

The Self-Existent God

John 1:1 [NIV] *“In the beginning was ...”*

We need to meditate on the eternal nature of God if we are to worship Him as we should.

When the heavens and earth were yet to be brought into existence God existed!

When time was something yet unknown God existed!

If we erased time and everything in the universe, and reach back to before creation, we come to a point where there was nothing and nobody except the self-existent, eternal God.

The God with whom we have to deal has never had to receive anything from anybody.

There is **no** one and **no** thing to whom God has ever been in debt for His existence.

God does not need anything.

If God needed help or strength, He would **not** be omnipotent [God’s ability to do whatever is consistent with His own character] and He would **not** then be God.

If God needed advice and counsel, He would **not** be Sovereign.

If God needed wisdom, He would **no longer** be omniscient [all knowing].

If God needed support and sustenance, He could **not** be self-existent.

The phrase *“in the beginning”*, does **not** mark a birth date for God!!

This phrase refers to a point in time [as we think of it] when God ceased to be alone, and began to create time and space, creatures and beings.

John 1:1-2 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”*

God always existed in a triune nature, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

John 5:17 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”*

In this existence, before creation, God was already working; busy with eternal mercies, His mind stirring with merciful thoughts and redemptive plans for a humanity **not** yet created.

Why?

1 John 4:8 [NIV] *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

God is love, the Greek word translated *“love”* is *“agapé”*. This type of love demands another person to receive that love.

[*“Agapé”* – a spontaneous love, irrespective of the rights or response of the person receiving this love. A sacrificial love where the selfish desires are sacrificed in order to show this love to others.]

John 14:20-21 [NIV] *“On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. **He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.**”*

Jesus and the Father will show their love for us through the Holy Spirit, who is the third person of the one God.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever — **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**. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

Jesus comes to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The love of the triune God is so great that it must spill over eventually into the lives of billions of human beings made in God's image [a shadow of the real thing] and then creates them in the likeness of God, His character that is based on “*agapé*” love.

Ephesians 1:4-6 [NIV] *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”*

God in His Sovereignty chooses who is called and when they are called.

2 Peter 3:9 [NIV] *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**”*

God in His perfect wisdom knows when is the best time to call a human being and lead them to repentance and redemption. It may be in this life or in a future life after a physical resurrection.

Revelation 20:11-13 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened**. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

For all who are **not** called in this present life.

1 Peter 1:1-2 [NIV] *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through the sanctifying work of the **Spirit**, for obedience to **Jesus Christ** and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”*

All persons of the triune God are part of this great redemptive plan that God formulated before anything was created.

Matter and materialism.

Should we condemn and fight against materialism?

Things that God has created that yield to the senses are material things and they are **not** bad.

The problem occurs when we as human beings created in the “*image*” [shadow] of God look on and treat these material things as the ultimate, and nothing else is of real value.

Material things are temporal, given to us by God for our benefit, but only for a short time, they are **not** an end in themselves.

What is really important in God's eyes is that which is eternal.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now **this is eternal life**: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Eternal life, as contrasted to physical life, is spiritual.

The word translated “know” is Greek “ginōskō” referring to an intimate relationship.

Luke 1:34 [King James] *“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?”*

The same Greek word “ginōskō” is used here describing the intimate relationship between a husband and wife that ends in the birth of children.

As I have mentioned many times before, “true Christianity is **not** a religion but a relationship.”

The ultimate relationship that God is seeking to begin now, to last on beyond time, with every created human being.

1 John 5:11-12 [NIV] *“And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son**. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

Eternal life is given now if we conform to the conditions, allow Jesus Christ to come into our lives and direct them.

In the creation account God had to have some place to put physical matter so He created space.

To allow this physical matter to move around and change God created time.

Time does **not** make a baby grow, a sequence of events brings about change, but for that sequence of events to occur we need time.

God created life in order that we may be conscious of time, space and motion of matter.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is **the spirit in a man**, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

God placed spirit in every human being in order that we may be conscious of God Himself, who is spirit.

This is how we are able to have this intimate relationship with the self-existent God who is spirit.

May I suggest that we stop reading at this point and meditate on the very deep and profound truths we have just read, and seek to assimilate them.

God doesn't need us for He is self-sufficient.

I could never offer myself to a god who needed me.

If God needed me, I could **not** respect Him, and if I could **not** respect Him, I could **not** worship Him as I should.

Isaiah 55:8-9 [NIV] *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

The fact is God is riding high above this physical world as if the clouds are the dust of His feet.

If we do **not** yield to God and follow Him we will lose all and God will lose nothing.

God has made it very plain in scripture that there is a hell; a place for people who do **not** want to receive His love [undeserved grace] and reflect that love by loving Him and other human beings.

1 Peter 3:9 [NIV] *“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”*

The sadness and tragedy of this fact is that all human beings are precious to God because they are made in His image.

Even fallen and perishing human beings have the potential to be created in God’s likeness [character] and God continues to send His grace [love] upon them right up to the time they totally and finally reject His offer to fulfil in them His desire and master plan.

Sin is a disease.

Lawlessness, rebellion against our Creator and transgression [missing the very reason for life].

It is wasting the most precious of all treasures on earth, an intimate relationship with our Loving Creator.

Any human being who does **not** have Christ, in the person of the Holy Spirit, in his life is lost.

They have lost something that is beyond any material fortune and wealth.

They have lost something that is eternal.

In a time when it seems that all humanity is focussed on what is temporal, God is asking us to proclaim that He and only He is reality and eternal.

We need to encourage all people to ask the question, *“Where did I come from and why am I here?”*

For **only** Christians can give a satisfactory answer.

Colossians 1:9-14 [NIV] *“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

We need to be able to explain to other human beings how God wants us all to share eternity with Him in His created family [kingdom] and has sent His Son Jesus Christ to make this possible.

How?

By redeeming us from the penalty of sin, that has placed us on “*death row*”.

Colossians 1:15-16 [NIV] **“He** [Jesus Christ] *is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*”

All things, including human beings, are created by Jesus Christ and are created “for Him”, that is, for Him to have an intimate relationship with Him.

Ephesians 5:22-32 [NIV] *“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. “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.*”

This relationship between Jesus Christ and the church [all true Christians] is likened to the intimate marriage relationship.

Because physical marriage is the perfect example of our relationship with God, Satan is doing all he can at this time to destroy marriage.

Colossians 1:17-20 [NIV] *“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”*

Through the Christian church with Jesus as its head, directing all it thinks and does, God will reconcile all humanity to Himself.

Colossians 1:21-23 [NIV] *“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation —if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”*

This is the Gospel, Good News, we are to bring to all humanity.

Our business is **not** to argue with our generation nor to try to persuade or prove.

Our job is to proclaim “*this saith the Lord*” for then we make God responsible for the outcome.

God made us for Himself, to be the object of His grace, His love, whatever more we add to this is but commentary.