

## God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Mr. Mark Cares is a Pastor who has spent the better part of his career in Mormon country. While Mormons claim that they are Christian, and while the name Jesus and Christ do appear in their vocabulary, the devil has done a wonderful job of polluting, changing and twisting the words of the Gospel the bring hope, comfort, forgiveness, and eternal life into words that chain us to the Law of ourselves. The Mormon religion is a work-righteous religion. Earning your way, striving to become god-like is not language that pictures a good existence, they are truly striving to become a god.

Pastor Cares has written another book, *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons*, that delves much deeper into understanding Mormon theology and teaching.

This book, *God the Ultimate Humanitarian*, is written to show what God is really like for Mormons and for everyone else who struggles with the understanding of God.

We pray that God would help Mormons and all others that struggle with their understanding of God and the Savior he sent to see God's love and salvation in Jesus. We pray that through this Bible Study, we may be better equipped to be God's servants carrying his Word to others.

### Introduction:

Just last week a pastor posted an amazing article on how outreach is changing. There was a time when people wanted to know which God we believed in and what the way to heaven was in our religion. Not so anymore. There is skepticism that one religion is better than another. There is unbelief in even the most basic of Biblical ideas.

Today there are 4 views of who God is. It's important that we understand what they are.

1. The authoritative God: The God who knows what you do and will punish you (think Old Testament)
2. The benevolent God: Loving, not stern (think of grandpa Santa Clause)
3. The critical God: Just waiting until the time is right to judge (think mom and dad catching you sneaking back into the house)
4. The distant God: Sets the world in motion, but then sits back and it amused (think a model train conductor)

➤ Comment: Which have you noticed amongst your family and friends.

### **Various Answers may be given**

➤ Comment: Any other views of God you may have noticed?

### **Possible:**

God the puppet master-- pulls the strings on our lives  
God the vindictive --- much like 1 God will get even with us (karma god)  
God the changing --- God gets smarter and changes things according to our viewpoint  
God the out-of-touch --- Opposite of changing, God is the parent who doesn't understand. He and his Word are out of touch  
God the ATM --- like the grandpa, God is there to give us what we want

➤ Think about your life, was there a time when you thought of God in one of these 4 ways?

Leading question: What made you feel that way? Was that what God was really like, or was that your own feeling?

➤ How do these views of God take away from God's glory?

None of these ways talks about God's love for all. They all at best are skeptical of God, at worst they force us away from God because he hates us. They do not show us God's love and show us how much he loves us and wants to save us

➤ Page 1 defines a humanitarian as "someone who has concern for, or helps to improve, the welfare and happiness of people even to the point of saving their lives." While people are given the title of humanitarian, how does that word really describe God?

In all God does he loves us, there is nothing more that he wants than to save all people have them come to the knowledge of the truth (faith). He wants us to see the blessings he has poured out on us and to experience a life of faith versus a life of trouble, problem and sin.

➤ What is the difference between focusing on *What God tells us to do* when we read the Bible and focusing on *What God has done for us*?

When we focus on telling us – we see the do's and don'ts – it is all Law, When we read and view in the light of what he has done for us we see the Gospel. When we hear the Gospel, we are ready to follow the God who loves us and died on the cross to save us.

## Chapter 1: A Humanitarian from the Beginning

1. What did you learn from chapter 1? Any tidbits, deep thoughts, fresh information?

2. Read Psalm 139:14. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

➤ What are some of the features of the human body that cause you to marvel at the way God has *'fearfully and wonderfully made'* us?

Eyes, Brain – access memory, Integration of senses, Capacity to learn, The body can improve and work more efficiently

3. Read John 4:24. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. Luke 24:39. Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

- The word translated "*spirit*" in John 4:24 is the same word that is translated "*ghost*" in Luke 24:39. If "*God is a spirit*" then what doesn't God have? How do those passages help you to understand the "*image of God*" in Genesis 1:27?

**God did not create man in a physical image because God doesn't have a body. He must mean something else -- since he is described as a spirit, without form, God must have created them in a likeness of him which was not physical but was spiritual in keeping with his glory and perfection.**

4. Read Ephesians 4:24. and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:10. and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

- What is meant by the "*image of God*?" **Righteousness and holiness (right-ness which is perfection)**

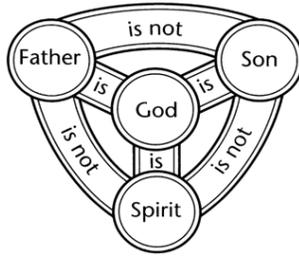
5. In Genesis 1:26 God says, "*Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.*" Yet, Deuteronomy 6:4 states, "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*"

- Why the "*our*" in Genesis 1:26? **Even in the Old Testament there is evidence of the Triune God**
- How does Matthew 28:19, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*" help answer the question? **Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

6. Matthew 3: 16,17. <sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Some people try to explain the Trinity by saying that God just changes how he reveals himself to us. Sometimes he appears as the Father, other times as the Son, and still other times as the Holy Spirit. It would be similar to a man sometimes acting as a father, other times as a husband, and still other times as a son. How does Matthew 3:16-17 contradict this?

**God showed himself, all persons in a very real way at the same time. God cannot be just showing different parts of himself, or different parts of his personality. While we don't understand it, 3 in 1 must be the truth because that is the way that God reveals himself..... as 3 and as 1.**



7. Read the following passages and discuss the way each verse shows God to be a humanitarian.

✦ Genesis 1:28. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

**God showed his love by giving Adam and Eve the ability to have and bear children. He wasn't going to leave children under a tree.**

**He placed Adam and Eve in authority over his creation. God didn't micromanage this beautiful place, he placed it into their hands to control.**

**He created all of this for us and then he placed it into our hands.**

✦ Genesis 2:15. <sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **Responsibility and work are gifts from God to use the gifts that God has given to us and demonstrate our love for him**

✦ Genesis 2:16-17. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

**Worship --- a church --- this is the way that you can show your love to me**

✦ Genesis 2:18-24. <sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

<sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

8. Make a list of the things you could learn about God just from Genesis 1 and 2.

- a. God is eternal. --- In the beginning..... God was already there even though nothing else was.
- b. God is all-powerful. --- He created with his Word and nothing else. Powerful to be able to make things happen only with words.
- c. God is wise. ---- From the infinite bigness of space to the unseeable small atoms and cells and protons and neutrons what God created is amazingly complex
- d. God is good. --- God allowed people to be the crown of his creation, He gave them a perfect garden to live in, he walked and talked with them in a wonderful relationship. A rich and amazing place to be
- e. God is love. --- God gave Adam a helper that he would cherish and appreciate so that he would not be alone. He gave a place for the people to worship him. He has one commandment and not 10. He gave everything to them in order to live and move. Finally (chapter 3) when they sinned he did not destroy them and start over. He blessed them with the promise of the Savior.

**Assignment:** Please read Chapter 2 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*.  
*Please send any questions or thoughts you have to me via email or on Sunday*