

Lesson 3 – The Attributes of God

Key Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:11

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.”

“If we could understand God, He would not be God, for it is a part of the nature of God that He should be infinitely greater than any created mind.” – Charles Spurgeon

The Importance of Knowing God

- John 17:3. What did Jesus equate knowing God with? _____
 - Jeremiah 9:24. What one thing does God say man should boast about? _____

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“A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well. I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God.” – A.W. Tozer

How Can We Know God?

- Hebrews 1:1-3. How is Christ described? _____

- Colossians 2:9. What does this verse say about Christ? _____
- John 14:9-10. What does Jesus say is the means for knowing God? _____

The Attributes and Characteristics of God

- What are attributes? An attribute is a quality or characteristic that is true about someone. Studying God's attributes allows us to have a limited understanding of His Person. Even though some concepts exceed the limits of our comprehension, our ideas concerning God need to be as true as possible.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Holiness
Righteousness and Justice
Sovereignty
Eternality
Immutability
Omniscience
Omnipresence
Omnipotence
Love
Truth
Mercy
<i>Note: This is not a complete list of God's attributes.</i>

- Communicable Attributes: those attributes that humans can also possess, but not to the perfection that God possess them.
- Holiness
 - Righteousness and Justice
 - Love
 - Truth
 - Mercy
- Noncommunicable Attributes: those characteristics that cannot be shared with His creatures.
- Sovereignty
 - Eternality
 - Immutability
 - Omniscience
 - Omnipresence
 - Omnipotence

Communicable Attributes:

1. Holiness

- God's holiness means that He is _____ and _____ by the evil in the world. He is pure and perfect.
- Because God is holy, we are exhorted to be holy (1 Peter 1:16). We are to be set apart from _____ unto God.
- Our lives are to _____ as a reflection of God in an unrighteous world.

2. Righteousness and Justice

- Righteousness designates the perfect _____ between God's nature and His acts.
- Justice is the way God legislates His righteousness.
- There is no action that God takes in relation to man that _____ any code of morality or justice.
- How do your standards of what is right and just compare with God's standards?

3. Love

- God is love. His love is _____; it is not based on the loveliness or merit of the object.
- Love is expressed in action. God is our example and demonstrated His love for us in sending Jesus to die in our place (2 Corinthians 5:21).

4. Truth

- God is the _____ true God. There is no other.
- God's truth is above all else. He is truthful even if all men are found to be liars.
- This means we can trust God's Word at all times.

5. Mercy

- God's mercy is the expression of His _____ to those who have opposed His will.
- God does not give to us what we do deserve.
- God's mercy is contrasted with man's sin and is on display in our salvation.

Noncommunicable Attributes:

6. Sovereignty

- The word *sovereign* means chief or highest, supreme in power, or superior in position to all others.
- God's sovereignty assures the Christian that nothing is out of God's _____ and that His plans cannot be thwarted (Romans 8:28).

7. Eternality

- Since God is eternal, there has never been a time when He did not exist. He had no beginning and will have no end.
- God is not bound by _____. He sees the past, present, and future.
- God's understanding is _____ and He knows what is best for our lives.

8. Immutability

- God never _____ in His nature or purpose.
- God's _____ for those who love Him will always come to pass. His Word can be trusted.

9. Omniscience

- God knows all things _____ and _____. Nothing takes Him by surprise.
- God knew all our sins (past, present, and future) at the time of our salvation. He still forgave us and received us into His family.
- Your salvation is secure in Christ.

10. Omnipresence

- God is present _____ in the universe.
- Since God is everywhere, it is foolish to think we can hide from God.
- This means a believer may experience the presence of God at all times and know the blessing of walking with Him.

11. Omnipotence

- God is all-powerful. He has more than enough strength to do anything He pleases.
- God will strengthen us and help us in times of need. He upholds us with His righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

Application

1. How should the attributes of God affect your everyday living?
2. How should the attributes of God affect your prayer life?
3. In what ways do the attributes of God affect your response to major trials in your life?