

Can We Know God? (Pt 1 God is Love)

God reveals himself in creation (righteousness revealed, wrath revealed unrighteous suppress truth)

Rom 1:19-20 ESV For **what can be known about God is plain** to them, because **God has shown it to them**. 20 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**.

God reveals himself through Jesus' life

Joh 14:8-9 ESV Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father**. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

God reveals himself in Scripture

Luk 24:27 ESV And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself**.

GOD IS LOVE 1Jn 4:7-21 ESV (he IS love, love defined, embodiment of love)

God's Love has a profound affect on my relationship to other people

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, **because God is love**.

- God is love - so if **I am born of God** - I will love others - PERIOD
- John wrote about love more than any...he grew in love, once he wanted to "call down fire?"

God in love, took initiative - did you find God, or did he send Jesus to save you?

9 In this **the love of God was made manifest** among us, that **God sent his only Son into the world**, so that we might live through him. 10 **In this is love**, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us** and **sent his Son** to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- Propitiation...means by which wrath or judgment due to sin is turned away or satisfied - Jesus' sacrifice
- If God SO LOVED us...we ought to love one another

Love is another way we can "SEE" God, He has given us his Spirit, Confess Jesus is the Son of God

12 **No one has ever seen God; if we love one another**, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this **we know that we abide in him** and he in us, because **he has given us of his Spirit**. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him, and he in God**.

- We have never SEEN God, But he LIVES in us, MATURES his Love in us, Gives us his SPIRIT
- We KNOW and BELIEVE - this is a beautiful inter-relationship of the trinity

This KNOWING HIM, ABIDING IN HIM gives us confidence on the day of judgment

16 So we have come to **know and to believe** the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 **By this is love perfected** with us, so that we may have **confidence for the day of judgment**, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is **no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear**. For **fear has to do with punishment**, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

The Real Test

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 **If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.