ways – and yet they all still fall short at some point
* Again, that’s because God is infinite, and we will never know everything about him – there is still some mystery about exactly how God functions and how he exists
* So maybe those help you understand God a little more
* Here’s the one that has helped me the most, and it’s still not perfect

**Genesis 2:18, 24 ESV — 18** Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” **24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

* That word for ‘one flesh’ is the Hebrew word ‘ehad’ – which is the same word used in **Deuteronomy 6:4 ESV — 4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
* Ehad is word that speaks of a unity that is made up of distinct parts – it speaks of a deep abiding intimacy
* You can think of the oneness of the Trinity as the oneness of a marriage should be
* You may know a lot of marriages that are not very intimate, that don’t have that kind of oneness – the marriages that do display this are becoming more rare every day
* If you think of the most unified, most intimate marriage you can think of – then you’re getting closer to what it means for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to be one as well
* That’s the first thing we need to get right about God – that God is one God

The next thing we need to get right is that God is a very personal God

* We have a God that is involved in our everyday lives and takes care of us every single day
* Not everyone believes that to be true
* There are a lot of people out there who believe that there is a God who created the universe, that he is almighty, all powerful
* But they also believe that he just doesn’t care about us – that he set us into motion, and then he left us alone
* When people ask things like “If there is a good God, then why do bad things happen” – their answer is because he just doesn’t care

If you spend any amount of time studying the Bible, it will become very clear that the God of the Bible is anything but a God who does not care

* The God that we read about in the Bible, the one who created the universe and everything in it – including each and every one of us – also loves and cares deeply for each and every human being on this planet
* We have a God who is personally interested and invested in each and every one of us

Some people read through the Bible and they don’t see that – they get hung up on some of the ways that God showed his wrath in the Old Testament

* They come away from the Bible with the impression that the God of the Old Testament was a tough, and wrathful, and punishing God that couldn’t possibly love people
* What those people miss is that the God of the Old Testament is the very same God who went to the cross for our sins
* We can see God’s provision and care for us in the entire Bible, and in everything he does
* Because from the very first moment that sin entered into the world, God has been working to correct all the problems that our sin caused
* He has been working to fix the relationships that were broken from the moment Adam and Eve chose to disobey and rebel against God
* He has been working to reconcile humanity back to himself
* Every action that we see God take in the pages of the Bible is all building up to the saving work that Jesus did for us on the cross
* So I want to take a look at a few places where we see God’s care for us in the pages of Scripture – one of the places that this is most clear is in the Psalms

I want to walk us through two different Psalms to look at this – this was written by David

**Psalm 8:3-9 ESV**  **3** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, **4** what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? **5** Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. **6** You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, **7** all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, **8** the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. **9** O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

* Have you ever looked up at the night sky when you’re away from all the city lights, and just thought – how is it possible that the God who created all of that even knows I exist
* I can imagine David out in the countryside with his flocks of sheep looking up at the night sky – and just wondering in amazement how God could even notice him, on this tiny little planet among all the vastness and majesty he created with a few words
* But out of all the things that God created, all the worlds, all the stars, all the solar systems and galaxies – out of all the incredible things he made just on our planet
* God created us as the pinnacle of his creation – he put us in a position of honor among his creation, and he gave us dominion over the world that he made
* Out of all the incredible things that God has made – he thinks about us, and he cares for us – because that’s who he created us to be

Another Psalm that speaks of how personally involved God is with us is

**Psalm 139:1–12 ESV — 1** O Lord, you have searched me and known me! **2** You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. **3** You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. **5** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. **7** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! **9** If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, **10** even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. **11** If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” **12** even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

* Again, this is David, and he recognizes the fact that God is with him wherever he goes
* He knows his thoughts, he knows what he does and where he goes, he knows what he is about to say before a word ever comes out of his mouth
* He talks about how impossible it is to flee from the presence of God because he is always there, and every step of the way, God knows him and cares about him
* God is always there, he’s always right with us – and it’s all because he cares so deeply for us

**Psalm 139:13–16 ESV — 13** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. **14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. **16** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

* This is one of the most powerful Scriptures about the way that God created us
* He knitted us together, piece by piece, in our mother’s womb
* As much as I or my wife would like to take credit for the creation of my kids – I was not the one who created them, and my wife was not the one who created them
* As much as people out there would like to tell us that babies who are not yet born are not actually people – this Scripture tells us a far different story
* God is not a God who just set the biological rules in order and then left to let us do whatever we wanted in the world he created
* He is there in the forming of every child, every person who has ever lived – knitting them together piece by piece in their mother’s womb
* Creating each and every one in his image and likeness
* Each and every person that he knit together, he loves and cares for deeply
* God knew you before you even existed, and he loved you deeply even then – that is true of you, and me, that is true of every person you will ever meet, and every person in history
* What an incredible image of the way that God cares for each and every one of us

Again, the Old Testament is full of verses like these that show us just how much God cares for us, and just how much he loves us

* Even though we might feel very small and very insignificant in the vast creation that God made – he still intricately knit each one of us together with careful detail, and he still loves and cares for each of us personally

When we get to the New Testament, we see even more clearly how much God cares for us

* Right in the midst of Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us just how much God cares for every one of us – he tells us that God takes care of the birds of the air, and the flowers of the field
* The God who takes care of the birds and the flowers cares for you far more than a bird – he loves you far more than a flower
* If he takes care of those things so well that they don’t have a thing to worry about – then neither do you or I

Paul talks about this in a little more theological way in

**Romans 8:28, 8.31-32, 8.37-38 ESV —28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* Those are some of the most encouraging and uplifting words that I can think of
* That is a powerful message of God’s love for us, of how much God cares for us – it is so powerful that there is only one statement, one message that is more powerful than that
* There is only one way that we can know with even more certainty that our God is a personal God, who is here with us, he loves us, he cares for us, and he would do anything to make sure we get to spend eternity with him

The single clearest way that we can see the personal and intimate love of God for every one of us – is that God chose to come down and live among us, he chose to come here as a man, and he chose to give his life for our sins

**John 3:16–17 ESV — 16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

* If you want to know if God loves you and cares for you – the best answer I can give you is that he sent his son to die for you – and if that’s not love, I don’t know what is
* If that’s not a God who is personally and intimately involved in the lives of humanity – then I don’t know what is

A biblical worldview begins with believing the truth of what the Bible tells us about who God is

* What you believe about God filters down into everything else about what you believe and who you are
* The Bible tells us that we serve a God who is one God, the only true God
* He is a God who is personally involved in our lives – he loves and cares for each one of us
* God is real, God is powerful, God loved you before he knit you together in your mother’s womb
* Even though we are sinful people – God gave us a way to spend all eternity with him
* He sent his Son to die for us on a cross so that we could be free of our sin, so we could know his grace and forgiveness, and we could be with him forever

We’re going to have the worship team come back up now – and we’re going to have a time of invitation

* There are three specific invitations we offer during this time
* First of all, if you have never committed your life to Christ, if you’ve never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, we invite you to do that today
* If you are a believer in Jesus but you have never been baptized before – then we would like to invite you to make the decision to be baptized today
* If you are looking for a church family, a place you can call home – then we would love to have you join us here at Agape and become a member of this body of believers
* If you need to make a decision today, we invite you to come forward during this next song
* If you’re too nervous to come in front of everyone, or if you just aren’t sure yet – come and talk us, and we would be glad to help you