



Introduction to Attributes

Understanding the term "attributes"

"in God there can be no composition, and therefore his spiritual nature must be uncompounded. Even his attributes and his nature must be in such a manner one,¹"

"we declare that his nature is so purely or simply one as not to be compounded of separate substances, as matter and spirit, or even of the same substance, in different forms, or of a substance with separable attributes; and we assert that even his attributes are one with his essence, and that he is not only essentially spiritual, but also essentially wise, and good, and holy, and just, and true, and almighty, and omnipotent.²"

Introduction

Definition

*"The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; **whose subsistence is in and of himself,**³"*

"Only the Supreme Being has self-existent life. He alone has inherently immutable life, absolute "immortality." His being does not and cannot depend on anything other than himself, because he made everything else. In eternity God was solitary, but not lonely. He didn't form creatures because he needed anything. He was complete and self-satisfied.⁴"

1. God doesn't need anybody or anything for his own existence
2. God doesn't need anybody or anything for his own relational joy

¹ James Boyce (2010-04-04). Abstract of Systematic Theology (p. 55). . Kindle Edition.

² Ibid, 55.

³ Knollys, Hanserd; Kiffin, William; Collins, William; Keach, Benjamin (2016-11-13). The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 with Preface, Baptist Catechism, and Appendix on Baptism (Kindle Locations 193-195). Chapel Library. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Nichols, Greg (2017-02-22). Lectures in Systematic Theology: Doctrine of God (Kindle Locations 3602-3604). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.



3. God doesn't need anybody or anything to accomplish his glorious purposes

1. God doesn't need anybody or anything for his own existence

- ❖ Genesis 2:7—*the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*
- ❖ Acts 17:28—*In him we live and move and have our being;*
- ❖ Hebrews 1:3—*He [Jesus] 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*
- ❖ Exodus 3:13-14—*Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'"*

*"This name demonstrates that God's existence was not cause, nor does it depend on anything or anyone outside himself. It is God's nature to exist, and so he simply **IS** without effort.⁵"*

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:10—*by the grace of God I am what I am*
- ❖ John 5:26—*For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.*

Beloved, your God needs NO ONE to grant him life! He is the way the truth and the life! **Behold your God!**

2. God doesn't need anybody or anything for his own relational joy

"Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.⁶"

- ❖ Psalm 16:11—*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;*
- ❖ Psalm 17:15—*As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*

⁵ Paul David Washer, *Knowing the Living God*, page 57.

⁶ http://www.reformed.org/documents/wlc_w_proofs/



- ❖ 1 Peter 1:8—*Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
- ❖ Psalm 8:3-4—*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*
- ❖ Zephaniah 3:17—*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.*
- ❖ Jeremiah 32:41—*I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.*
- ❖ Acts 17:24-25—*The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*
- ❖ John 17:5—*And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

3. **God doesn't need anybody or anything to accomplish his glorious purposes**

- ❖ Psalm 115:3—*Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*
- ❖ Isaiah 46:9-11—*... "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it."*
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:17-20—*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*
- ❖ Romans 9:16—*So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*
- ❖ Daniel 4:35—*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?"*