

# The Hiddenness of God

The vast majority of those who live within a Modernist framework see no evidence at all for the reality of God. As apologists we must never forget that this is the basic starting point for those who are not Christians. They begin from a foundation that God is hidden and this acts to re-enforce their unbelief.

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## I. Introduction

The question of Divine Hiddenness can be asked in two ways:

A. *Why does God hide?*

1. This implies something deliberate on the part of the Creator

B. *Why is God hidden?*

2. This implies that the reason for hiddenness lies with the person who lacks belief.

## II. Why does God hide?

The Answer: *He can do no other in order to be true to Himself*

A. The Structure of Reality

B. The idea of Holiness

1. There is a fundamental difference between the Creator and the creation.

C. The idea of glory

1. *It is in concealing Himself that He reveals who He really is.*

2. However, in stressing this side we must be careful not to obscure the Bible's teaching that He is also immanent to His creation
  
3. In Jesus as the perfect revelation of God we see that God is both hidden and revealed.

### **III. Why is God Hidden?**

*What does it mean to have a personal relationship with God?*

#### **A. The three orders of relationship:**

1. Human creature to creation
  
2. Human creature to human creature
  
3. Human creature to Creator

- i. "Who is entitled to decide how one may know God - humans or God? Given our complete inferiority to God, can we reasonably make demands on God in favour of our preferred ways of knowing God? Many people proceed as if we have a right to know God on our preferred terms. This is however, nothing more than a self-serving assumption. Nothing requires that God supply knowledge of God on our preferred terms. God evidently owes no such thing at all, despite our common expectations to the contrary." (Paul Moser)

#### **B. Ways we try and bend God to our ways of knowing:**

1. Turn Him into an experience
  
2. Turn Him into an idea

3. Turn Him into an instrument

C. The key to God coming out of hiding is that we bend our wills to Him and meet Him on His terms.

1. “If God gave less light the true seeker could not find Him and their will would thus be thwarted. If He gave more light the indifferent would find Him against their will.” (Blaise Pascal)

**IV. What are His preferred terms?**

A. 'you will seek and find me when you seek me with all your heart' (Jer. 29:13)

B. This verse eliminates both the rationalist and the cynic (for whom God will always remain hidden)