



KNOWING GOD

The Nature of God Displayed at the Cross

Pastor Shawn

August 31, 2025

"What do we know about the character of God as we look at the Cross and the sacrifice of Jesus?"

Every attribute of God is revealed most clearly at Calvary. The Cross is a window into the heart of God. The Cross is not only the place of our salvation, but also the revelation of God's character.

- God is Love — The Motivation of the Cross – John 3:16
- God is Holy — The Necessity of the Cross - 1 Peter 1:15–19, Ephesians 1:4
- God is Sovereign — The Plan of the Cross - Acts 2:23
- God is Just — The Demand of the Cross - Romans 3:25–26
- God is Wise — The Paradox of the Cross - 1 Corinthians 1:24
- God is Compassionate — The Tenderness of the Cross - Luke 23:33–34
- God is Faithful — The Promise of the Cross – Hebrews 10:19-23
- God is Truth — The Reliability of the Cross - Luke 24:44–46
- God Suffers — The Pain of the Cross - Isaiah 53:3–4
- God is Gracious and Merciful — The Gift of the Cross – Romans 5:1-11

God declares us not guilty because of Jesus' sacrifice paid the price of our sin
Mercy – *not getting what we deserve* – Punishment for our sins - **death**

God declares us righteous when we trust in Jesus payment for our sins.

Grace – *getting what we didn't deserve* – Christ's Righteousness – **life**

The Importance of knowing the fulness of God's Nature. When we emphasize certain attributes of God over others there are negative results, such as how we see and respond to God, ourselves, and others.

- Love without holiness becomes permissiveness / affirmation of behavior.
- Holiness without love becomes cruelty toward sinners / love of legalism
- Justice without mercy becomes fear of God / lack of intimacy with God
- Mercy without justice becomes indulgence in sin / lack of transformation
- Sovereignty without compassion becomes fatalism / lack of accountability
- Power without suffering becomes triumphalism / prosperity focused
- Suffering without power becomes despair / questioning God's goodness

How do we learn about and live out the fulness of God's Nature?

- Read the Whole Bible, Not Just Favorite Parts
- Hold the Cross as the Centerpiece
- Stay Rooted in Christian Community
- Practice Both Truth and Grace in Relationships
- Pray with Balance - Apply God's Attributes to Life Situations
- Learn from the Whole Church Tradition
- Know the Life and Teachings of Jesus as Primary Focus / Filter