

Amos Lesson 6 Articles

True spiritual growth comes from seeing and knowing God—all of Him, not part of Him. If you focus on only one dimension of God, you will grow in a deformed way. Your life will not reflect the goodness, holiness, and mercy of God the way He intends. Here are some examples:

- If you view God as holy and just but not compassionate and gracious, then you will tend to be judgmental and impatient.
- If you view God as gracious and loving but not holy and righteous, then you will tend to treat sin casually.
- If you view God as powerful but not totally *sovereign*, then you will tend to worry and stress when things in your life go wrong.
- If you view God as powerful and *sovereign* but not compassionate and loving, then you will tend to minimize human freedom and responsibility.
- If you view God as a distant Judge but not the steadfast Father who gave His Son for your sins, then you will tend to assume God is mad at you whenever things go wrong.
- If you view God as true and right but not beautiful and all-satisfying, then you will be content in knowing the right doctrines while serving God halfheartedly, failing to desire Him with all your heart as you struggle with attraction to the things of this world.
- If you view God as the One who guarantees your prosperity and good fortune in this life now, then you will be disillusioned when things go wrong. You will fail to experience the sweetness of His presence and promises in the midst of pain.

Do you see how our view of God leads to different kinds of behavior? The patterns in our life can be traced back to our understanding of who God is. Look for the places of stress, anxiety, and dissatisfaction in your life, the places where you are most tempted to sin, and then trace them back to a wrong view of God.

- Are you worried? Embrace God's sovereignty.
- Are you insecure? Embrace the fact that in Christ you have the absolute approval and affirmation of the God who created the universe, who loves you tenderly as a Father.
- Are you judgmental? Think about how much mercy God has shown you.
- Are you stingy? Consider how generous God has been with you.
- Are you materialistic? Think about how much more beautiful God is than money.

The Bible teaches that we become like what we worship.¹