

Grow Your Worship, Part 5 | Learn, Understand, Trust

I. The Nature of Knowledge

- Knowledge doesn't breed or cause belief the same way that belief causes desires, actions, words, and emotions.
- But knowledge is a prerequisite to belief. You cannot believe what you don't know (**Romans 10:14**).

II. What Your Family Needs to Know so They Can Believe

- Truth about God the Father (**Theology Proper**)
 - The Bible does not attempt to prove God exists. It assumes that He exists. (**Genesis 1:1**)
 - God is knowable. (**Acts 17:25-28**)
 - God's incommunicable attributes include: Self-existence (**Exodus 3:14**), Infinity (**I Kings 8:27; Gen 21:33**), Perfection (**Matthew 5:48**), Omnipotence (**Genesis 17:1**), Omniscience (**Psalms 139:1-4**), Omnipresence (**Psalms 139:7-12**), Immutability (**Malachi 3:6**), and Incomprehensibility (**Romans 11:33**).
 - God's communicable attributes include: Holiness (**Leviticus 11:44-45; Psalm 99:4-9**), Truth (**Psalm 31:5; I Thessalonians 1:9**), Love (**I John 4:8**), Righteousness (**Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:17**), Faithfulness (**Psalms 36:5**), Mercy (**II Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 2:4**), and Grace (**Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 5:10**).
 - God's holiness governs His attributes.
- Truth about God the Son (**Christology**)
 - He is fully God. (**Colossians 2:9; John 1:18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:8**)
 - He is fully human. (**I Timothy 2:5**)
 - Christ appeased God's wrath against sinners who believe on Him by dying on the cross. (**I John 2:2; Romans 1:32; Hebrews 2:2**)
 - Christ rose from the dead and conquered death and hell. (**Luke 24:36-43; I Corinthians 15:3-4**)
- Truth about God the Holy Spirit (**Pneumatology**)
 - He is fully God. (**Hebrews 10:14-16; cf. Jeremiah 31:33; Acts 28:25; cf. Isaiah 6:1-13; Isaiah 63:10; II Samuel 23:2-3; I Corinthians 3:16**)
 - Since the Holy Spirit is Himself God (**Acts 5:3-4**) and possesses all the essential characteristics of personality such as life (**Romans 8:2**), intelligence (**I Corinthians 2:10-11**), freedom (**II Corinthians 3:7**), emotion (**Ephesians 4:30**), self-consciousness (**I Corinthians 2:11**), and purpose (**I Corinthians 12:11**), He must be a person (**John 16:7-14**) and not a force, energy, or abstract power (**Zechariah 4:6**).
 - He operates in the world today by restraining sin and enabling the positive accomplishment of civic righteousness and good among all men [common grace] (**Genesis 6:3; II Thessalonians 2:6-8; Luke 6:33**), convicting men of sin, judgment, and righteousness by the Word of God (**John 16:8-11; John 3:20**), and regenerating those who believe (**Deuteronomy 5:29; Ephesians 4:18 cf. Psalm 116:10; Titus 3:5; John 3:3, 5-8**).
- Truth about the Bible (**Bibliology**)
 - Every word of Scripture is perfectly inspired (**I Corinthians 2:13, Matthew 5:18**). Inspiration is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit by which the writers were divinely supervised in their production of Scripture. They were restrained from error, guided in their choice of words, and given Divine trustworthiness while remaining consistent with the different personalities and styles.

- Truth about Humanity (**Anthropology**)
 - Man's composition consists of a unity of both a material and an immaterial part (**Matthew 10:28; James 2:26**).
 - Adam's disobedience in the garden (the fall) brought spiritual, physical, and subsequently eternal death upon himself and the entire human race (**Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12-19; Revelation 20:15**).
 - All men are sinners by state, disposition, and choice (**Psalms 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; I John 1:8; Ephesians 2:1-3**). Therefore, men are alienated from God, spiritually dead, and under the penalty of eternal condemnation (**John 3:18; Revelation 20:15; and Romans 5:18**).
- Truth about Sin (**Hamartiology**)
 - Sin is any lack of conformity to the moral law and character of God, either in act, disposition or state (**Romans 5:13-14; 7:22; James 4:11-12**). Sin is any being, action, or disposition that is unlike God.
 - The commission of sin deserves eternal death in Hell. (**Romans 6:23**)
- Truth about Salvation (**Soteriology**)
 - Salvation is wholly of grace, a gift of God (**Ephesians 2:8-9**), and cannot be merited by any virtue or work of man.
 - The gift of salvation must be personally accepted through repentant faith, which is also a gift from God (**Ephesians 2:8; Acts 11:18; II Timothy 2:25**).
 - Salvation is the only way a human can have a relationship with God (both temporal and eternal).
- Truth about the Church (**Ecclesiology**)
- Truth about Future Events (**Eschatology**)
- Truth about Angels and Demons (**Angelology**)

III. Resources

- Systematic Theology Authors for Adults
 - John MacArthur, Louis Berkhoff, John Frame, Millard Erickson, Charles Ryrie, Paul Enns
- Systematic Theologies and Resources for Children
 - "Keeping Your Kids on God's Side" by Natasha Crain
 - "Talking with Your Kids about God" by Natasha Crain
 - "The Biggest Story" by Kevin DeYoung
 - "A Faith to Grow On" by John MacArthur
 - "The Ology" by Marty Machowski
 - "Everything a Child Should Know about God" by Kenneth N. Taylor & Jenny Brake
 - "Big Truths for Young Hearts" by Bruce A. Ware

Final Thoughts: God is so infinite He is IMPOSSIBLE to know completely. But we can get a pretty good head start by digging into His Word every day. As you are confronted by His perfect truth, ask God to give you the faith to believe every word of it, and then live out that faith by desiring to do His will . . . and then just do it! And, remember, you can't believe what you don't know.

Romans 10:14, "***How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?***"