

OCTOBER 11th 2023 POWER GROUPS
TRANSCENDENCE AND IMMANENCE

REVIEW FROM OCT 4th

Remember that God is both FAR AND NEAR. The false prophets in Jeremiah's day could not escape farness and nearness of God.

- ***Jeremiah 23:23-24*** - ²³ "Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord

1. GOD IS TRANSCENDENT (He is greater than all of creation. He is above creation in thought, power and being)

- A. He is Transcendent in Thought (Is. 55:8-9)**
- B. He is Transcendent in Power (Ps 147:5, Ps 93:4)**
- C. He is Transcendent in Being (Ex 15:11, Ps 11:4, Heb 1:3)**

What does His greatness cause us to ask?

Q #1: Can anyone totally understand all of God's greatness? No human can. He is *incomprehensible*. (Ps 145:3, Rom 11:33)

Q #2: Is there anyone or anything that can come close to God in wisdom, power, and holiness? No! He is *unique* (Ex 15:11, Ex 8:10, II Sam 7:22, Ps 86:8, Ps 89:6)

2. GOD IS IMMANENT (God is active and nearby. He stays closely involved with creation at all times and in all places)

Why is this important? Without this, we might view God as a clock winder that removes himself from his creation. (Deism)

How do we know God is Immanent?

- A. He Came to Us** (John 1:14)
- B. He is with us** (Ps 23:4a; II Thess 3:16)
- C. He Holds the world together** (Col 1:16-17)
- D. He dwells in believers** (Eph 4:6)

POWER GROUP QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER 11th

Q #1: How does God's Transcendence and Immanence help you when you are tempted to think that your problems were too small for a God who is so big, far, and busy?

- God needs to both be able to be in control of and Lord over our problems; AND He needs to be near and trustworthy. He indeed IS both.

Q #2: How should God's Immanence correct your thinking when you believe that you can get away with something?

- God's omniscience and omnipotence should be understood as both macroscopic and microscopic. His knowledge is personal, and his presence is near.

Q #3: What are the problems with viewing God as a clock winder that walks away? (Deism)

- This is an attempt to create a god that does not reveal himself to mankind.
- This is an attempt to create a god that does not need to be worshiped and submitted to.
- This is an attempt to create a god that is not in control of all things, including the bad and the good.
- This is an attempt to create a god that is not trustworthy.
- This is an attempt to create a god that does not give an accounting.
- ULTIMATELY, it is an attempt to escape divine revelation and accountability.

Q: #4 What are ways we might become "Practical deists?"

- We live as though we are excused of accountability for sin. And we don't run to Jesus for confession and forgiveness.
- We sinfully worry instead of trust God that he knows our needs and will provide for our needs.
- Think of additional reasons and ways in your own life...