

Foundations II | The Attributes of God

Definitions

- God's attributes are character qualities that uniquely define Him
- Each of God's attributes are permanent, essential, and intrinsic qualities of the entirety Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit), which cannot be lost.
- What you know and believe about God inevitably becomes the lens through which you see everything else in life.

The Glory of God

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. – Rom. 11:36

1. The Meaning

- **Hebrew:** כְּבוֹד (*kābôd*)— weighty, honor, substance (refers to weightiness in worth)
- **Greek:** δόξα (*dóxa*)— reputation, splendor, brightness, glory
- **Meaning:** While the OT describes the glory of God by emphasizing His majestic significance (Ex. 15:11; Ps. 8:1; Isa. 6:1-3), the NT deepens the concept by revealing God's glory through Jesus Christ (John 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 1:15-20). Together, they present a complete picture of God's glory as the sum of all of His attributes in a majestic display of His being.

2. The Nature

- **Intrinsic Glory**
 - The glory of God has no beginning or end (Phil. 4:19)
 - Heaven and earth are full of God's intrinsic glory (Isa. 6:3; 42:8; 48:11; Ps. 19:1)
- **Ascribed Glory**
 - The more we understand of the intrinsic glory of God the more we will ascribe glory to God (Rom. 11:36; Phil. 4:20)
 - To give glory to God is to worship and praise God (Ps. 29:1-2, 9; Ps. 115:1)
 - Heaven will not be about us, but about Him alone who is worthy of all glory

2. The Implications

- **Believers**
 - Our mortal bodies will be transformed and turned into glorified bodies (Phil. 3:21; Rom. 8:11, 23)
 - The salvation of believers glorifies God (Rom. 9:13-17)

- **Unbelievers**

- Those who are not in(to) Christ will be eternally separated from the glory of God (2 Thess. 1:9)
- The condemnation of unrepentant sinners glorifies God (Rom. 9:13-17)

3. The Purpose

- **Salvation**

- The Gospel that saves is “the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God” (1 Tim. 1:11)
- We are saved for the purpose of glorifying God (Eph. 1:4-6, 11-12)
- We are saved for the purpose of being conformed to Christ (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 5:27)

- **Sanctification/Glorification**

- Present sanctification begins eternal glorification (Rom. 8:30; 2 Cor. 3:18)
- By following Christ, the Spirit continues to make us more like Him (2 Cor. 3:18)
- We worship the Lord now, and will continue worshipping Him in Heaven (Rev. 4:8-11; 5:9-14)

Questions

1. If God’s glory is the sum of all His attributes revealed most fully in Christ, how should this shape the way we think about and worship Jesus daily?
2. If sanctification is the beginning of eternal glorification, what practical steps can believers take now to grow in reflecting Christ’s glory?

Recommended Books:

1. Athanasius of Alexandria. *On the Incarnation*. Oxford, UK: Pantianos Classics, 1944.
2. Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
3. Brunner, Emil. *The Divine-Human Encounter* London, UK: SCM Press, 1944.
4. Charnock, Stephen. *The Existence & Attributes of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.
5. Edwards, Jonathan. *The End for Which God Created the World*. Edited by John Piper. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
6. Owen, John, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*. Mansfield, CT: Martino Publishing, 1852.
7. Owen, John. *The Glory of Christ*. Edited by R. J. K. Law. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1994.
8. Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973.
9. Pink, A. W. *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1975.
10. Sibbes, Richard. *The Glorious Feast of the Gospel*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1975.
11. Watson, Thomas. *A Body of Divinity*. New York City, NY: Sola Scriptura Press, 1686.