

From the West Meadow
Pastor Wes Higgins

How would you describe God? OR maybe the best question is, “How does God describe Himself?” Theologians will tell you God is omnipotent, omnipresent, etc...They tell us everything yet leave us with nothing; they leave us a God without substance or form—nothing but a vapor, hard to relate to, hard to understand, hard to take personal interest in.

Indeed, “God is Spirit” (John 4:24). But in the context of this scripture, Jesus is not describing the essence of God, but that we can worship Him at any time in any place. If we want to find out how God wants us to understand Him, we must go not to some theological study, but to the Word of truth, His personal instruction book: the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible doesn’t focus on God as a vapor, invisible and indiscernible; rather, it describes a being who has form and substance, a Being that can be discerned by the five senses. “Let Us make man in Our image.” (Genesis 1:16-17) Don’t focus on the theological application of this verse, but on the practical application—God has image and form. In Genesis chapter 2 He describes Himself in human terms as resting. In Genesis 3, God is described as having “presence”, making sound walking and being able to be seen by Adam and Eve. In Exodus 24, Moses and seventy of the elders not only saw God but ate and drank with Him. Throughout the Bible God is described as having a body and physically using the five senses...God reveals Himself with human-like attributes so we can have a personal relationship with Him.

In the New Testament when Jesus Christ is asked by Philip to show them the Father, He replied, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father” (John 14:8-9). After the resurrection when Jesus appeared to His disciples behind closed doors, He explained to them that they have a wrong concept about what spirit is. They apparently believed that spirit—as in “God is Spirit”—has no form or substance and is nothing but vapor. He showed them that He as spirit has both form and substance: they can touch and feel Him. He even sat down and enjoyed a meal with them. (Luke 24:36-43).

God not only reveals Himself as having form and substance that we can relate to, but He also reveals Himself in another way we can relate to—as Father and Son, as family, the basic building block of society (Matthew 11:27).

There is one more aspect of His nature we need to bring into the equation, and that is “God is love.” (1 John 4:8) Not that God *has* love, but that His very being, His essence, *is* love. He is the source of all love. He loves us more than life itself (Romans 5:8).

As Christians, we can have a child-like relationship with God (1 John 3:2). Just as a loving father would be, God is available to us in our time of need and in our time of joy, 24 hours a day.

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