

Theology 1
The Goodness of God & the Trinity
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3/8/23

*The goodness of God may be discovered in all of his relationships with His creatures. It is most effectively demonstrated in **His moral attributes of purity and integrity**, and in the entire complex of characteristics that are identified as His **love**.*

The Holiness of God

- The first of God's main attributes is **holiness** – He is **set apart** from His creation.
- The holiness of God is affirmed throughout Scripture (Isa. 6:3, 1 Peter 1:16).
- Out of the holiness of God proceed the following attributes:
 - **Righteousness** – God is right and does that which is right (Psalm 19:8)
 - **Justice** – Because God is right, His judgments are always correct
 - **Genuineness** – God is true (John 14:6)
 - **Veracity** – God represents things as they really are (Titus 1:2)
 - **Faithfulness** – God proves His truthfulness (Lam. 3:23)

The Love of God

- The second of God's main attributes is **love**. As His holiness is affirmed through Scripture, so is His love (1 John 4:8, 16, John 3:16, Rom. 5:8).
- Out of the love of God proceed the following attributes:
 - **Benevolence** – God is concerned for those whom He loves
 - **Grace** – God acts according to His goodness and generosity. In other words, He doesn't just give us what we deserve – He provides what we don't deserve.
 - **Mercy** – God has tender-hearted, loving compassion for His people
 - **Persistence** – God often withholds judgment from His creation (2 Pet. 3:9)
- While many have often pointed to a seeming contradiction between God's holiness and love, **His love is only rightly understood against the backdrop of His holiness**.

The Trinity

- God is **one** – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” (Deut. 6:4)
- God is **three** – “Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19).
- Early heresies – Arianism, Modalism
- Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381) – “one ousia (substance) in three hypostases (persons)”
- Essential Elements of a Doctrine of the Trinity – pp. 113-114
- Images used to describe the Trinity – 3-leaf clover and the triquetra
- It has been well-said of the Trinity – “Try to explain it and you'll lose your mind; try to deny it and you'll lose your soul.”