

1) WHAT IS God LIKE? God's Attributes

- a) God is personal, a living God not an impersonal force.
 - i) We speak of God as speaking, listening, acting, emoting, loving, wrathful.
 - ii) We naturally become anthropomorphic as we speak of God
 - iii) God is the pure Person, we are persons in a derivative sense.
 - iv) We must not begin philosophically but with the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Scripture.
- b) God is immanent, God's relationship with us.
- c) God is love
 - i) God always acts in love
 - ii) God's love is for all people
 - iii) God's love is unconditional
 - iv) God's love is initiating
 - v) God's love is faithful
 - vi) God's love is costly, self-sacrificing, suffering love.
 - vii) God's love is transforming & forgiving
- d) God is Just (righteous)
 - i) Justice usually means an unbiased giving to all people what they deserve, what they have a right to.
 - ii) God's justice is always loving. God's justice is biased in favor of the poor, the powerless, the neglected, and the excluded.
 - iii) God's justice gives people what they need, not what they deserve. It gives rights to those with no rights.
 - iv) God also is biased in favor of the spiritually poor, working overtime to rehabilitate and save the sinner.
- e) God is in Heaven (his transcendent attributes)
 - i) Holy, completely other
 - ii) All Powerful

- (1) Can do anything in accord with His goodness and love.
- (2) Can do anything within the boundaries of His free self-limitation imposed by creation.
- (3) Omnipresent...not limited by space
- (4) Eternal...not limited by time
- (5) Unchangeable
 - (a) Always faithful to His nature as love
 - (b) Always consistent in working for His purpose