

JUST WHO IS YOUR GOD?

Ask the average North American to describe his god and you might get an answer something like the typical Japanese reply: “God is in a high place with His back turned, caring absolutely nothing about mankind.” You might get this response in Beijing or Budapest, Detroit or Dusseldorf, Saudi Arabia or South America.

Three worldviews and the plethora of historic philosophers affect a person’s view of God.

I. MONISM

is the belief that while ultimate reality may be spiritual, it is impersonal.

- ◆ **Atheism** states that God does not exist.
- ◆ **Naturalism** insists the universe can be explained solely in terms of scientific law.
Agnosticism says IF God exists, He cannot be known, and tragically, most agnostics make little effort to know Him.
- ◆ **Secular Humanism** believes that man is “getting better and better every day in every way.” September 11 dismantles that theory!

- ◆ **Rationalism** elevates reason above God.
- ◆ **Politicism** replaces God with country.

II. TRANSCENDENTALISM

Is the belief that ultimate reality is spiritual rather than material.

- ◆ **Animism**, with its emphasis upon the spirit world stresses the human spirit (ancestor worship) and other fearful deities.
- ◆ **Pantheism** teaches that God is in everything. This view promulgated by Hinduism can be seen in other religions, and is widely promoted by followers of the New Age cult.

III. THEISM

Is the belief that ultimate reality is in God. Yet being a theist is no guarantee of a biblical view of God.

- ◆ **Deism** offers a personal god, but states that this deity has abandoned the world.
- ◆ **Sacramentalism** places the church over God.
- ◆ **Universalism** states all mankind is saved; they just need to be informed of that fact.

WHAT CAN WE OFFER TO THOSE WITH SUCH CONFUSED, DISTORTED VIEWS OF GOD?

- ◆ **The Word of God clearly speaks of a loving, personal God who longs for people to know Him. (1 John 5:20; Jeremiah 24:7; John 6:44).**
- ◆ **The Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to know the true and living God (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).**
- ◆ **Man is sinful and totally unable to resolve the effects of sin without a Saviour who offers forgiveness to all who accept His sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 64:7).**

- ◆ **Remind those who would attempt to reason their way to God, that “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).**

- ◆ **Clearly distinguish between knowledge about God as opposed to knowledge of God (James 2:19).**

- ◆ **Knowledge of the true and living God is contagious, and such knowledge may cost something (Philippians 3:10).**

- ◆ **God rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).**

In his classic book, *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer suggests four outcomes of seeking God: “Those who seek Him will have great thoughts about God, great energy for God, great boldness for God, and great contentment in God.”