

What is true about God?

God is God. I am not ... and neither is anyone else.

Exodus 34:6-7, Isaiah 40:12-25, 45:9, Psalm 46:1-10

God is in control. He is working out His good and loving purposes in history. He is as good as He is sovereign, and we can trust Him fully.

Isaiah 40:21-31

From Him, through Him, and to Him are all things. God deserves all allegiance, trust, service, devotion, and glory.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Romans 11:36

What is true about us as human beings?

God created us. As creatures we are finite and limited, utterly dependent on him for wisdom, for peace, for provision, for life.

Romans 11:36, Acts 17:24-25, Psalm 100:3

God created us in His image. As image bearers we have a unique status in all of creation, little lower than God Himself.

Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 8

God created us for Himself. We are called to live all of life with reference to Him. Our satisfaction and peace and rest are found only in Him. He is our joy and our hope, the answer to our every fear and sorrow.

Isaiah 43:7, Colossians 1:16, Psalm 36:9, Acts 17:28,

Psalm 62:1, 63:1-5, Zephaniah 3:17

To look anywhere other than to Him for peace, rest, and satisfaction is idolatry. Idolatry is folly . . . into which humanity constantly falls. The propensity of the human heart is to create idols and to proudly elevate ourselves into positions of equality with God – heart postures that God opposes.

Psalm 115:4-8, Isaiah 44:9-20, Genesis 11:1-9,

I John 5:21, I Corinthians 10:14

What is true about our relationship with God?

He reconciled us to Himself through His son's sacrifice by grace through faith – not in response to any contribution or merit on our part, but only because of His great love for us.

*Isaiah 43:1-4, Deuteronomy 33:12,
Ephesians 2:8-9, I John 4:10*

God defines us. We are His. We are the beloved of God. We belong to Him.

*I Corinthians 6:19-20, Colossians 3:12,
I Peter 2:9, I John 4:7*

We are called to love God with the whole of our being.

Matthew 22:37-38

When we become followers of Jesus we become part of something larger: the church family. By virtue of having the same Father we are brothers and sisters in the family of faith. It is our privilege and responsibility to love and serve one another.

*Matthew 12:48-50, Romans 12:5, I Corinthians 12:27,
John 13:34-35, Romans 12:10, Ephesians 4:11-16*

What is true about others?

God created us as relational beings. We were made to know and be known, to love and to be loved, and to enjoy relationship with each other.

*Genesis 2:18, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Matthew 22:39,
I John 4:7,12,16, I Corinthians 13:12, Hebrews 10:24-25*

All human beings bear the image of God, warranting our honor and respect if only for this reason alone.

Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 9:6

Every human being is our neighbor. And we are called to love our neighbors.

Leviticus 19:1-37, Matthew 22:39, Luke 10:25-37

What is true about this world?

God gave us this world as an expression of His generosity. But this world and all it holds cannot satisfy us. It was never meant to. This world is not our home. God is our home. We were made to live our lives with God and for God for eternity.

*1 Timothy 6:17b, 1 John 2:15-17, Psalm 73:23-26, Hebrews 11:13-16, 13:14,
1 Peter 1:17, 2:11-12, Psalm 90:1, Revelation 21:1-4*

This world is broken – it is not as God intended it to be. But this world is not as it will one day become. Our efforts to improve the world do not usher in the new creation. God will remake this world in keeping with His original design and intentions, making all things new.

Romans 8:18-25, Revelation 21:1,5

As long as we live in these bodies on this earth, we will have troubles, but Jesus offers peace independent of our circumstances.

John 16:33

We are called to honor and pray for those in leadership in this world. And we are called to participate as citizens in our respective nations. At the same time, we are citizens of heaven, and all the nations of this world and all their rulers are ultimately under God's control – He raises them up and brings them down.

*Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17, Matthew 22:21, Philippians 3:20,
Psalm 2, Psalm 46, Isaiah 40:21-24, Ezekiel 28:1-10*

We are called to work passionately to put to right what is wrong in this world, addressing its brokenness and seeking justice. Even if our efforts do not make a lasting difference, they will make an eternal difference.

Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:6, Matthew 25:37-40