

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD, Part 2

Key Text: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen.1:1).

IV. THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Absolute Attributes (Incommunicable). By "absolute" is meant those qualities belonging to God in and of Himself, apart from any relationship with His creatures. These attributes reflect His own inherent excellence and uniqueness.

1. **Immensity.** God's center is everywhere (2 Chron.6:18).
2. **Independence.** God has life in Himself and does not depend on His creation or creatures for anything (John 5:26).
3. **Eternity.** Having neither beginning or end, His existence is eternal (Gen.21:33; Dt.33:27; Psa.90:2; 102:24; Isa.43:10; 1 Tim.1:17; Rev.1:4).
4. **Immutability.** This means His unchangeableness (Num.23:19; Psa.33:11; 102:27; Mal.3:6; Heb.6:17; Ja.1:17).
5. **Self-Sufficiency.** Because God is the self-existent one, He Himself is unconscious of need (Psa.50:12).
6. **Unity.** The Hebrew word for one denotes a plural unity, not a single unity (Gen.2:24; 11:6; 1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:28), referring to one Jehovah, eternally existing and manifesting Himself in a threefold way: God the Father, God the Son and God Holy Spirit Ex.20:3; Dt.4:35; 6:4; Psa.86:10; 1 Tim.2:5).

Relative Attributes. These qualities represent God's relationship to His creatures of the created universe.

1. **Omnipotence.** God is all-powerful (Jer.32:17,18; Isa.40:27-31; Job 42:2; Dan.4:35).
2. **Omniscience.** God is all-knowing (Psa.147:5; 1 Sam.2:3).
3. **Omnipresence.** God, the Creator and sustainer of all things is present universally and simultaneously in every part of His creation (1 Ki.8:29; 2 Chron.6:16; Psa.139:7-12; Isa.6:3; 66:1; Amos 9:2; Jn.21:17; Acts 7:24-28; Heb:4:13).
4. **Wisdom.** Wisdom is the right use of knowledge, therefore, God never makes a mistake. While His perfect wisdom implies omniscience, it yet exceeds it (Rom.11:33; 1 Cor.2:7; Eph.1:6, 12, 14; Col.1:16; Psa.104:24; Prov.3:19,20; Isa.40:28; Dan.2:20,21). Divine wisdom is personified in Christ (1 Cor.1:20); leads to adoration (Dan.4:34,35), and He is eager to dispense it (Prov.3:2-7).
5. **Godhead or Trinity** (1 Jn.5:7; 2 Cor.13:14; 1 Pet.1:2; Matt.28:19).

Moral Attributes (Communicable). Those attributes in which man can experience and imply moral action on His part.

1. **Holy.** Separate from Sin (Ex.15:11; Isa.6:1-5; Rev.4:8-11).
2. **Love** (Grace, mercy, longsuffering; Num.14:18; Neh.9:17; 1 Jn.4:8, 16; Ex.34:6,7; John 3:16; Psa.86:15; Rom.2:4, 3:24).
3. **Justice and Righteousness** (Dt.32:3,4; Isa.28:17; Gen.18:25; Rev.16:5,6; 2 Tim.4:8; Psa.5:5, 7:9-12; 89:14; 1 Pet.1:17).

4. **Mercy and Goodness** (Psa.36:6; 86:5; 107:8,9, 118:29; Rom.2:4, 8:32; Matt.6:44,45; Rom. 9:18; Eph.2:4,5; Titus 3:4; 1 Pet.1:3; 1 Jn.4;10).
5. **Truth and Faithfulness** (Num.23:19; Dt.32:4; 2 Tim.2:13; 1 Ki.8:56; Titus 1:2; Rom.3:4; 2 Cor.1:20; 1 Pet.4:19).
6. **Providence** (Psa.145:15,16; Col.1:17; Heb.1:3; Psa.37:1-3; Acts 4:27,28).
7. **Sovereign** (Dan.4:35; Psa.135:6; Eph.1:11; Rev.4:11).

APPLICATION

1. Is your concept of God changed now that you have a biblical understanding of His attributes?
2. Does your understanding of His attributes inspire you to know Him more deeply in your heart?

This concise outline was prepared by Pastor Joe Jacowitz
For more information go to www.christbiblechurch.org