

# Doctrine of God

## Core Doctrinal Idea

- **Monotheism:** There is only one living and true God.
- **Nature of Being:** He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being.
- **Divine Roles:** God is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe.
- **Attributes:** He is infinite in holiness and possesses all other perfections.
- **Omniscience:** His knowledge is all-encompassing, covering the past, present, and future, including the free decisions of His creatures.
- **The Trinity:** He reveals Himself as the eternal triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—with distinct attributes but without division of nature or essence.

## The Primary Commandment

- **The Shema:** Quoting **Deuteronomy 6:4-6**, the sermon highlights the call to hear that the Lord is one and to love Him with all our heart, soul, and might.
- **The Great Commandment:** Referencing **Matthew 22:34-40**, Jesus identifies loving God as the central command for all who claim to follow Him.

## Why Theology Matters

- **Foundational Purpose:** Theology (from the Latin *doctrina*) is not just for scholars; it provides the "foundational truth" available to every believer.
- **Consequences of Belief:** Following Francis Schaeffer's logic, if people have false ideas about God, they will inevitably act in disastrous ways.
- **Stability:** A right understanding of God acts as an "anchor" for our character, values, and goals.
- **Low View of God:** A "low view" of God results in a detached society where people grab onto whatever they can find to worship, often leading to a "small" and "feverish" existence.

## Key Perspectives and Sources

- **The Baptist Faith and Message (2000):** Used as a guide to ensure the teaching is anchored in historic, orthodox belief.
- **Isaiah 55:8-9:** Reminds the listener that God's thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than human ways.
- **General vs. Systematic Revelation:**
  - **General Revelation:** God is shown through the world/creation (Romans 1:19).
  - **Systematic Theology:** An orderly way of studying God's character and works through Scripture.
- **The Nicene Creed:** Referenced to show the historic continuity of believing in one God, the Father Almighty, and Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son.

## Call to Action

- **Introspection:** The sermon poses the vital question: "Who is God and how does that shape my life?"
- **Reverence:** Because of who God is, we owe Him our highest love, reverence, and obedience.