

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Topic: THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD
Teacher: Brother Hubie Berrios

Incommunicable Attributes
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The Divine Attributes of God (Continued)

- Definition - An attribute is a quality or characteristic that belongs to a person.
- As they pertain to God, attributes help define and help describe the person of God.
- Although we cannot understand the full depth of God's nature & character, this study explores some of the main characteristics of God that are mentioned in Scripture.

A. Some of God's Attributes are called "**Incommunicable Attributes**" and others are called "**Communicable Attributes**."

- God's Incommunicable Attributes belong to God alone. (Holiness, Eternality, Infinity, 'The Omnis' etc.)
- God's Communicable Attributes find their highest and fullest expression in God but can also be displayed on a smaller scale in humans. (Love, Mercy, Grace, Fidelity etc.)
- God's attributes are not independent of one another but are all **interconnected** and **interwoven** together.
- Each attribute **characterizes** every other attribute.
- Each of these attributes have always belonged to the three persons of the Godhead and always will, He doesn't gain or lose attributes, nor can He be separated from them.
- Each attribute **describes** the other.
- Each attribute is a **manifestation** of the **Divine Nature** and **Personhood**.

T. Shedd writes, "The attributes are not parts of the essence, of which the latter is composed. The whole essence is in each attribute, and the attribute in the essence. We must not think of the essence as existing by itself, and prior to the attributes, and of the attributes as an addition to it. God is not essence and attributes, but in attributes. The attributes are essential qualities of God."

The Incommunicable Attributes - The Transcendence Of God

I. **God Is Infinite - the quality of being without limits**

God is unlimited, unbounded and unconfined. He transcends everything in creation. That is to say that God is prior, above and beyond the material and spiritual creation.

The biblical picture of God's infinity is that of His exaltation. Is 6:1 "God is High and Lifted Up."

King Solomon says in 1 Kings 8:27 "The heavens even the highest heavens cannot contain God!"

Genesis 14:18 - 22 Says Melchizedek, King of Salem, was priest of God Most High.

God's limitlessness is perfect and excellent and free of any defect, consumption or shortage of any of His attributes. He always has a full, unlimited supply of each quality. Nor does He ever tire or is in need of replenishing. Matt.5:48 "Your Heavenly Father is perfect.

Because of this quality of limitlessness He is more than able to provide for all of our needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus Phillipians 4;19

II. God is Eternal - the quality of being infinite in duration

This quality makes God to be without beginning and without ending. Psalm 90:2 "From everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Time results from a series of events that began with the creation of the universe (Gen.1:1) and will continue forever. Eph. 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

From the divine standpoint, the whole of God's existence is one of indivisible present, in other words there is no succession of events as God exists outside of the realm of time, He is not hindered by the encumbrances and boundaries of time. He is timeless, as His name "I Am" suggests (Ex. 3:14)

This does not mean that God has no relation with time. God observes time in His dealings with creation and in carrying out His plan for it. Acts 1:7 "He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.'"

The blessed hope of the believer in Christ is this, when time is no more, we will continue to live with Him forever. Rev. 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

III. God is Immutable - the quality of being unchanging

This quality makes God to be forever the same. Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Because of its immutability, God's nature never changes, whether by development or degeneration as ours does. The qualities of God's nature are constant and eternal. James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Because of His immutability God is dependable and constant in His being, actions and purposes.

God's life does not change. God's character does not change. God's truth does not change. God's ways do not change. God's purposes do not change.

But doesn't God repent or change His mind? The O.T. sometimes speaks of God as "repenting" or "changing His Mind" Exod 32:14. From the overall picture, the outward "repentance" does not signify a change in God's activity, but only His dependable response to man's behavior. When man is obedient God blesses. When man disobeys, God punishes; when man confesses his sin, God forgives. He "repents"; that is, He turns in the other direction.

So, God's "repentance" is not really a change in God, but it is His bringing to bear on the human situation some other aspect of His being and nature. Throughout His dealing with man, God always remains the same.

IV. The Holiness of God

Holiness is the essential and morally pure and perfect nature of God.

It refers to God's separateness from sin and all things He considers common.

Of all of God's attributes, Holiness is the one that most uniquely describes Him.

Holiness is a summarization of all of God's attributes and no other attribute compels the believer to worship God more than this one.

The bible treats the matter/reality of God's Holiness as a fact!

Isaiah 6:3 "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory."

1 Peter 1:15-16 " But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, be Holy, for I Am Holy."

Holiness is so much the essence of God's nature and character that Holy is one of the names God goes by.

God The Father is repeatedly referred to as the Holy One of Israel in the O.T.

The Son is spoken of as The Holy One 1Jn 2:20

The third person of the trinity is known as The Holy Spirit.

Homework

1. Omnipotent
2. Omniscient
3. Omnipresent