



The GOD who is|

by Pastor Rollan Fisher

The GOD who is **alpha**
The GOD who is **omega**
The GOD who is **love**



The God Who Is: Love and Truth

WARM UP: How do *you* define love? How do *you* define truth?

READ: [All scriptures on page 4](#)

FOCUS: We will better understand the meaning of life when we realize that God is the love that humanity craves and the truth that it desperately needs.

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

Imagining a World Without Truth and Love

- Without God, there would be no proper reference for unending love grounded in truth. We intrinsically know that love is important. It is the zest of life and the glue that holds it all together.
- However, in our relativistic society, we often forget why truth is important.
- *"In a world without God, who's to say whose values are right and whose are wrong? There can be no objective right and wrong, only our culturally and personally relative, subjective judgments. Think of what that means! It means it's impossible to condemn war, oppression, or crime as evil. Nor can you praise generosity, self-sacrifice, and love as good. To kill someone or to love someone is morally equivalent. For in a universe without God, good and evil do not exist—there is only the bare, valueless fact of existence, and there is no one to say you are right and I am wrong."* - William Lane Craig, **On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision**
- Thankfully, in the Scripture, there is a God who makes two distinct claims about himself. He is love. He is truth.

The Love that We Crave

- We receive the true love that we crave when we embrace the person of God. Why? - Love is not just a feeling, but it is a person. That person is God.
- According to John the apostle, walking in love is a prerequisite sign of knowing God. (1 John 4:8)
- The word used for love in 1 John 4:8 is the Greek word "agape". Agape is defined as affectionate regard, goodwill and benevolence. Agape is having goodwill towards people even when they don't wish it for you.
- All of the characteristics that we see of love in 1 Corinthians 13 are not just charges to us, but they are explaining who God is.
- Agape is what God expressed towards us when he sent Christ into the world.
- Agape is life transforming because even when we were enemies of God because of our evil behavior, God loved us. God's agape is unconditional. God's agape is undeserved. This is the love for which the world is longing.
- Agape is making efforts to center people on the truth of God's Word, character and purposes.

The Truth Who We Need

- We will be grounded in love when we are rooted in the truth of Jesus Christ. We need truth to anchor us when times are tumultuous and there is so much vitriolic disagreement.
- Just as love is a person, so truth is not just a concept, but it is also a person. That truth is Jesus Christ.
- John 14:6 declares “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- At the cross we are covered in our shortcomings and failures. At the cross we are liberated from our propensity for self-loathing because we are made new creations covered in the righteousness of Jesus.
- “Jesus did not come into this world to make bad people good. He came to make dead people live.” -Ravi Zacharias
- Truth is a Person. It is found in Jesus Christ. The sinless life, death and resurrection of Christ is an historic truth that enables us to interpret all others.
- Truth is Revealed. The gospel is not merely discovered, because God proclaims to us who he is in the person of Christ.
- Truth is found in God’s Word (John 17:17)
 - We will only know how to properly relate with the world by following the commands of Jesus. We will come to properly interpret all truth through Jesus Christ and his Word.
- Truth is NOT: 1) subjective 2) relative or 3) temporary

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- Read 1 John 4:8 “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” Talk about the impact of this truth.
- Read John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Talk about the impact of this truth.
- Read John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” What does it mean to be sanctified in the truth knowing truth is the person Jesus Christ?

PRAY & TAKE ACTION

- Thank God for being truth and love as displayed in the person of Jesus Christ.
- Tell God you need Him as He is. Ask Him to search your heart to reveal where you have been deceived and harmed by subjective, relative, and temporary truth.
- Ask God to sanctify you in His truth and love. Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Acknowledge the perfect, sinless life of Christ sacrificed for you at the cross. Rejoice in the resurrection which proves Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- Ask God to help you grow in Jesus’ truth and love by being His disciple. Begin a [foundational Bible study](#) to start your walk.

Scriptures

1 John 4:8

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 4-8a

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Numbers 23:19

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Malachi 3:6

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Resources and Quotes

“In a world without God, who’s to say whose values are right and whose are wrong? There can be no objective right and wrong, only our culturally and personally relative, subjective judgments. Think of what that means! It means it’s impossible to condemn war, oppression, or crime as evil. Nor can you praise generosity, self-sacrifice, and love as good. To kill someone or to love someone is morally equivalent. For in a universe without God, good and evil do not exist—there is only the bare, valueless fact of existence, and there is no one to say you are right and I am wrong.”

William Lane Craig, On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision

“The gospel is not simply good advice, nor is it good news about God’s power. The gospel is God’s power to those who believe. The place where God has supremely destroyed all human arrogance and pretension is the cross.”

D.A. Carson, The Cross and Christian Ministry: An Exposition of Passages from 1 Corinthians

“Jesus did not come into this world to make bad people good. He came to make dead people live.”

-Ravi Zacharias