

A The attributes of God.

- ❖ The Bible offers the most faithful, clear, and consistent image of God. One of the ways it allows us to know Him is through His attributes.
 - Almighty (Genesis 17:1)
 - Omniscient (1 John 3:20)
 - Knower of the future (Isaiah 46:10)
 - Righteous (Psalm 11:7)
 - Merciful (Deuteronomy 4:31)
 - Patient and comforting (Romans 15:5)
 - Giver of grace (Romans 3:24)
 - Forgiving One (Psalm 86:5)
 - Royal (Psalm 47:8)
 - Eternal (Genesis 21:33)
- ❖ For his part, Satan has tried from the beginning to distort the character of God, showing him as a selfish God, who only seeks his own good (Gen. 3:4-5).

B The character of God:

❖ God is holy.

- The angels who stand beside God praise Him as “Holy, holy, holy” (Isa . 6:3; Rev. 4:8). This attribute is so intrinsically linked to His character that Isaiah uses it as God’s proper name: “says the Holy One”. (Isa. 40:25; 57:15).
- What does it mean to be holy? It means to be consecrated, set apart, clean. We are holy when we turn away from evil and do the work God has entrusted to us (Num. 15:40; Lev . 11:44; 1 Pet. 2:9).
- But how does this apply to God? He is completely separate from evil and has no relationship with sin.
- This means that, because He is Holy, His love is holy, pure, and free from selfishness. Because He is Holy, His omnipotence is holy, pure, and free from selfishness. All His attributes are imbued with holiness and purity.

❖ God is love.

- God not only has love or imparts love (although He does both), but “God IS love” (1 John 4:8, 16). Like holiness, love is an intrinsic part of the divine nature.
 - (1) Out of love, he created humankind male and female, and “commanded” them to love one another. (Gen. 2:24)
 - (2) Out of love, when Adam and Eve sinned, He sought them out and gave them hope (Gen. 3:9, 15)
 - (3) Out of love, He made a covenant with Abraham and promised blessings for all mankind (Gen. 26:4)
 - (4) Out of love, he gave his Son –Jesus Christ– to die for our sins (John 3:16)
- How can I respond to His love (1 John 4:19)?

C Knowing God:

❖ God revealed in Creation.

- The Bible begins by referring to God as **אֱלֹהִים** (*elohim*). Although the literal translation of this title is “gods,” it is used as a singular word. Something like “In the beginning, *Gods* created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).
- It presents us with the Creator who, through the Word [Jesus Christ], and with the intervention of the Spirit, is powerful to bring forth everything that exists (Gen. 1:1-3; Jn. 1:1-3).
- In Genesis chapter 2, a personal name for God is added: **יְהוָה** (*Yahweh*). Now He doesn't simply say, "Let it be." He takes man and molds him with His hands. The powerful God reveals Himself as a personal, approachable God.
- He touches us, he speaks to us, he teaches us, he assigns us our work... he loves us.

❖ God revealed in Jesus (Emmanuel).

- If we want to know what God is like, let us get to know Jesus. He is God incarnate (John 1:14), who revealed himself by taking on human nature so that he could be seen and heard by us (John 1:18; 14:9; 1 John 5:20).
- He was announced under a prophetic name that indicated the purpose of his life: Emmanuel, God with us. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). The four evangelists present him to us in different aspects.
 - (1) Matthew: From a Jew to the Jews. He is the Messiah who fulfills what was promised
 - (2) Mark: From a Jew to the Gentiles. Always ready to serve others
 - (3) Luke: From a Gentile to the Gentiles. Humane and compassionate
 - (4) John: From a Jew to Jews and Gentiles. The giver of physical and spiritual life