



The Fundamental List - Part 2

In every generation, new, novel, and sometimes toxic opinions get woven into streams of Christianity. Which is why it is essential to remembering one primary fact– the starting point and the ending point for understanding what God is like, is Jesus. Everything else was just a shadow, pointing to what was to come.

Getting Started

1. If you had a blank check to travel anywhere in the world this summer, for any amount of time, where would you go and why?

What About You?

2. What is one of the first things you were taught about God? Is it something that continues to inform your faith?
3. What is the most difficult thing to believe about God that you were told is essential to believe as a Christian?
4. Is there anything about Jesus that conflicts with the view of God you grew up with? If so, what?
5. Growing up, did your faith tradition allow for the possibility that humanity learned more about God as time progressed? Or was it more about reclaiming some original ideas that only the ancients understood?

Look It Up

Matthew 16:16, John 14: 1-10, Colossians 2:17, Hebrews 10:1

6. Jesus implies quite a bit about himself in these passages. How do you think this all would have landed with his followers? What might they have been thinking?
7. Why do you think Paul used the term, "shadows," in this passage? What does that idea communicate to readers?
8. If Jesus is our clearest picture of the Father, what is the Father like? What does Jesus's character reveal about God?
9. What aspects of 1st century religious culture did Jesus challenge? What parts of our own religious culture does he challenge?

Putting It All Together

10. Where is your view of God inconsistent with Jesus? How can you begin the unlearning process on this picture of God?
11. Christians have often emphasized (and for good reason!) Jesus's death. But his life on Earth serves an equally important function in redemptive history. What do you notice about Jesus's time on Earth? What effect do his actions have on your day to day routines and priorities?
12. Are you ever afraid to say, "I don't know" in regards to your faith or theology? Where do you think this instinct comes from?
13. Are you open to being surprised by Jesus? What habits of prayer might help you adopt this attitude?