

# DG Guide: Attributes of God #4 - Divine Simplicity (The Unity of God)

## Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His perfect, unified character and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and deepen your understanding of who God is.

## Ice Breaker

Share one characteristic of God that has been particularly meaningful to you recently and why.

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## Key Sermon Takeaways

### 1. God's Attributes Are Not Separate Parts

God is not like a Venn diagram where some characteristics overlap and others don't. Every attribute of God characterizes His whole being at all times.

### 2. Every Attribute of God Is Equally Important

We cannot cherry-pick the aspects of God we prefer. His justice, love, sovereignty, holiness, mercy, and all other attributes work together perfectly and simultaneously.

### 3. God Is Uniformly Perfect and Unchanging

Unlike humans who fluctuate in mood and consistency, God is fully present in all His attributes all the time. He never has "off days" with any aspect of His character.

### 4. The Cross Displays God's Unity Perfectly

At the cross, God's justice (sin must be punished) and His mercy (sinners can be forgiven) meet perfectly in Jesus Christ.

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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Concept

1. What was your initial understanding of "the unity of God" before this sermon? How has that understanding changed or deepened?
2. The sermon mentioned that God is "fully love" and "fully just" at the same time. How does this challenge or expand your view of God's character?
3. Read 1 John 1:5 together: "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." What does this tell us about the consistency and purity of God's nature?

### Applying the Truth

4. The sermon gave the example of God's patience and God's judgment working together (2 Peter 3:9-10). Can you think of other biblical examples where multiple attributes of God are working simultaneously?
5. How does understanding God's unity help us when we face situations that seem unfair or don't make sense? Share a personal example if you're comfortable.
6. The sermon mentioned that we often say "God seems absent" or "this doesn't seem fair." How can remembering the unity of God's character help us in these moments of doubt or confusion?

### Discovering God's Beauty

7. The sermon suggested several ways to discover the beauty of God:
  - Through worship and reverence
  - Through reading the Bible
  - Through experiencing His presence
  - Through creation
  - Through Christian community
8. Which of these practices is most natural for you? Which is most challenging? Why?
9. The sermon mentioned removing distractions when reading the Bible (like reading a physical Bible instead of on your phone). What practical changes could you make to better focus on God's Word?
10. How have you seen God's beauty reflected in other believers in this group or church? Take time to encourage one another.

### The Cross and Communion

10. Romans 3:26 describes God as both "just and the justifier." How does the cross demonstrate the perfect unity of God's character?
11. How does understanding the unity of God's attributes (especially His justice and mercy) deepen your appreciation for communion/the Lord's Supper?
12. The sermon stated: "God's gifts are pure gifts... His love and mercy are not transactional." How does this truth about God's character affect your relationship with Him?

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Worship Focus

- Set aside 15 minutes each day for focused worship
- Create a playlist specifically for worshipping God
- Reflect on a different attribute of God each day

#### Option 2: Bible Study Practice

- Read a passage slowly and prayerfully each day (suggested: John 1, Colossians 1, or Isaiah 6)
- Ask yourself: "What am I learning about God's character from this passage?"
- Journal about how God's attributes work together in the passage

#### Option 3: "Always and Never" Statements

- Create a list of biblical "always" and "never" statements about God
- When facing a difficult situation, remind yourself of these truths
- Share your list with someone to encourage them

#### Option 4: Remove Distractions

- Identify one distraction that keeps you from focused time with God
- Make a practical change to eliminate or reduce that distraction
- Report back to the group next week about the difference it made

## Personal Reflection Questions

Take 5-10 minutes of silence for individuals to consider:

1. Which attribute of God do I tend to emphasize most? Which do I tend to neglect or minimize?
  2. How can I better integrate the truth of God's unified character into my daily life?
  3. What specific situation in my life right now needs me to remember that God is fully present in ALL His attributes?
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## Prayer Time

### Suggested Prayer Structure:

Praise: Thank God for specific attributes mentioned in the sermon (His unchanging nature, His perfect unity, His love, justice, mercy, etc.)

Confession: Confess ways we've had a distorted view of God or tried to cherry-pick the attributes we prefer

Thanksgiving: Thank God for the cross where His justice and mercy meet perfectly

Intercession: Pray for group members facing situations where they need to trust in God's unified, perfect character even when circumstances don't make sense

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## Looking Ahead

Preparation for Next Week:

- Continue reading through the Bible (if following the City Light Plan)
  - Pay attention to how different attributes of God work together in the passages you read
  - Come prepared to share one insight about God's character you discovered this week
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## Closing Thought

*"God is not a collection of attributes gathered together. Every attribute of God is God all the time. His love doesn't compete with His justice; His patience doesn't contradict His holiness. He is perfectly, beautifully, completely unified in all that He is."*

Final Prayer: Close by having someone pray that the group would grow in their knowledge and love of God's unified, perfect character, and that this truth would transform how they live each day.

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Or, if you just want a bunch of discussion prompts:

1. How does understanding that God's attributes are not divided into parts but characterize His whole being change the way you relate to Him in times of confusion or suffering?
2. In what ways have you been tempted to view God as a Venn diagram, emphasizing certain attributes while minimizing others, and how can you move toward a more unified understanding of His character?
3. How does the truth that God is fully love, fully just, and fully sovereign all at the same time comfort you when facing situations that seem unfair or painful?
4. What does it mean for your daily walk that God never has good days or bad days, and His character never fluctuates based on your performance or circumstances?
5. How does the concept that the cross demonstrates both God's justice being satisfied and His love being poured out deepen your appreciation for what Jesus accomplished?
6. In what practical ways can you cultivate a lifestyle of beholding God's beauty through worship, Scripture, creation, and Christian community as the sermon suggests?
7. How does knowing that all the fruit of the Spirit should be growing in your life simultaneously rather than one at a time challenge your approach to spiritual growth?
8. What always and never statements about God bring you the most comfort and security, and how can these truths shape your prayers and decisions this week?
9. How does understanding that God is the just and the justifier help you grasp the magnitude of what happens when you come to communion each week?
10. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to cherry-pick aspects of God that resonate with you while ignoring others, and how can embracing the unity of God transform those areas?