

## Palisades Community Bible Church

### Online Bible Study

# Why Don't We Have The Mind Of God?

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[I'm reviving this study from last August because Pastor has been preaching on topics, this month, that I believe can be supported well by this subject.]

How many times have you been sitting in church and something you learned, read or heard struck you as SO OPPOSITE of your own nature that you were surprised? Have you ever spoken with someone who shared a Bible truth and it jolted you?

I'm certain that Jesus' words in His Sermon on the Mount were very jolting to the mixed crowd that heard it. I'm certain that those who were ready to stone the harlot were jolted when Jesus said; **"let him who is without sin cast the first stone."** Or, how about when Jesus was arrested, and one of His disciples cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant? Did Jesus' rebuke jolt everyone there?"

When God's nature and human nature intersect, sparks often fly in our minds. How can God's ways and MY ways be so opposite? Who can know God that well? I have a friend who will not enter a church because everything he's ever heard about Jesus conflicts with his own thinking. He just cannot tolerate the things of God.

For some folks, coming to the realization that they've been living their entire life WRONG is a revelation. Some invite Jesus to change them. For others, lust, greed, lying, stealing, addiction, adultery and killing are how you get things done; it's the pathway to independence. The Jewish leaders in the NT accounts certainly bet their souls on Jesus being a fraudulent Messiah.

For the average Christian, even reading the Bible can be a struggle because the concepts and lessons are so DIFFERENT from our natural selves that it can become a struggle. It's hard to be so often reminded of how much our thinking differs from God's

**1 Corinthians 2: 10 But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**

**Isaiah 55: 8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
(Isa 55:8-9)**

### **How Do We Understand The Mind Of God?**

Illustration: Can I try a human example on you to see if it helps? I spent a number of years in a consulting business in which we worked closely with “C” and “VP” level executives in Fortune 100 companies. Though we were actually there to work with these executives’ management teams, the LEADERS often became the focus of the problems they wanted solved.

In most cases, we discovered that the top-level leadership had a tendency to do what we called; **“one, two.... TEN”** to their people. By that, I mean a problem or opportunity would be brought up in a meeting. Most of the team was unsure about the best course. The leader in the room would; **“one”** look at the issue, **“two”** figure it out, and **“TEN!”** give the answer. The people in their team would recognize **“ten”** as the correct action, but remain clueless on how the answer was derived. They’d leave the meeting saying; “The guy’s brilliant. How does he do it?” Unfortunately, the team’s inability to think like the boss remained, and was a stumbling block to progress!

When we explained this phenomenon to the executive, he’d readily confess his own guilt! We’d work with him to figure out how to teach his team the **“three through nine”** of his thinking processes if he wanted them to improve. For that to happen, we would get the team engaged in a real project and keep the executive close by, and in constant communication, and s/he’d actually SHOW the team how it’s done. The magic sauce for success lay in the **“three through nine”**; the process the boss uses to make high level decisions. Once the team experienced **“one through ten”** steps of a process, they became exponentially more productive. It was a very successful approach.

One of the reasons the “**one, two...TEN**” problem exists in business is that the person at the top of the organization has an entirely different view than everybody else. Managers in that executive’s business unit had distinctly different focuses; finance, sales, supply, manufacturing, etc. If the executive explained the connection between new computers and sales and revenue and stock value, it helped the team understand WHY they were being asked to do certain things to their pieces of the puzzle.

Application: God has a far different view of this universe than all of us! We are bound by gravity, time, the effects of sin, etc. We cannot possibly process the intelligence of the universe – its history and its future – in the way that God does. Further, there are examples in Scripture in which our creator had to prevent a mortal from looking at His face, lest he die: Moses, Saul of Tarsus, Jacob. Adam and Eve had the ability to see God face to face, yet even they did NOT have the mind of God!

**Hebrews 4: 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

Author James Weldon Johnson's novel, "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man," mentioned a preacher named John Brown. Describing this powerful preacher, he wrote, "He struck the attitude of a pugilist and thundered out, '**Young man, yo’ arm's too short to box wid God!**'"

As mere mortals, we often credit ourselves with far more importance and intelligence than we should in the presence of our God. We cannot hope to think as God thinks in all settings. We can only humble ourselves to His leading and take our direction through prayer and the reading of His word. In so doing, we come the closest to understanding God that we can. Can that be what HE wants us to do?

In the business example, we often heard deriding comments early on about the ‘boss.’ They were born out of a lack of communication and frustration. Those comments transitioned into awe and admiration as the team and the executive drew closer. Once the team could see the executive’s thinking and motivations playing out, they became both amazed and motivated. The team members could NOT do the boss’s job, nor did they want it, it just helped them do their own jobs

better when they understood more about their roles in the division.

### **God Isn't Hiding Things**

It's not that God is intentionally mysterious. He gave us his miraculous word; the Bible. If God is concealing a thing, He makes it clear: the timing of Jesus' second coming, for example.

**Matthew 24: 36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."**

Some things are NOT for us to know. Others are simply not mentioned, like whether Adam had a bellybutton, or the location of the Garden of Eden. There is no mention of what happened to the giants (Nephelim) in Genesis 6:4. Extremely little is revealed in the Bible about the dinosaurs, yet we DO KNOW some things about them by studying both our scriptures and creation (the story the stones tell agrees with Genesis).

We know that dinosaurs did exist, yet they were all destroyed in the same catastrophic global event as 'all flesh'. Why were they destroyed and not preserved? They were part of the curse after Adam and Eve sinned.

**Genesis 6: 7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**

**11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth, beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."**

So, we can never know how horrible things had become in Noah's day. We do know what God did about the problem, and it seems the Dinosaurs (terrible lizard) and the Nephelim (giants) were part of what God wanted to eliminate.

OOPS! Did I just contradict literally everything you ever heard about Dinosaurs? I'm sorry. It's time for us to move beyond the anti-God myths that have been legitimized by society. It matters not to the atheist how the universe came to be – it's irrelevant to them. What they DO care about is eliminating God from society, so their arguments are with that single goal in sight.

Yes, the universe was created as Genesis states. No, it didn't take "millions of years"; it took the **right conditions**. Those conditions were God-directed, NOT as the junk science claims. Want to start understanding God? Start by rejecting man's folly and Satan's lies.

**"What can be more foolish than to think that all this rare fabric of heaven and earth could come by chance, when all the skill of art is not able to make an oyster!" – Jeremy Taylor**

**"There is nothing more foolish than an act of wickedness; there is no wisdom equal to that of obeying God." Albert Barnes**

We know that God created the entire universe in the time frame stated in Genesis, but we do not know HOW. These are mysteries, by omission. Think on it; if the Bible DID state exactly HOW God created the universe in 6 days, would there be any fewer atheists, today? It is NOT for lack of information that a person rejects God, it is that person's preference, or choice.

**1 Corinthians 8: 1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God.**

**1 Corinthians 2: 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**

**Hebrews 11: 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

Adam and Eve stood face to face with the God of the universe every evening, and that was not enough. They wanted to be superior to God. That was humankind's first sin, and it remains our greatest sin, today.

**Matthew 19: 23** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." **25** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

Again, with the 'astonishment' at the difference between the mind of God and the mind of man! I've shared the Gospel with scientists, engineers, business executives, you name it, and they have ENDLESS ways of contradicting the mind of God. They have a hard time giving up their own gods.

**1 Kings 14:9** You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.

Perhaps God knows that, had He included all the detail that humans demand instead of FAITH, a thousand camels could not carry all the papyrus rolls containing the information. God had His word penned in ancient languages that maintain the meanings of the original words. To my knowledge, there is no reference to "laminins" (the extracellular protein that binds all the cells of the body together) or the Genome (the complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell) in Scripture, yet, God created it all.

God created stars so large that our Sun is but a tiny pinpoint compared to the largest star we can see. God also created the billions of 'microprocessors' that cause the human body to function – so small that modern man cannot see, but only 'theorize' about them. Each time a more powerful microscope is invented, more amazing details are discovered!

Psalms 139: 13-14 states that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Is that not enough detail? Perhaps, God chose to reveal that which we NEED in the scriptures, rather than what would feed our passion to 'be like gods' ourselves. For example, if we can just get a handle on the human heart:

**Jeremiah 17: 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**

**“A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees”**

**William Blake**

If we want to know God’s mind, let’s start with what He tells us is important;

**Proverbs 1: 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

**Job 28:28 And He said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"**

**Psalms 111: 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts gain rich understanding. His praise endures forever!**

**Proverbs 2:5 then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.**

Respecting God is the beginning of knowing God. Telling the truth about God is Glorifying Him. Obeying God is the act of loving Him. Understanding the basic truth in the popular hymn; Just a Closer Walk with Thee; “I AM WEAK, BUT THOU ART STRONG... is key to knowing God. The wisest man in scripture knew this, for he prayed...

**1 Kings 8: 23 and said: “Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.**

**27 “But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! 28 Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. 29 May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, ‘My Name shall be there,’ so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. 30 Hear the supplication of your servant and of your**

**people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.**

Solomon, in his great wisdom and wealth, knew to put God above all man can think or do! How well do WE follow that path? How often do we let the ‘tyranny of the urgent’ dictate our lives?

Do we tend to assume God is punishing us for taking a loved one, or rewarding us with favorable circumstances? How often do we let “things” come between us and our Redeemer? How often do we fail to acknowledge the message of that old hymn: “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”? Then, we ask ‘why don’t we have the mind of God?’

In the Scriptures, we find several instances of God having selected men who had already demonstrated the mind of God: Abram, Moses, David.

**Acts 13:22b “I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”**

Suppose we wind up this study with this...

### **Ten Reasons David was a Man after God’s own heart (from his own writings)**

**David recognized God’s majesty:** Psalm 9: 1 I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.

**David was humble:** Psalm 62: 9 Lowborn men are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie; if weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.

**David was reverent:** Psalm 18:3 I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

**David was Respectful:** Psalm 31: 9 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

**David was trusting:** Psalm 27: 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

**David was loving:** Psalm 18: 1 I love you, O Lord, my strength.

**David was devoted:** Psalm 4: 7 You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound.

**David was faithful:** Psalm 23: 6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**David was obedient:** Psalm 119: 34 Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

**David was repentant:** Psalm 25: 11 For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

These attributes of David point to the conditions of his life that prompted God to say he was a man after His own heart. May it serve as a checklist for our own spiritual growth.