

Attributes of God

Attributes

Knowing God Chapter (page#)

Incommunicable Attributes

Attributes God does not share or communicate with us.

1. Independence (self existence, aseity) 13 (131-2)
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.
2. Immutability (Unchangeableness) 7
God is unchanging in his being, perfection, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and He acts and feels differently in response to different situations.
3. Eternity (Infinity) 7 (77)
God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time.
4. Omnipresence 12 (121)
God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.
5. Unity (Simplicity) 10 (99-100)
(in context of the discussion of God's attributes at beginning of chapter)
God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times.

Communicable Attributes

Attributes God shares or communicates with us.

A. God's Being

1. Spirituality 12 (120-1)
God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has not parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence.
2. Invisibility 20 (233-42)
God's total essence, all of His spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by us, yet God still shows Himself to us through visible, created things.

B. Mental Attributes

1. Knowledge (Omniscience) 8
God fully knows Himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

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2. Wisdom 9, 10
God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

3. Truthfulness and Faithfulness 11
He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

C. Moral Attributes

1. Goodness 16
God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.

2. Love 12
God eternally gives of Himself to others.

3. Mercy (Grace, Patience) 13, 16 (165)
The application to God's goodness to specific groups of people defined as:
Mercy: God's goodness toward those in misery and distress.
Grace: God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.
Patience: God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.

4. Holiness 19 (202-3, 221)
God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking His own honor.

5. Peace (Order) 18 (195-7)
God is separate from all confusion and disorder in His being and in His actions, yet He is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.

6. Righteousness (Justice) 14, 16, 18 (187-188)
God always acts in accordance with what is right and is Himself the final standard of what is right.

7. Jealousy 17
God continually seeks to protect His own honor.

8. Wrath 15
God intensely hates all sin.

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D. Purpose

1. Will 20 (231-3)
God approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of Himself and all creation.
2. Freedom 16, 13 (131-2)
God does whatever He pleases.
3. Omnipotence (Power, Sovereignty) 8
God is able to do all His holy will.

E. Summary Attributes

1. Perfection 16 (161-2)
God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him.
2. Blessedness 4
God delights fully in Himself and in all that reflects His character.
3. Beauty 9 (93)
God is the sum of all desirable qualities.
4. Glory 4
The created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of Himself. (This is not addressing God's character but rather the created light that surrounds God's physical appearance. Reference: Exodus 33:21-23, 34:29-35; Psalm 104:1-2; Matthew 17:2; Luke 2:9; Revelation 21:23)