



GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 25: God is Demanding

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What comes into our minds when we think about God  
is the most important thing about us.

– A. W. Tozer

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter;  
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

For God will bring every deed into judgment,  
including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

– *Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

### God is demanding.

#### Examples of God's Demands

God demands a son/sacrifice (*Genesis 22*)

God demands compliance (*Psalms 119:4*)

God demands a yard sale (*Matthew 19:21*)

God demands a career change (*Matthew 4:19*)

God demands truth (*Acts 5:1-11*)

#### What's the motivation behind God's demands?

My good

God demands my complete loyalty because he knows that any other  
allegiance results in idolatry.

"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself  
an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath  
or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;  
for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the  
sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate  
me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and  
keep my commandments." – **Exodus 20:3-6**

God demands my purity because he knows that any other choice results in shame.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. – 1 Corinthians 6:18

God demands my righteousness (right living) because he knows the rich reward of obedience.

He has showed you, O man, 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.

– Micah 6:8

### **False Narrative:**

**God is too demanding and never satisfied.**

...Not just to know that God exists, and that he created and supervised the whole enterprise, but also to know what “he” demands of us—from our diet to our observances to our sexual morality. In other words, in a vast and complicated discussion where we know more and more about less and less, yet can still hope for some enlightenment as we proceed, one faction—itsself composed of mutually warring factions—has the sheer arrogance to tell us that we already have all the essential information we need. Such stupidity, combined with such pride, should be enough on its own to exclude “belief” from the debate. The person who is certain, and who claims divine warrant for his certainty, belongs now to the infancy of our species.

– Christopher Hitchens, Atheist, from *God is Not Great*

### **True Narrative:**

**Jesus demands nothing of us that was not demanded of him.**

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What kinds of demands do you place on yourself?
- 2) Do you believe that God is too demanding? Why?
- 3) How do you reconcile the list of examples of God’s demands with the idea that God is loving?
- 4) Name a single demand of God that has produced a reward in your life.
- 5) Read Micah 6:8 again. Share an area of your life where you need to simply do the right thing. Are you willing to actually do it? When?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

**OUR  
MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.