

MY KING & MY GOD

ProTeens[™]

MY KING & MY GOD

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FOREWORD

My King And My God was written as an advanced Bible study on the doctrine of God. Although there are many opportunities for personal application, these lessons stress knowledge. While application and the practical outworking of truth must accompany mere knowledge of truth, we have focused these lessons on the side of knowledge. We believe that the young people you teach will be challenged to grow in their awe and love for God as they grow in their understanding of His majesty.

This plan conforms to the Pauline pattern. First he laid a strong doctrinal foundation; then he made application based on the foundation laid. Romans is an excellent example. For eleven chapters Paul deals with the great doctrines of mercy: justification, sanctification, and dispensation. Then he turns his attention to the practical considerations. He will see these truths in the lives of his readers. He begins with these words, "I beseech ye therefore..." From this point on Paul calls attention to how one should live according to the "mercies of God" shown in chapters 1–11.

We see the same pattern in Ephesians. For exactly half the book Paul deals with the great doctrinal issues of election, salvation, and the mystery of the church. Not until he has laid this foundation does he turn his attention to life-application. When we come to 4:1, we read Paul's admonition to the Ephesian church to walk worthy of God's calling. He uses the word "therefore," just as he did in Romans 12:1, to ground his admonition in the doctrine he had taught them in the first half of the book.

Keep in mind, however, that truth learned but not used is truth wasted. It is incumbent upon you, the teacher, to make sure you do more than teach facts for the head. You must endeavor to present the truth in such a way that the students will desire to make Him their own personal God.

Purpose

The title of the book is the purpose of the book.

“My King and my God” is probably the most profound phrase in the Word of God relative to the purpose of this study, which is to teach the most awesome truth in the history of the world—that God is, and that He wants to be our personal God.

Don’t teach these truths as dry facts. “I don’t like doctrine,” some say. “It’s dry.” Not so. It is not the doctrine that is dry, but the teacher! The truths in this book are the most exciting truths in the history of mankind. God *is!* What truth is more foundational? What truth is more profound and far-reaching? The person and plan of God are breathtaking. Teach these truths that way. How dare any of us teach such awesome truth with less than a spirit of majesty ourselves!

Teach these truths with conviction—the conviction that God is not just God, but that He desires a personal relationship with each of us. Help your students see His continued love, concern, care, and chastisement of people because He has but one desire—to be our God.

It is our desire at Positive Action For Christ that teacher and student will develop a more intimate fellowship with our great God through these studies. To this end they exist. Make the title of the book the purpose of the book—that each of your teens may come to know God as “my King and my God.”

Teaching Strategy

1. Allow plenty of time for questions during the lesson and application at the conclusion of the lesson.
2. Remember the purpose—to make God personal to the students.
3. Use the suggested Scripture memory course at the back of the student’s book.
4. Pray, pray, pray!
5. Work hard at making these studies as interesting and exciting as the truths they teach.
6. Call our office if you have any questions or suggestions—800-688-3008.

Fifteen overhead transparency masters accompany these lessons (one overhead master per lesson).

Each transparency is numbered to match the lesson it illustrates. For example, MKMG 13 is used when you see the overhead symbol in lesson 13.

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LESSON 1

HIS EXISTENCE

God's Knowability

(Check the answer that is correct)—Note John 1:18.

- We can know everything about God!
- We cannot know anything about God!
- God can be known by revelation, but not completely!

After reading John 1:18, the correct statement should be evident. (“God can be known by revelation, but not completely!”) Until we get to heaven, we will not be able to fully understand our God. Romans 11:33 and Psalm 145:3 make this clear. If God could be fully known, then He would not be such a great God, would He?

Taken For Granted By The Writers Of Scripture

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 14:1
- Romans 1:18–20

These verses make it clear that the Bible simply assumes the existence of God. The Bible calls those who do not believe in a personal God “fools.” Further, Romans 1:18–20 comments that people have no excuse if they do not believe in a personal God. As we will see in this lesson, the evidence of God is clearly seen (Rom. 1:20) by anyone who is intellectually honest.

So, you will find few arguments in the Bible trying to prove there is a God. That is considered too elementary a fact even to argue about.

Arguments For The Existence Of God (Outside Of Scripture)

Since the Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God, we must go outside of Scripture for evidence of His existence. (Note: A believer needs no evidence, but unbelievers sometimes want to hear such “evidence.”) You will note below that there are many views about God.

Views that deny the existence of God

Have the students guess the correct word to go in each space below as you go down the list.

- Atheism—No God

The word “atheist” comes from two Greek words: *a* meaning “no,” and *theism* meaning “god.” Therefore, *atheism* is a belief that there is “no God.” Atheists deny that God exists.

- Agnosticism—Don’t know

The word agnosticism comes from root words that describe a belief that certain knowledge is impossible. Agnostics say, “You can’t know anything for sure.” The author once went to a meeting at which an agnostic spoke. His opening words were, “You can’t know anything for sure.” The author raised his hand and asked the man, “Are you sure about that?” The agnostic was caught. If you can’t know anything for sure, then why give a lecture? How do you know what you’re saying is right? Why even believe anything?

- Pantheism—God is everything.

The Greek word *pan* means “everything.” *Theism* is “God.” *Pantheism* means, “Everything is God.” Trees are god. Flowers are god. Love is god. Man is god.

- Polytheism—Many gods

Poly means “many,” and *theism* means “God.” Polytheists worship many gods. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans are some familiar examples of polytheists.

- Dualism—Two gods, good and bad

Dualism teaches that there is a “mean” God in the Old Testament who killed people and demanded absolute obedience. In the New Testament we have a “good” God who loves people and deals with them in grace. Bishop Oxnam, in fact, called the God of the Old Testament “a dirty bully.”

Was the Old Testament God different from the New Testament God? Of course not. He simply revealed different aspects of His character in different ways in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Notice Jeremiah 31:3. Does this sound like a dirty bully? God’s grace can easily be seen in the Old Testament. Eight times alone in Deuteronomy (where God reveals His law and justice) He also says He “loves” Israel. The rest of the Old Testament contains 22 more references to God’s “loving.” Does this sound like a “dirty bully”?

- Deism—God created the universe and left it.

This belief, based solely on reason, is that God created the universe and then abandoned it, assuming no control over life, exerting no control over forces of nature and giving no supernatural revelation.

Obviously, this contradicts all that the Bible teaches concerning God.

- Modernism—One finite God, impersonal

Modernism is a revolt against all external authority, all authoritarian and conventional moral values and codes of conduct. If God is only an impersonal “force,” then we don’t have to obey

Him. This philosophy fits perfectly with modern man's desire to "do your own thing." We don't want a God telling us what to do.

- Post-modernism—Denies absolute truth

Post-modernism says that whatever you believe is good and right if it helps you. No one should criticize what anyone else believes or argue that what they believe is not true.

Consider five major arguments for the existence of God outside the Bible.

Universality of belief

All people, and tribes, whether civilized or not, have an innate belief that there is a God.

Note the true admissions of some of the world's most famous atheists and agnostics:

- David Hume, while looking up into the stars, admitted to a friend that it was incomprehensible how a person could see the firmament and not believe that there is a God.
- Voltaire was so frightened during a thunderstorm that he fell to his knees and prayed to God for safety.
- Robert Ingersoll, when charged with being an atheist, indignantly replied: "I am not an atheist; I do not say that there is no God. I am an agnostic; I do not know that there is a God."

So, we can see that when people are absolutely honest, even the worst infidel knows deep down there is a God.

What is the source of this universal belief in God?

Answer: Conscience

As we noted above, man has an innate intuition that there is a God.

Cosmological—The argument from cause/creation

- This means that "For every effect there is an equal cause."

Hebrews 3:4 affirms this truth, saying that every house is built by some man, but God built all things. When we look at nature—the sun, butterflies, snowflakes, leaves, trees—what conclusion can we make? We can conclude that there must have been a cause. For every effect there is an equal cause. If these things exist, something must have made them. To say that they came into being without a cause is completely unscientific and unreasonable.

- Can you imagine how these items could exist without a maker?

Garden	Watch	House	Road	TV	Car
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- Since man exists, he owes his existence to some cause.

Teleological—The argument from design

The perfect order and design of everything in our universe argues for a Designer.

- The perfect structure of a leaf, a snowflake, and the stars and suns of outer space
- If one looks down from an airplane and sees rows of trees in perfectly straight lines, what does he assume? That someone planned and planted the trees.

Order implies a designer. All scientists are amazed at the order of the universe. This alone should prove to them the existence of a divine Designer.

Imagine asking someone where they got their laptop computer or mobile phone, and they responded: “Oh, it just evolved. One day a couple of specks of dust in the universe just happened to bump into each other, and a corner was knocked off the specks. A couple of trillion years later this happened again. Gradually, over the millennia, a microchip was formed. Meanwhile, other microchips and LCD screens were gradually being formed in the universe. Over the eons some of them came together as they floated aimlessly in space, and the microchips and LCD screens began to fit together. Somehow it got hot, and some chemicals melted, combined, and a keypad evolved. Then the buttons just happened to get accidentally placed in order on the keypad. Somehow, everything got jumbled together, and here it is! I didn’t even have to put a battery in it!”

You would call someone crazy to suggest such an origin for a phone. Its orderly design leaves no doubt that a superior mind created such a thing. Yet, scientists often say that our universe, which is infinitely more intricate than a simple phone, came into being by such random selection and chance!

Anthropological—The argument of a moral, intellectual creature (man) who knows right from wrong

Consider Acts 17:29.

How do we know what is right and wrong?

Conscience

True Or False?

- True | False “There are no rights and wrongs. It’s just the way you were brought up.”
- True | False “Right and wrong is purely a matter of your culture.”
- True | False “Your conscience tells you what is right and wrong.”

The first two answers are both wrong. The third is generally true. Romans 2:15 teaches that God’s law is written on all men’s hearts, and their consciences testify to their sinfulness. Note also 1 Timothy 4:2 and Titus 1:15 which indicate that a man goes against his own conscience when he sins. This universal “conscience” that things like murder, adultery, lying, and cheating are sins is proof that somewhere there must be a Divine Conscience who placed this within all people.

Theological—The argument from Scripture

- How do we know that George Washington existed? History books tell us so.
- Have history books ever been in error? Yes
- Does that mean we throw out all history as trash? No
- How do we know God exists? The Bible plainly teaches His existence.
- Has the Bible ever been found to be in error? No
- Then what can we conclude about its declaration that there is a God? It is true.

The logical conclusion is that if we accept history books, which are constantly updated and corrected for errors, then we should even more readily accept the Bible which has never been found to be in error.

The greatest proofs of the truthfulness and dependability of the Word rest in the following:

- The existence of the Jews

The Jewish race should not exist. Where are the Babylonians? What about the Assyrians, Hittites, Canaanites, Amorites, and dozens of other “ites”? They have all disappeared from history, but no one set out to exterminate them. The world did not hate them and methodically attack them in order to eliminate them from history. The Jews have been the world’s most persecuted race, and many kings, conquerors, and dictators sought their total extermination. Still, they persist as a strong, vibrant nation. This is one of the greatest proofs that there is a God!

- The existence of the Bible

Like the Jew, the Bible has been attacked, burned, suppressed, and outlawed for centuries. Yet, the Bible remains the number one seller in the world. Other works of mankind have long since disappeared. Here is another great proof of the existence of God.

- Fulfilled prophecy

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the great proofs of God. Mathematicians tell us that for every prediction there are two options that might come to pass—the prediction can be true or it can be not true. The more predictions you have, however, the less the chances there are that they will all come true. So what are the chances that all the predictions in the Bible regarding Christ will come to pass? Even if there were a 50% chance that each one of these predictions would come true, the odds would be 1 in 10 with 300 zeros behind it! Many of these predictions would have naturally had far less than a 50% chance of being true. For example, Bethlehem was just one small town among dozens or even hundreds in ancient Israel, but this prediction and all the others came true! Only God could accomplish such a feat.

- The most detailed findings of archaeology

Since 1948 archaeologists have dug all over ancient Israel, and every spade they have dug has further proven the accuracy of the Bible. Not one mistake has been discovered. Such confirmation is further proof that God alone could have written such a book. This provides further proof of His existence.

What good are these arguments?

- They don’t conclusively prove the existence of God, but they may help an unbeliever see that there is a logical reason for belief in the existence of God.
- They testify to the believer that what he has already accepted as fact is reasonable and logical.

Remember that as believers we do not need such proof. Our faith in Him is sufficient. Nevertheless, these proofs may be used to show unbelievers that the existence of God is logical and reasonable.

L E S S O N 1

HIS EXISTENCE

God's knowability

Read John 1:18 and check the answer that is correct.

- We can know everything about God.
- We cannot know anything about God.
- We can know God through revelation, but this is not complete knowledge about Him.

TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY THE WRITERS OF SCRIPTURE

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 14:1
- Romans 1:18–20

ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD (OUTSIDE OF SCRIPTURE)

Views that deny the existence of God:

<i>Atheism</i>	There is no God.
<i>Agnosticism</i>	It is impossible to know if there is a God.
<i>Pantheism</i>	God is everything.
<i>Polytheism</i>	There are many gods.
<i>Dualism</i>	There are two gods—one good and one bad.
<i>Deism</i>	God created the universe and left it to operate on its own
<i>Modernism</i>	If there is a God, He is finite and impersonal (merely a "force").
<i>Post-modernism</i>	God is whatever you want Him to be.

Theological—The argument from _____ *Scripture* _____

- How do we know that George Washington existed? _____ *History books tell us so.* _____
- Have history books ever been in error? _____ *Yes* _____
- Does that mean we throw out all history as trash? _____ *No* _____
- How do we know God exists? _____ *The Bible plainly teaches His existence.* _____
- Has the Bible ever been found to be in error? _____ *No* _____
- Then what can we conclude about its declaration that there is a God? _____ *It is true.* _____

The greatest proofs of the truthfulness and dependability of the Word rest in the following:

- The existence of the _____ *Jews* _____
- The existence of the _____ *Bible* _____
- _____ *Fulfilled* _____ prophecy
- The most minute findings of _____ *archaeology* _____

What good are these arguments?

- Although they don't conclusively prove the existence of God, they may help an _____ *unbeliever* _____ see that there is a _____ *logical* _____ reason for _____ *belief* _____ in the existence of God.
- They _____ *testify* _____ to the believer that what he has already accepted as fact is _____ *reasonable and logical* _____.

Ultimately, belief in the God of the Bible is impossible without _____ *faith* _____, which is God's gift to us (Eph. 2:8–10).

LESSON 2

HIS NATURE—SPIRITUALITY

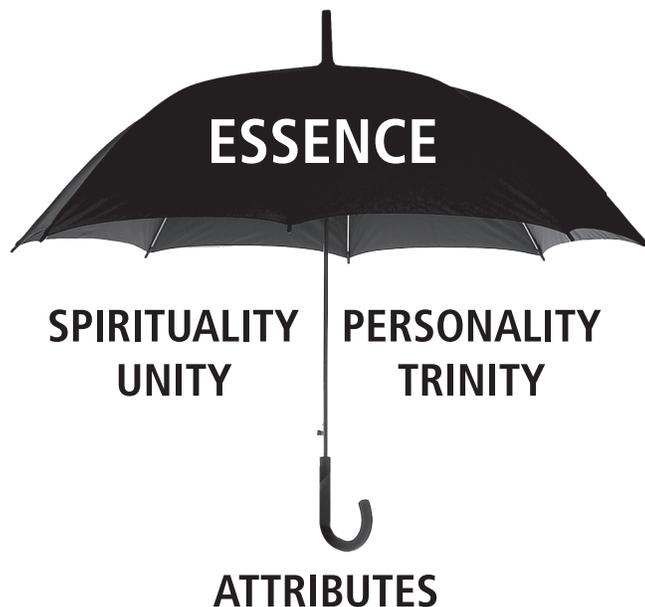
Comparing Essence, Nature, And Attributes

In this lesson we begin looking at the essence, nature, and attributes of God. What do these words mean? To what do they refer? The following definitions will help us understand the difference between God's essence, His nature, and His attributes.

- Essence is what underlies all that God is. It is the reality itself.

Essence is like an umbrella that covers all that God is. It refers to the totality of God.

Teacher's Note: Draw the following umbrella and label it for the class to visually see the difference between essence, nature, and attributes. Add "nature" and "attributes" as you get to those definitions below.



- The “nature” of God refers to different aspects of His essence.
For example: His spirituality, His unity, His Trinity and His personality
- God’s attributes are those qualities that describe God’s character.
They are descriptive qualities of God.
- So, God’s nature deals with four things: His spirituality, His personality, His unity, and His Trinity.

Note the title of this lesson. We are going to begin our study of God by looking at His nature. This week we look at the first aspect of His nature—His spirituality.

The Spirituality Of God—“God Is Spirit” (John 4:24).

Stated—God does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Jews had long believed that God could only be worshiped in Jerusalem. For centuries, the temple at Jerusalem had been the focal point of their worship. Note Acts 7:48–49; 17:24; 1 Kings 8:27.

In spite of these statements, the Jews still looked to Jerusalem and the temple as the only place where God could dwell.

Here, however, Jesus makes two things plain to the woman at the well. First, God is not to be confined to any one place (such as Mount Gerizim where the Samaritans worshiped or Jerusalem where the Jews worshiped). Second, He is not confined to a material body or place.

Understood

- Luke 24:39—A spirit does not have flesh and bones. So, He is “incorporeal”—that is, without a body.
- Colossians 1:15—God is invisible, so He is not material. (See also 1 Tim. 1:17.)

There is no God! I’m 150 miles up and I don’t see anyone!
Yuri Gagarin, the first Soviet (or Russian) astronaut

Applied

But what is so important about the fact that God is spirit—that He doesn’t have a body like ours and is invisible? How does it apply to us? It applies in two main areas.

- With reference to idolatry

First, this truth refutes the heart of idolatry.

True | False It would be acceptable to make a wooden representation of God, provided we made sure we didn’t worship the wooden figure and provided we realized the figure only represented God.

Exodus 20:4; Deuteronomy 4:15–23; Isaiah 40:25

It is man's nature to worship what he can see. Since God is invisible, it was only natural for man to make an idol to represent God. This, however, violated God. For since God is without a body, to make a body that could be seen, felt, and had shape and occupied a single space was to misrepresent God. Further, people tended to worship the idol rather than the God the idol was supposed to represent.

- With reference to worship

John 4:24—Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

What does it mean to “worship God in spirit and in truth”?

- To worship God in spirit:

It is not the place or the form (ritual); neither is it the words we use that constitute worship. Rather it is the attitude (spirit) of the worshiper. Worshiping God in spirit is an attitude (Phil. 3:3).

- To worship God in truth:

Worshiping in truth requires that we worship God in light of the Word of God and in light of Who our God is. To worship God in truth requires that we know Him. We must study His Word so that we will understand who He is, what He is like, and therefore, will better understand how to worship Him. Those who do not know the truth of who He is are fair game to false teachers, cults, and even the occult.

Problems

The doctrine of the spirituality of God has been attacked by liberals. How would you answer the following objections or questions?

(Get discussion on each of the following objections and then give the answers as suggested below.)

If God is “Spirit” then how can man be made in “His image”?

- Ephesians 4:24—The new man is created in God's image (“after God”). His image refers to His moral likeness, not His shape.
- Romans 8:29—All believers are being conformed to His image. It obviously doesn't mean we are looking more like Him. Again, it is referring to His character.
- Everywhere we look we can see the fingerprints of God. Man is made like God, and we bear His image—not that we look like Him, but because we have His inner qualities.

If God has no body, then what do you do with those verses that refer to His hands, feet, arms, eyes, and ears?

Read Exodus 33:11 and 20. These seem to be contradictory statements. How do we reconcile them? If God has no body, how can He have a face? Further, God is described with the following body parts:

- Mouth (Is. 58:14)
- Hand (Is. 59:1)
- Ear (Is. 59:1)

- Eyes (2 Chron. 16:9)
- Arms (Deut. 33:27)
- These are mere human expressions to help our finite minds comprehend an infinite subject. They are called anthropomorphisms.

How can we reconcile Exodus 24:10, 33:18–23 with John 1:18 and Exodus 33:20?

- The Spirit of God can be manifested in a physical form. But what you are seeing is not the actual Spirit but only a physical manifestation. Example: The Holy Spirit came as a dove.

What did the elders see in Exodus 24:9–10?

- An appearance of God, but not the actual essence of God

Conclusion: What practical application is there for us?

We must learn to worship God in spirit and truth. This means that true worship is a conscious, intimate attitude of communion and praise in your heart for all that He is. Do you ever truly worship Him?

LESSON 2

HIS NATURE—SPIRITUALITY

COMPARING ESSENCE, NATURE, AND ATTRIBUTES

What do these words have to do with God?

- Essence is what underlies all that God is. It is the reality itself.
- The “nature” of God refers to different aspects of His essence.
- God’s attributes are those qualities that describe God’s character.
- God’s nature deals with four things: His spirituality, His personality, His unity, and His trinity.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF GOD—“GOD IS Spirit.”

Stated— God does not dwell in temples made with hands.

That is, God is not to be confined to any one place (such as Mount Gerizim or Jerusalem—see John 4). He is not confined to a material body or place.

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—Yuri Gagarin, the first Russian astronaut in space

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With reference to idolatry

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With reference to worship

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What matters most is not the place or the form (ritual); neither is it the words used that constitute worship. Rather it is the attitude (spirit) of the worshiper.

Therefore, worshipping God in spirit is an attitude (Phil. 3:3).

To worship God in truth:

We must worship God in light of the Word of God and in light of who our God is.

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