

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Glorious Gospel: 2

God loves you.

He loves beyond our comprehension.

Ephesians 3:17b-19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. NIV

By nature, he is loving.

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. NIV

He is our heavenly Father.

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." NIV

God made us.

Psalms 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. NIV

He attends to our unspoken needs.

Matthew 6:8 [Jesus said,] "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." NIV

God cares about us in detail.

Luke 12:7 [Jesus said,] "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." NIV

God hates sin.

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter [the New Jerusalem], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. NIV

God is holy.

God is completely set apart in participation, perception, and tolerance of sin.

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded [Adam], "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." NIV

Numbers 15:35 Then the Lord said to Moses, "The man [who collected firewood on the Sabbath] must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp." NIV

2 Samuel 6:6b-7 Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. ⁷ The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. NIV

God is righteous.

Psalm 11:7 For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face. NIV

No other gods
No idols
Don't swear
Honor Sabbath
Don't covet

Don't murder
Don't steal
Don't lie
No adultery
Honor parents

Love God

Love your neighbor

God is just.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. NIV

God will judge sin. (In a way that shocks us.)

God is not Santa.

Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. NIV

Acts 5:3-5 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. NIV

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. ¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you." NIV

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. NIV

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. NIV

Revelation 19:11-16 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords. NIV

Romans 14:10b For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. NIV

What chance do we have?

That leaves us in a desperate spot (if the story ended there).

God is not Santa.

God is better than Santa.