

# Knowing God

## Learning about God from the “Son of God” (Part 3)

The only way we can truly know God is through Jesus. Know Jesus and we know God. Jesus agrees, and here’s why:

**Matthew 11:27** “No one knows the Father EXCEPT THE SON” (+ Luke 10:22) “But I KNOW HIM because I am from him and he sent me,” **John 7:29**

**John 1:18** “No one has EVER SEEN God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known” (+ John 6:46)

**John 8:38** “I am telling you what I HAVE SEEN in the Father’s presence”

**John 10:30, 38** “I and the Father ARE ONE...the Father is in me and I in the Father”

**John 16:15** “ALL that belongs to the Father is mine”

Therefore:

**John 14:7, 9** “If you really KNEW ME, you would KNOW MY FATHER as well. (But) from now on, you DO know him and have seen him,” because “anyone who has SEEN ME has seen the Father” (+ John 8:19)

**John 17:6** “I have REVEALED YOU to those whom you gave me out of the world.”

Jesus came to reveal God, which he COULD because he WAS God. Even as a human being (covered in part 2), Jesus was still the Creator God, totally in charge of his creation, PROVING it many times over by amazing miracles “THAT you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the SON OF GOD,” **John 20:31**.

Miracles confirmed what Jesus was saying, that he really was the Son of God who’d come from God with all God’s power and backing (John 5:36-37, 10:35, 14:11). No human could do what Jesus was doing. But why was it so important to confirm, and demonstrate, that Jesus was the “SON OF GOD”? Why did that title have so much significance?

Because “Son of God” revealed that God is a FATHER. He had a son. In other words, God is a RELATIONSHIP – and that has HUGE significance for us humans, because in **John**

**17:22-23, 26** Jesus says to his Father, “I have given them the glory that you gave me, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and HAVE LOVED THEM EVEN AS YOU LOVED ME....I have made you known to them, and I will continue to make you known IN ORDER THAT THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR ME MAY BE IN THEM and that I myself may be in them.” Whatever relationship GOD IS, as Father and Son, Jesus was asking his Father to enable US to be part of it, too. This was his PURPOSE for revealing God, that we realize God comes as a relationship AND that we can share in it.

In that title “Son of God,” therefore, two points emerge - that:

- 1) God is a relationship (Father and Son), and
- 2) We can be PART of that relationship (we can be one as they are one).

Jesus’ baptism made the first point real, when “a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased,’” **Mark 1:11**. Right from the start of Jesus’ ministry, God the Father made it clear that JESUS WAS HIS SON, and then proved it by the amazing miracles Jesus did AND the amazing relationship that he and Jesus shared.

The Lord’s Prayer made the second point real, when Jesus’ disciples SAW the amazing relationship he had with God and asked Jesus to teach them to pray the same way he did - and Jesus told them they could. They could pray to God as their “Father” just as he did, because God was as much THEIR Father as he was JESUS’ Father. And Jesus made sure they understood that in verses like:

**John 14:21, 23** “He who loves WILL BE LOVED BY MY FATHER, and I too will love him and show myself to him...MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, and we will come to him and MAKE OUR HOME with him”

**John 15:9** “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you”

**John 16:27** “The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God”

Jesus also talked often in Matthew about “YOUR Father” - as in **Matthew 7:11** “how much more will YOUR FATHER in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (see also Matthew 5:16, 6:4, 8, 14, 10:20). The Father was not only HIS Father, but THEIRS too.

So when Trinitarian Theology zeroes in on knowing God through Jesus Christ, and asks the questions, “Who is the God made known in Jesus, and who are we in relationship to him?<sup>1</sup>” we discover that God comes to us as a relationship that we too can share. Jesus’ miracles, therefore, served the purpose of not only proving Jesus was the Creator God, but also “that you may learn and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father,” **John 10:38**. In Jesus they could see that God was a relationship as close as a relationship could possibly get, where the Father and Jesus were “in” each other, utterly inseparable, living and operating totally as one. Everything Jesus said and did was directed and inspired by his Father, as Jesus himself tells us in:

**John 5:19-20** “The Son can do nothing of himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son does also. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does”

**John 6:38** “For I have come down not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me” (+ John 5:30)

**John 8:28-29** “You will know who I am and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him”

**John 12:49** “For I did not speak of my own accord but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it” (+ John 7:16)

**John 14:10** “The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work”

**John 14:31** “The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me”

**John 15:15** “For everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you”

See Jesus and we see God as an inseparable relationship of Father and Son, where the Son does exactly what his Father wishes.

But that has huge meaning for us because, **John 14:20**, “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and YOU ARE IN ME, AND I AM IN YOU.” One day it will dawn on us, Jesus is saying, that the relationship HE’s “in” with the Father is the same

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<sup>1</sup> Northern Light magazine, January to March 2010, page 2, left column

relationship WE'RE in with him - right now. "You ARE in me," Jesus said, not you "will be," meaning we're ALREADY in that relationship, if only we realized it.

And HOW we realize that relationship - or how it becomes real in our lives - is the same way it was real, or realized, in Jesus' life. The Father, on his part, taught Jesus personally, revealed himself to Jesus, and lived his life and love IN Jesus. Jesus, on his part, did exactly as his Father wished - "I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love," **John 15:10**. Result? A loving relationship existed between them.

And now Jesus does the same for us. "As the Father has loved me, SO HAVE I LOVED YOU," **John 15:9**, and he prays to the Father "that I myself may be in them," **John 17:26**. Why? Because our relationship with God only happens if Jesus is living HIS life and love in us the same way the Father lived his life and love IN HIM. In the same way God was his life, Jesus is ours (John 6:57). And in response we do as Jesus did - obey. "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me" - the SIGNIFICANCE of which is - "He who loves me WILL BE LOVED BY MY FATHER, and I too will love him and show myself to him," **John 14:21**. And to ENABLE all this to happen "the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you," **John 14:26**. What the Father did for Jesus, Jesus now does for us through the Spirit, so that WE TOO can share and enjoy the same relationship with the Father HE has (Galatians 4:6).

"This means that the Christian life and faith are primarily about *relationships*:

- 1) The internal relationships of holy love shared by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from all eternity.
- 2) The relationship of the Eternal Son with humanity in Jesus Christ incarnate.
- 3) The relationship of humanity with the Father graciously given us through the Son and by the Spirit, and –
- 4) The relationship of humans with one another as children of the Father redeemed by Jesus Christ<sup>2</sup>."

All this stems from Jesus being "the Son of God," and in that title discovering God is a relationship that we can be part of. Just as Jesus and the Father are one (John 10:30), we can be one WITH them (John 17:21) as they live their life and love in us through the Spirit.

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<sup>2</sup> Northern Light magazine, January to March 2010, page 2, middle column