

## Attributes of God

How do many conceptualize God? How did you view him when you were a child or unbeliever? Do any of these misconceptions find their way into your thinking about God?

**God is...**

Our \_\_\_\_\_ of God is worthless unless it is logical, consistent and agrees with His self-revelation.

God's existence and identity are NOT determined by man's notions about God. He is an external reality who can only be known by personal self-revelation.

*Exodus 3:6, 3:14,19, 34:6*

*Hebrews 1:1-4*

### The Nature of God – Attributes

Attribute – an essential quality that characterizes an individual or an object.

\_\_\_\_\_ Attributes – are not shared with humanity

\_\_\_\_\_ Attributes – are shared with humanity –  
the image of God. These attributes are only shared in part not whole.

Sources:

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem

Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith by Wayne Grudem edited by Jeff Purswell

God's Attributes: Rest for Life's Struggles by Brad Hambrick

### God's Incommunicable Attributes

\_\_\_\_\_ - God is completely other. He is separate, independent and above all creation. Self-Existent, Self-sufficient, Transcendent. "I AM that I AM" or "I Will Be Who I Will Be." (Exodus 3)

### **Psalm 50 and Acts 17:24-25**

"God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify him and bring him joy."

### *Misunderstandings of God's Self-sufficiency*

*God needs me. (Relationally, Emotionally, Missions, Physical provision*

*God is in "process" (Process Theology)*

\_\_\_\_\_ - God is not moody or fickle. He is steadfast, faithful, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. -- Jas. 1:17

God is not the "God of Wrath" in the Old Testament and the "God of Love" in the New Testament

\_\_\_\_\_ - God is not limited or confined to the universe. He is not bound by space, time, physics, or anything. Every attribute belongs to God infinitely.

"He is infinite and personal...apart from the true religion found in the Bible, no system of religion has a God who is both infinite and personal."

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\_\_\_\_\_ – All Powerful. Consistent with His natural attributes. Matt 19:26

\_\_\_\_\_ – All Present. Fully. Everywhere. All the time. Psalm 139; Jer. 23:23-24

\_\_\_\_\_ – All knowing. Past, present and future. He is knowledge itself. 1 John 1:5-10

\_\_\_\_\_ – God is self-existent, no beginning and no end. “In the beginning, God...” He sees all time equally vividly -- Is. 57:15; Deut. 33:27; Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8

“...in God’s perspective, any extremely long period of time is as if it just happened. And any very short period of time (such as one day seems to God to last forever: it never ceases to be present in His consciousness.”

### God’s Communicable Attributes

\_\_\_\_\_ – God is a knowable person with intellect, feelings and will. He made mankind in His own image to reflect His character and presence in the world. Jesus modeled a relationship with God His Father (Abba)

Psalm 56:8-11; Rom 8:26-27

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\_\_\_\_\_ – God is morally perfect and excellent. There is no contradiction between His attributes and all of his attributes come together in His holiness. Psalm 99:1-5; Ex. 34:6-7

\_\_\_\_\_ – God is the ultimate standard of goodness and all He does is good. He cannot do evil or be wrong. Psalm 119:68; 145:9; Romans 8:28-29

\_\_\_\_\_ – God is love and all He does is from love. He is benevolent, giving, merciful, and kind. He extends Himself and yet His attribute of love in no way contradicts His wrath and justice. Ex. 34:6-7

Hebrew word: **חֶסֶד** *Hesed (Chesed)*

247 occurrences; often translated in English as “Steadfast Love”

Greek word: ἀγάπη (agape) – Agape is unconditional love.

1 John 4:7-12

It is God’s Independence (Self-sufficiency) that makes Agape love a reality.

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