

God's Omniscience

Definition:

*God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.*¹

Explanation:

God fully knows himself...

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

God fully knows all things actual and possible...

- "The eyes of the Lord are in every place" (Prov. 15:3)
- Elihu says that God is the one "who is perfect in knowledge" (Job 37:16)
- and John says that God "knows everything" (1 John 3:20)
- "God is light and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5)
- "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, (Acts 1:24)
- "But even the hairs of your head are all numbered." (Mat. 10:30)
- "the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought" (1 Chron. 28:9)
- "I am God... I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come." (Is. 46:10)
- "for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." (Mat. 6:8)

God's knowledge is continually before him and he knows all things in one simple and eternal act...

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God

Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Isaiah 55:9

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"

Application:

- Mankind is limited in knowledge, so we should continually seek wisdom from God, the source of knowledge.
- Seeking to understand God's created world apart from God is futile and ends up creating a generation of fools.

Romans 1:21-22

For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...

- Admitting what you do not know is as important and admirable as acting on what you do know! Understanding that God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours is a mark of maturity; a strength rather than a weakness in any man.

Quote:

- "We have educated ourselves into imbecility" -**Malcolm Muggeridge**

¹ Grudem, W. A. (2004). [*Systematic theology: an introduction to biblical doctrine*](#) (p. 190). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.

Psalm 139:1-18

0 Lord, you have searched me and known me!
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
3 You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
9 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light about me be night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.
13 For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

Psalm 139 Summary:

- God has complete, exhaustive, and full knowledge of you.
- God knows every second of your daily routine every day of your life on this planet.
- God knows every thought, idea, or desire you have ever had or ever will.
- God is well acquainted with all your habits, routines, and actions.
- He comprehensively knows every word that has come out of my mouth or ever will.
- He is always with us and directing our every step.
- There is only constant light with God, no darkness will blur, hide, or skew any knowledge of us
- It is as though you are a character in a story God has written, He knows our birth and death date in advance. He has full knowledge of us (past present and future) constantly before him

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.

Discussion:

In a world of fake news, where it is really hard to know what the real truth is...

- How is God's perfect knowledge of all things a comfort to us especially in our current situation?
- Discuss how God's perfect knowledge makes His Word the only true source of authority in our lives.

Sometimes when a guy notices a girl or vice versa, as they are inquiring about them, they say things like...

"They don't even know I exist." or "they don't even know my name." How comforting *or concerning* is it that the God of the universe not only knows we exist but has 'searched' us and knows us intimately! God has perfect knowledge of us.

- Discuss how in v.1 God's "searching" us and "knowing" us speaks to our value and worth in God's eyes.
- Discuss how God's perfect knowledge of us is a huge comfort to those who are repentant and walking with God.
- Discuss also how God's perfect knowledge of us should also be a warning to those in sin, trying to hide from God.

See also **Hebrews 4:13** And no creature is hidden from his sight,
but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

God's Graciousness

Gracious to all:

- **Matthew 5:43-46**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

Gracious in Salvation

- **Ephesians 2:1-7**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Quote:

A gracious disturbance is at work in the world today. With the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the age to come has broken into this present evil age. It's not business as usual. God isn't coming alongside us to empower us for our projects of personal and social transformation. God did not become flesh and suffer an ignominious death at our hands so that we could have sprawling church campuses, programs, and budgets. There's something more profound—more radical—going on. But what is it? In Christ, God has broken into our world of sin and death and is even now bringing the powers of the age to come into the present age by his Word and Spirit. It is a profound disturbance of our lives and our world: disorienting, dividing, and delivering us from the supposed givens of what we thought were "reality." But for that reason, it's a gracious disturbance. God is interrupting the regular news to bring us a special report and through us is bringing this report to the ends of the earth. Around this news from heaven the Spirit is gathering a colony or embassy of grace in a world of fear, guilt, rebellion, and distraction. Jesus's mandate in the Great Commission is a lodestar for refocusing our mission as Christians and as churches on the central calling for this time between Christ's two comings.

Michael Horton, The Gospel Commission

Gracious living:

- **Colossians 3:12-13**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Definitions:

- God's graciousness is His display of care and provision of all good things to all of creation, and His loving provision of salvation to all who believe.
- Our life of graciousness is a response to the grace that we have been shown in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some examples of Common Grace? (..things that God graciously allows everyone to enjoy)
- What does common grace being available to all say about God?
- What most amazes you about God's gracious gift of salvation? What does that say about Him?
- Are there certain people, kinds of people or circumstances that you find difficult to respond graciously toward? Why and What does that say about you?