

Systematic Theology I

Doctrine of God - Part II

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LESSON OVERVIEW

Lecture Topics: the attributes and works of God – with a special focus on creation, providence, and prayer.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

We will follow most theologians in dividing the attributes into Communicable and incommunicable attributes.

Incommunicable Attributes - attributes that make God unique and different from all other beings.

Attribute	Description	Significance (How does this apply to you?)	Importance (What is the danger of taking away from this doctrine)
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<p>INFINITY</p> <p>Space</p> <p>Time</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <p>Power</p> <p>SELF-EXISTENCE</p> <p>IMMUTABILITY</p>	<p>By definition, there can only be one infinite being, and that being is God</p> <p>Ps. 139:7-12</p> <p>Ps. 90:1-2</p> <p>Rom. 11:33-36</p> <p>Ps. 115:3</p> <p>Our life is a derived existence; God has life in himself (John 5:26).</p> <p>Sometimes referred to by words like fidelity or constancy (Heb. 13:8)</p>		
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The Communicable Attributes - These are the attributes that not only tell us more of what God is like, but also give us a pattern for life, for these are the ways in which God wants us to be like Him.

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<p><u>HOLINESS</u></p> <p>Purity</p> <p>True</p> <p>Righteous or Just</p> <p>Wrath</p>	<p>This word, in both noun and adjective form, is clearly fundamental to the biblical view of God, especially in the OT. There are perhaps four branches from the root of holiness</p> <p>Hab 1:13</p> <p>Num. 23:19</p> <p>Duet. 32:4</p>		
<p><u>LOVE</u></p> <p>Goodness</p> <p>Gracious</p> <p>Merciful</p> <p><i>Hesed</i></p>	<p>Rom. 1:18</p> <p>The quality most associated with God is love, (but it must not be disassociated from holiness). From the root of love, we see 4 branches.</p> <p>Matt. 5:45</p> <p>2 Kings 13:23</p> <p>Dan. 9:18</p> <p><i>The Hebrew word is hesed, and it encompasses the ideas of loyalty, patience, and committed love. (Psalm 136)</i></p>		

Conclusion: All these attributes and more than we can describe are all found marvelously harmonized in the character of God. As God's people, we are called to be like Him, especially in showing **His love (John 13:34) and His holiness (I Pet. 1:15)**. May God plant these two roots deep in our hearts to produce Christlike character in our lives.

Creation:

What does the Bible emphasize when it comes to creation?

- 1) God created the _____ universe, including human beings, who alone have the special status of being made in God's image
- 2) God created the universe out of _____
- 3) God created by his _____
- 4) The universe God created was very _____
- 5) Creation was affected by the _____
- 6) Though injured, creation still gives testimony to the glory, power and goodness of its Creator
- 7) God's creation is _____
- 8) God's creation includes the creation of spiritual beings, angels, some of whom fell and became demons

Providence:

Preservation

Governing

Major theological questions:

Concerning the possibility of miracles.

Providence vs prayer

Theodicy

We must make some type of a distinction between what God directs and what God permits.