

## THE ATTRIBUTES OR PERFECTIONS OF GOD

(Adapted from Survey of Basic Christianity - O.J. Gibson)

*Remember last time we looked at..*

### UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES (Those only God possesses)

#### THE GLORY OF GOD.

God is:

- i. **Self-Existent.** He has no beginning /no source.
- ii. **Self-Sufficient.** He needs nothing from any source
- iii. **Eternal.**
- iv. **Changeless.** (God's Immutability)  
**The God of the OT is the very same God of the NT!**
- v. **Infinite.** "Without bounds or limits."

#### THE LORDSHIP OF GOD.

- i. **All-Powerful.** (God's Omnipotence)
- ii. **All-Knowing.** (God's Omniscience)
- iii. **Everywhere-Present.** (God's Omnipresence)
- iv. **Sovereign.**

He is the absolute ruler over all - no-one can hinder Him.

He works everything out according to His own will and plan.

## RELATIVE ATTRIBUTES (Those man can share)

**With God they're perfections  
– with man they're approximations**

### THE HOLINESS OF GOD

God stands apart from all other beings and there is no evil or impurity in Him

*Exalt the Lord our God  
and worship at his holy mountain,  
for the Lord our God is holy.* Psalm 99:9

*For this is what the high and lofty One says—  
he who lives for ever, whose name is holy:*

Isaiah 57:15

He is called "The Holy One." Heaven chants His holiness

*Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was  
covered with eyes all around, even under his wings.*

*Day and night they never stop saying:*

*"Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come."* Revelation 4:8

*And they were calling to one another:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."* Isaiah 6:3

In the absolute sense, no-one is holy but God

**Who will not fear you, O Lord,  
and bring glory to your name?  
For you alone are holy. Revelation 15:4a**

It's why we need Jesus to be our High Priest

**Such a high priest meets our need—one who is  
holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners,  
exalted above the heavens. Hebrews 7:26**

God's holiness separates sinners from Him

**But your iniquities have separated  
you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you,  
so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2**

**As God's people, we are called to be holy because He is  
holy (1 Peter 1:16).**

Our holiness is incomplete until Jesus returns  
**by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who  
are being made holy. Hebrews 10v14**

Yet praise God he sees us as made perfect in Christ!

### **i. Righteousness and Justice.**

[These spring from the same root word in Greek in the New Testament.]

This is impartiality or fairness in dealing with others. Nothing wrong can proceed from God.

In Nehemiah the people acknowledged

**In all that has happened to us, you have been just; you  
have acted faithfully, while we did wrong. Nehemiah 9:33**

**The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and loving towards all he has made.**

**Psalm 145:17**

He is the righteous Judge. Paul says..

**Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on  
that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have  
longed for his appearing.**

**2 Timothy 4:8**

As he prayed for Sodom, Abraham recognised: God will unfailingly do what is right

**Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?**

**Genesis 18:25**

His justice demands that sin's penalty be paid and His love provides the payment so that He can be both "**just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus**"

**(Romans 3:26).**

**God wants his people to live righteous lives & love justice**

### **ii. Truth.**

With God there is

- no falsehood,

- no unfaithfulness,
- no lack of consistency with Himself

***God is not a man, that he should lie,  
nor a son of man, that he should change his mind.  
Does he speak and then not act?  
Does he promise and not fulfil?      Numbers 23:19***

***We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.  
1 John 5:20***

Jesus didn't just tell the truth - **He is the truth** (John 14:6).  
He is absolutely and totally faithful

***if we are faithless,  
he will remain faithful,  
for he cannot disown himself.      2 Timothy 2:13***

***I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.  
Revelation 19:11***

God wants us to be people of truth and integrity

### **iii. Wrath.**

God's Wrath is the personal manifestation of His holy, moral character in judgment against sin.

**Romans 1:18** shows us the object of his wrath: "***The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,***"

God is Holy and mankind is sinful. We were by nature objects of wrath [Ephesians 2] but now by faith we're alive in Christ. Paul says

***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.  
Colossians 3:5,6***

***But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6God "will give to each person according to what he has done".  
Romans 2:5,6***

***If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*** Revelation 20:15

**God's wrath is not a contradiction to His love.** Indeed it's His love of what is good and right and His love for those sinned against which means he must punish sin.

We say Amen to God's wrath remembering that we deserved it too

**THE LOVE OF GOD** *God is love* 1 John 4:8  
Jeremiah told the people of Israel

***The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying:  
“I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with loving-kindness.***

**Jeremiah 31:3**

This is that sacrificial and self-giving expression which seeks the highest good for another. It is practical and beneficial. Because God loved us, He gave His Son to die for us (John 3:16).

### **i. AGAPE Love:**

God's love is not dependent on the loveliness or responsiveness of the object. In fact, God loves the hostile, the unappreciative and the sinful person, whilst hating their sin

***This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*** **1 John 4:10**

***4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*** **Ephesians 2:4-5**

***God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** **Romans 5:8**

**God wants us to show that kind of love to others**

### **ii. God's Compassion**

His compassion is closely linked to His love. It's His sympathy or pity for others

***But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*** **Psalm 86:15**

We see this in the character of Christ in the gospels

***When he[Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*** Matthew 9:36;

**God wants us to feel and show His compassion**

### **iii. Goodness & Kindness**

God's kindness of heart is the very quality which should lead men to repentance

***Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God's kindness leads you towards repentance?*** **(Romans 2:4).**

God is full of this kindness and good will

***You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.*** **(Psalm 119:68).**

**Human difficulties or sorrows should never cause us to doubt His goodness and love.**

**iv. Grace.** This is God's undeserved and freely-given favour toward man.

In grace God offers salvation to mankind

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no-one can boast.*** Ephesians 2:8,9

God owes us nothing and yet he gives so freely NOT according to our works, but by His grace

***4Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.***

Romans 4:4-5

***And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.*** Romans 11:6

God's grace should transform us and motivate us to be godly.

***11For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,***

Titus 2:11,12

**v. Mercy.** This is God's active pity toward sinners or the needy, through which forgiveness and relief is given

***But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were***

***dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*** Ephesians 2:4

We have experienced God's grace and mercy

– let's show it to others

#### **vi. Patience.**

God's patience causes him to delay His judgement and allow time for repentance.

***The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*** 2 Peter 3:9

It says about Israel

***He[God] endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert,*** Acts 13:18

Remember God's patience with us and let's be patient with our children and our brothers and sisters in the Lord

#### **vii. Generosity.**

God is the greatest of all givers.

He has given the ultimate gift of His Son (John 3:16). That is why He loves cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7).

God gives liberally <sup>5</sup>*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.* James 1:5

He is the God who loves to pour down blessings on His faithful people.

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.* Malachi 3:10

We have received so much – let's be generous in our giving

**What a great God we have!**

**Perfect in His Holiness..**

**yet with a perfect Love for sinners like us**

**God's Holiness and love came together at the cross**

**We ought to..**

- **love Him with all our heart and**
- **worship Him with holy lives devoted to Him**

