
Mystery

Part 1 - Sovereignty

A new three-part series starting this week about the 'Mystery' of God.

Most of us know that adage, "God works in mysterious ways."

We use the phrase when something would happen that we didn't understand but hoped it would work out okay. It is kind of a catch-all for the stuff we don't get the answer we want on or the 'too hard' stuff.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Today, we're looking at the sovereignty of God.

Who IS God?

- + He is pre-existence – He already was... (Revelation 1:8)
- + He is knowable – we can know Him, and He has revealed Himself to us through Jesus (John 14:7)
- + He is unchanging – even though we change (James 1:17)
- + He is totally independent – He doesn't need anything (Acts 17:24-25)
- + He is Omniscient – He knows all, of Himself and creation (1 John 3:20)
- + He is Omnipresent – He is always present everywhere (Ps 139:7-10)

Omnipotence

God is all-powerful; He can do all that He wills.

Matthew 19:23–26

Numbers 23:19

Providence

Wayne Grudem: *“God being actively related to and involved in His creation at each moment, but creation is distinct from Him.”*

Hebrews 1:3

Psalms 104:29–30

God is of infinite, qualitative distinction from humanity

God is Love

1 John 4:8

While He is transcendent, He chose to be immanent

The Mystery of Sovereignty

God’s sovereignty as expressed through His will and His activity in the world.

Genesis 50:20

Genesis 12:1–3

Responding to Mystery

We can fall into a number of responses: fatalism, offence, or even thinking that God is punishing us for mistakes and sins.

Psalm 24:1– 2

Romans 9:18–20

Job 38:1–7

The Blessing of Surrender

There is a freedom that comes with not having to be in charge.

Ephesians 1:11

Ephesians 3:20–21

Response

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous (person) runs into it and is safe.” (Proverbs 18:10 ESV)

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear “God works in mysterious ways”, what does that stir in you? What is your heart response?
2. Spend some time looking through the verses below. Read the verses and spend some time reflecting on what Scripture says about the character of God.
 - a. He is pre-existence – He already was... (Revelation 1:8)

- b. He is knowable – we can know Him, and He has revealed Himself to us through Jesus (John 14:7)
 - c. He is unchanging – even though we change (James 1:17)
 - d. He is totally independent – He doesn't need anything (Acts 17:24-25)
 - e. He is Omniscient – He knows all, of Himself and creation (1 John 3:20)
 - f. He is Omnipresent – He is always present everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10)
3. What does God's omnipotence and providence mean to you? How have you experienced them in your life? How do the above definitions match up with what you have been through in your Christian walk?
 4. When we acknowledge that, most importantly to us, God is love, how have you experienced His love in your life?
 5. When we are faced with the reality that God is ultimately sovereign, and can (and does) do what He chooses, how do we react? Fatalism, fear of punishment, or offence?
 6. In response to the sovereignty of God, our response can be to attempt to retain control ourselves or surrender ourselves to Him. What is your gut reaction to that statement?
 7. Spend some time submitting your life to God, and ask Him to reveal to you the freedom that comes from allowing Him to be God.