



Environment-Associations-Influence

Environment: The surroundings or conditions in which a person lives or operates.

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Associations: The persons or groups organized for a common purpose.

2 Corinthians 11:18,19 & 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Influence: The capacity to affect the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, along with the impact that results.

1 Corinthians 15:33,34

God's Attributes / God's Nature

To Know God:

When I say, "I know Him," I am referring to His heart toward us—a heart revealed in His nature and expressed in a reaction that flows from His character, as seen in:

- What He would say. Psalms 78:1, Proverbs 12:18-19
- What He would do. Psalms 78:37-39
- What He cares about.
- What He has feelings for. (the sensation of emotional attachment for the needs of others) Hebrews 2:14-18
- His affections. (careful to think of where others are coming from)
- His Impulses. (how He reacts circumstances or situations)
- His desires. (His regard for Faith, Hope & Love) for mankind.
- His will. Channeled through divine love in every situation.

There are attributes within God's nature into which we are actually called to be transformed—namely, His love, which stands as the foundation of all. The book of 1 John expresses this in detail, which is why words like "know", "abide", "deny", are repeated so often throughout the letter. See notes "1st John Outline"

If we are called to know Him, then it follows that we can also attain a heart similar to His. To do this, we must share in His nature—and we have done this through the new birth and find Him through His word manifested in the witness of Jesus Christ. Therefore, if we are to understand how He thinks toward us, it is reasonable to conclude that we are also to think like Him. Let's refer to a similar list provided above from God's perspective now viewed from our perspective and what God's word places boundaries around for our lives.



- Our feelings for...where we allow our emotions to take us
- Our intellect for...where we allow our reasoning to take us
- Our care for...what we place value in and protect
- Our consent for...what we allow to come in and to go out
- Our consideration for...what we ponder and mull over
- Our willingness for...what we will sacrifice or will not sacrifice
- Our regard for...what we place our attention and concern upon
- Our will for...what we ultimately decide and bring action to

All authority rests in the power that is behind that authority to maintain it. God himself is the power behind our authority (see 1 Corinthians 2:4). He has delegated authority to the church, however, this in no way diminishes His ability to work for our benefit. All of His attributes operate for our benefit, He never uses His attributes against humanity for control, He uses them to give humanity the right to choose eternity with Him. See Romans 8:18-39. Here is the list of God's attributes which are to our advantage to benefit us, not to our disadvantage.

1. **God Is Infinite** – He is Self-Existing, Without Origin
2. **God Is Immutable** – He Never Changes
3. **God Is Self-Sufficient** – He Has No Needs
4. **God is Omnipotent** – He Is All Powerful
5. **God Is Omniscient** – He Is All-Knowing
6. **God Is Omnipresent** – He Is Always Everywhere
7. **God is Sovereign** – The ability to use one's will. Having an undisputed right to make decisions and act accordingly.
8. **God Is Absolute Righteousness** – Whatever is right or just in itself conforms to the revealed will of God.
9. **God Is Justice** – He is just, He is fair and He has no blind justice.
10. **God is Love** – Divine love which chooses to love without consideration of payment.
11. **God is Veracious** – God is the ultimate source and standard of truth itself.
12. **God Is One** – This is the standpoint of His essence. The persons of the Godhead have exactly the same essence and characteristics expressing themselves in perfect unity.