



Theology Proper: Week 7

Communicable Attributes

Outline

- A. Attributes Describing God's Being
- B. Mental Attributes
- C. Moral Attributes
- D. Attributes of Purpose
- E. "Summary" Attributes

Attributes Describing God's Being:

Spirituality "God is spirit." (John 4:24)

Defined- God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence.

Invisibility "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."
(John 1:18)

Defined- God's total essence, all of his spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by us, **yet** God still shows himself to us through visible, created things.

God's Mental Attributes

Knowledge (Omniscience) “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.”

(Psalm 139:6)

Defined- God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

“Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge.”

(Job 37:16)

“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13)

God's Mental Attributes (Cont'd)

Wisdom “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;” (Proverbs 2:6)

Defined- God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

“Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.” (1 Corinthians 1:20:21)

God's Mental Attributes (Cont'd)

Truthfulness “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.” (Ps 119:116)

Defined- God's truthfulness means that he is the true God, and that all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

“But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.” (Jeremiah 10:10)

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

God's Moral Attributes

Goodness “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.” (Mark 10:18)

Defined- The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.

“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”
(Psalm 100:5)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Love “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

Defined- God's love means that God eternally gives himself to others

- *The Father loves the Son*: “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, gto see my glory that you have given me **because you loved me** before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24)
- *The Son loves the Father*: “But I do pas the Father has commanded me, qso that the world may know that I love the Father.” (John 14:31)
- *God's love towards the world*: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Mercy, Grace, Patience “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Psalm 103:8)

Defined- God's mercy means God's goodness toward those in misery and distress. God's grace means God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment. God's patience means God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.

“The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Exodus 34:6)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Holiness “Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!” (Psalm 96:9)

Defined- God's holiness means that he is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

“Since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:16)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Peace (or Order) “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Defined- God's peace means that in God's being and in his actions he is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.

“The God of peace be with you all. Amen.” (Romans 15:33)

“There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.” (Isaiah 48:22)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Righteousness, Justice "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" (Genesis 18:25)

Defined- God's righteousness means God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

"The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:8)

"He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord." (Psalm 33:5)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Jealousy “For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” (Deut 4:24)

Defined- God's jealousy means that God continually seeks to protect his own honor.

“For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14)

“You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.” (Deuteronomy 5:9)

God's Moral Attributes (Cont'd)

Wrath "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense." (Deut 32:35)

Defined- God's wrath means that he intensely hates all sin.

"And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." (Exodus 32:9-10)

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:36)

Attributes of Purpose

Will “According to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.” (Ephesians 1:11)

Defined- That attribute of God whereby he approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of himself and all creation.

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Attributes of Purpose (Cont'd)

Freedom “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” (Psalm 115:3)

Defined- God’s freedom is that attribute of God whereby he does whatever he pleases.

“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.” (Pro 21:1)

“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” (1 Thess 5:18)

Summary Attributes

Perfection “A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” (Deuteronomy 32:4)

Defined- God’s perfection means that God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him.

“This God—his way is perfect” (Psalm 18:30)

“...as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48b)

Summary Attributes (Cont'd)

Blessedness “he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15)

Defined- God’s blessedness means that God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.

“In accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.” (1 Timothy 1:11)

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17)

Summary Attributes (Cont'd)

Beauty “And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides you” (Ps. 73:25)

Defined- God’s beauty is that attribute of God whereby he is the sum of all desirable qualities.

“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.” (Psalms 27:4)

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” (Revelation 22:4)

Summary Attributes (Cont'd)

Glory “Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah (Psalm 24:10)

Defined- God’s beauty is that attribute of God whereby he is the sum of all desirable qualities.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.” (Hebrews 1:3a)

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” (Revelation 22:4)