

Introduction:

Jeremiah 9:23-24 - "This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD."

Truth: God is _____.

Three Biblical Pictures...

- _____

Psalms 23:1-6 - "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Example: _____

- _____

Romans 8:15 - "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

Example: _____

2 Samuel 9:8 & 11 - "Mephibosheth bowed down and said, 'What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?' ...So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons."

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James 2:23 - "And the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called God's friend."

Micah 6:8 - "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Example: _____

Philippians 3:8-10 - "...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...I want to know Christ..."

Application: God _____ a _____ with each and every one of us.

1 John 4:8-10 - "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

- He wants to be _____.

John 10:11 - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

- He wants to be _____.

John 1:12 - "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--"

- He wants to be _____.

John 15:13-15 - "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for every-thing that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

Application: If we want to experience a genuine relationship with God, we must _____ His _____.

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."