

Three Pathways to Loving God

1. Becoming people who *dearly love* and *constantly delight* in our heavenly Father.
 - a. Break the power of automatic responses
 - b. Cultivating holy habits
2. Three pathways to loving God
 - a. God in the world around me: **incarnate**
 - b. God within me: **mystical**
 - c. God in the heavenly world above me: **transcendent**

Psalms 111:2 (TLV) *How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in him should ponder them.*

God in the World Around Me: INCARNATE

1. Creation is meant to lead us to our Creator

Romans 1:19-20 *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

2. Through creation, God is saying, "I am here. I know you. I'm involved."
3. Roughly speaking, God occupies all space as we do our bodies.

Three Ways of Finding God in the World Around You Everyday

1. Cultivate Awe
 - a. A sense for transcendence
 - b. Awe endears our hearts to God
 - c. Awe is at the root of faith
 - d. Awe requires developing a sense of the sacred, seeing what is dear to God
2. Release Appreciation
 - a. The surest way to miss God in the world around you is to take things for granted
 - b. Daily appreciation leads to continuing affection
3. Deepen Your Surrender to Mystery
 - a. The opposite of mystery is reason
 - b. To be in touch with mystery aids us to delight in our heavenly Father

- c. Too many people never engage with mystery; they live life from the edges with self as the center. The only problem is---it's not! To put self as the center of life is to live a lie! Whether you know it or not. What does this have to do the Great Commandment..."to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?"
 - i. **1 Corinthians 13:6** "Love rejoices in the truth."

Two Kinds of Ignorance

1. One is dull, unfeeling, and barren; it leads to *complacency*
2. The other is keen, penetrating and resplendent; it leads to *humility*
 - a. God promises grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:6)
3. The mystery is everywhere and everything holds the great secret
4. To gain an awareness of the mystery is to find the presence of God

Three Attitudes Toward the Mystery

1. The *fatalist*: the world is controlled by an irrational and blind power
 - a. Fate is god
2. The *positivist*: the mystery doesn't exist, only ignorance
 - a. Science is god
3. The *biblical*: history is not determined by fate by covenant
 - a. Our Father is God

Finding Meaning in a Mad, Mad World

1. Your ultimate meaning is not within the *world* but in relationship with God who made the world
2. Three keys to unlocking the Great Commandment to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength
 - a. Awe
 - b. Appreciation
 - c. Mystery
3. Have you found the Father?
 - a. **Psalms 111:10** "The awe of God is the beginning of wisdom."