

## Getting God Right By Bob Young

***“If idolatry is man’s major problem, getting God right is the most important thing in the world.”***

### **Introduction—Three Important Thoughts**

-1- We Christians must study and understand the nature of God. Lists of theological categories often begin with “God” and “man.” We do not understand human nature until we understand divine nature.

- God’s nature is more than the “omni” attributes—omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient. Add holiness, justice, and grace-mercy-love, and the picture is still incomplete.
- God’s incommunicable attributes (self-existent, eternal, self-sufficient, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, immutable, immeasurable, sovereign) make him incomprehensible—we must think beyond the normal limitations of human thought.
- God’s communicable attributes (living, personal, relational, communicative, good, holy, just, merciful, gracious, loving) are more understandable, but we still struggle.
- God is best understood by his actions. What he does is always consistent with his nature.

-2- The human nature is introduced with references to the image of God and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27). With the entry of sin and the Fall, the human nature is marred. (How to describe what happened has been the subject of many theological discussions.) The result is separation from God—sin, the denial of God, the replacement of God, living as though God does not exist.

-3- Christ comes to bridge the divine and the human and to restore communion and fellowship. The church takes its nature from God; only in the church is God’s nature ultimately restored in human experience.

### **Getting God Right – I Experienced It When I Visited a Church**

Since the above things are true, there is nothing more important than “getting God right.” Getting God right is the first step toward knowing God, biblical worship, spiritual relationships, restoration, reflecting God’s image, authentic renewal.

Earlier this year, I visited a church and I was impressed by how much of the worship assembly was devoted to “getting God right.” The typical visiting and noise was quieted with a well-chosen, well-known song focused on God. The welcome comments spoke about God’s desire that all come before him, coupled with a scripture reading from the Psalms that echoed the same thought. The song, welcome, and Scripture were followed by a call to worship extended by one of the elders. The call to worship continued to theme—humbling self in God’s presence for recommitment, renewal, and strength, concluded with a prayer offered by the elder. After a song that would be characterized as a “worship song,” the opening prayer once again brought us to God’s throne and into his presence, with well-chosen wording that caused me to think of a written prayer. Later in the service, the comments preceding the Supper coordinated with the call to worship.

When the service was over, I mentioned to several how impressive was the beginning of the assembly, and the continuing focus on God. I learned that this was normal—that public participants in worship coordinated songs, prayers, and thoughts around a “God-centered” theme. One of the elders extended a call to worship every Sunday.

I left worship sobered and encouraged. I felt renewed, refreshed, and recommitted. I thought to myself, “There is nothing more important than getting God right.”

*What does your church do to get God right?*

*How does your church get God right in the shared assemblies for worship?*

*How is this commitment visible to the church members? to visitors?*