

Who is God?

Week 1 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm

Message Mate

- The spirit realm refers to the non-physical reality that exists beyond the physical universe. While about 80% of people in many nations believe in a spiritual reality beyond the natural world, the spirit realm is a biblical reality. In Genesis 1:1,2 the co-existence of the both realms is evident. Similarly the Book of Revelation references the presence of God, angels, human spirits, Satan and demons. Jesus spoke of two kingdoms, the Kingdom of God (or light Mt 6:33) and the Kingdom of Satan (or darkness Mt 12:26).
- Who is God? A creed is a statement of beliefs and the Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed both reveal that God is the creator of heaven and earth, with the Nicene Creed stating that God is the creator of all things visible and invisible. God is the creator and not created. The Athanasian Creed states clearly that God is uncreated. Colossians 1:15-17 shows us that God is uncreated, is the creator, supreme over all creation and holds all of creation together, while Revelation 1:8 shows that God is eternal
- God is One God, yet three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Father God is our creator who makes each person with love, skill and devotion (Is 64:8). Our Father God is a loving Father and we are his children (Gal 4:6,7) who He welcomes back into relationship with Him (Luke 15:11-32). Our Father is a holy and just God who will not tolerate evil and made a way for sin to be dealt with.
- Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is God who became flesh (incarnation) to lived among us. He died on the cross to defeat the power of sin, death and the devil and made a way for us to be restored back into relationship with God.
- When a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in them. He is present, dwelling in them and bringing life to their human spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks to us and leads us in the ways of God. He empowers us and gives spiritual gifts to us so that we can release the goodness of God to those around us.
- The Westminster Catechism states that “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.” Our God is an awesome God, who is loving, powerful and life-giving. Knowing this is essential to standing against evil in this world and helping us release the Kingdom of God.

Some Questions to Consider

1. When you think of the spirit realm, what are your first thoughts? Have you considered that this is a biblical reality?
2. As followers of Jesus Christ, you are engaging in spiritual realities whenever you pray and read the Bible. Have you experienced both positive and negative spiritual challenges in your Christian faith? Consider discussing this with others in the group.
3. Read Galatians 1:15-17. Discuss the key points in this passage relating to God as creator, but not created and supreme over all creation.

Comment:

The concept of the Trinity is a challenging one, but the focus on this series is not to understand the Trinity in its entirety (no-one has done that yet), but to know that God is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet One God.

4. As you consider God the Father, discuss the following, "God is our loving heavenly Father who made you, knows you and loves you more than you will ever understand."
5. As you consider Jesus the Son, discuss the following, "Jesus shows his love for us when He died on the cross, becoming sin for us so that we could come into a right, healthy and relationship with God."
6. As you consider the Holy Spirit, discuss the following, "The Holy Spirit works in us to restore us back towards the person God created us to be, He speaks to us, brings light and understanding to the Word of God and empowers us to stand against evil in this world."

Pray –

Pray with a focus on praising our loving God, who made you, knows you and made a way for you to be in relationship with Him.

Pray asking God to help you to know Him better.