

# The Ultimate Question

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Q. What is God?

A. God is a spirit, Whose being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism #4)

*“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”*

(Psalm 90:2)

I recently read a statistic stating that on average, human beings ask about 144 questions per day. That is equivalent to asking about one question every five minutes. Following the math, we can deduce that at the end of one month a person will have asked approximately 4,320 questions. Over the course of a year that would mean that the average person asks somewhere around 51,840 questions. And if you are around any younger children, you know that the number starts to rise exponentially (*especially if you have a toddler in the house!*)

Over the centuries human beings have asked some very important questions. Questions about our identity, our purpose and our future. But of all the questions that could possibly be asked there is no greater question than the one asked in today’s catechism reading. The Westminster Divines (*those pastors, theologians and biblical scholars who crafted the Westminster Standards from 1646-1647*) didn’t pull any punches as they produced the Westminster Shorter Catechism by tackling the most important and the most profound question in the entire universe: *“What is God?”*. There is no doubt that many a parent has struggled throughout the years trying to articulate an answer to this question for their children. Even adult Christians who has professed faith in Jesus Christ for most of their lives would be hard pressed to give an adequate answer to this question if they were put on the spot. What is God?

The Bible has so much to say about who and what God is, and here in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, I believe that we find the clearest, and most concise summary of the Bible’s answer that has ever been produced. What is God? Our catechism answers this question by stating, *“God is a spirit, Whose being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.”* In this short sentence we learn three important truths about the God of the universe.

First of all, we learn that God is a **spirit**. In other words, God has no body like you and I. He is a being without *“a body or parts”* (*Westminster Confession 2.1*). The Gospel of John makes this abundantly clear when Jesus teaches us that *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (John 4:24). The Apostle Paul, when speaking to the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers at Mars Hill

declares that, “*we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone...*” (Acts 17:29). God has no physical body. God is a spirit. This sets the Christian faith apart from other false religions such as Mormonism, which teaches that God the Father has a physical body.

Next we learn that God is different from any other being in the universe because God is “*immutable*”, that is, unlike everything else in creation, God cannot, does not and will not change. While human beings are “*mutable*” (*changeable*) in that we grow, learn, discover, age, etc., God remains eternally constant. He is never in need of anything. He never learns anything or discovers anything. He never changes! The Psalmist writes of God saying, “They will perish, but You will endure... they will be changed. But You *are* the same.” (Psalm 102:26-27). God does not change. Our God is infinite (*limitless*) and eternal (*existing forever*)!

Finally, our catechism teaches us about God’s character. We learn that God is wise, powerful, holy, just, true and good. And He is all of those things infinitely, eternally and unchangeably. Take a moment to praise God for who and what He is today!

## Dig Even Deeper into God’s Word!

Deuteronomy 4:15-19

Malachi 3:6

Hebrews 13:8

Psalm 107:8