



In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind
Lesson Three

In His Image

- Ex. 15:11 - “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”
- Psalm 113:5 - “Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high”

In His Image

- The attributes of God may be classified under two main categories:
 - His infinite powers, in two groups:
 - Non-communicable and eternally unique to God alone
 - Non-communicable to humankind in this life, but conferred after the Judgment
 - His personality attributes, communicable to humankind and given at Creation
 - Those nobler, higher characteristics, behaviors, and emotions of humankind are reflections of having been created in God's image

In His Image

- Aseity - God is so independent that He does not need humans or their help
- Infinity - His eternity and vastness; permeates all of His attributes
- Holiness - He is completely separate from sin and wholly incorruptible
- Immanence - God is in the world.
- Transcendence - God is outside space and time
- Immutability - God cannot change
- Impassibility - The inability of God to suffer
- Impeccability - He cannot sin
- Non-corporeality - God is a Spirit
- Incomprehensibility - It is not possible for man in this world to know God in His fullness

In His Image

- Omni-benevolence - God is all good to all of humankind.
- Omnipotence - God is all powerful.
- Omnipresence - God is present everywhere at all times
- Omniscience - God is all knowing of all things
- Oneness - There is only one God as three Divine persons
- Providence - God's activity in the world and His sustainment of the universe.
- Jealousy - God's zeal to protect a love relationship or to avenge it when broken
- Love God is the Original Source of love; no one taught Him to love or showed Him how or why to love

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Sovereignty - There is no one greater than God
 - Psalm 71:19 - “Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?”
 - Jer. 16:20-21 - “Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods? 21 Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; And they shall know that My name is the LORD.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Sovereignty - There is no one greater than God
 - John 17:3 - “And this is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
 - 1Cor. 15:27 - “For He has put all things under His feet. But when He says all things are put under Him, it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Veracity - God never lies
 - Titus 1:2 - “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began”
 - Num. 23:19 - “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
 - Psalm 12:6 - “The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Veracity - God never lies
 - Prov. 30:5-6 - “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. 6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”
 - John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Wrath - “Wrath is the personal manifestation of God's holy, moral character in judgment against sin. Wrath is neither an impersonal process nor is it irrational and fitful anger; it is in no way vindictive or malicious. It is holy indignation; God's anger directed against sin” (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986 ed., p.1108).

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Wrath of men is dangerous when it has no cause, is taken to excess, or is held for an extended period of time
 - Matt. 5:22 - “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.”
 - Eph. 4:26 - “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- But the wrath of God is sinless, a true example of righteous indignation.
 - Psalm 7:11 - “God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day”
- “God's wrath is a demonstration of His holy love. If God is not a God of wrath, His love is no more than frail, worthless sentimentality; the concept of mercy is meaningless; and the Cross was a cruel and unnecessary experience for his Son” (Nelson, *ibid*, p.1108).

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Grace - The state of forgiveness given by God because He desires man to have it, not because of anything he has done to earn it. The condescension shown by God toward the human race.
- A spontaneous gift from God to man, generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved that takes the form of Divine favor and mercy

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Rom. 3:23-26 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Mercy - The act of God by which He withholds what men deserve.
 - Dan. 9:9 - “To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.”
 - 2Cor. 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort”
 - Neh. 9:17, 31 - “They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them... 31 Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Grace and mercy relative to sin are strictly Divine prerogatives
 - Ex. 33:19 - “Then He said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”
 - Rom. 9:15-16 - “For He says to Moses, I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- “If we could remember that the divine mercy is not a temporary mood but an attribute of God’s eternal being, we would no longer fear that it will someday cease to be. Mercy never began to be, but from eternity was; so it will never cease to be. It will never be more since it is itself infinite; and it will never be less because the infinite cannot suffer diminution. Nothing that has occurred or will occur in heaven or earth or hell can change the tender mercies of our God. Forever His mercy stands, a boundless, overwhelming immensity of Divine pity and compassion” (A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, 63).

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Knowledge - God fully knows Himself
 - Job 37:16 - “Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?”
 - 1John 3:20 - “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”
 - Isa. 40:13-14 - “Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- 1Cor. 2:10 - “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”
- This is amazing since God’s own Being is infinite!

Revealed Attributes Of God

- God knows all things that exist and all things that happen.
 - Heb. 4:13 - “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”
 - Isa. 46:9-10 - “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- God knows all things that exist and all things that happen.
 - Matt. 6:8 - “...your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”
 - Matt. 10:30 - “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- God knows all things could happen but do not actually happen... every alternative course and consequence
 - 1Sam. 23:11-13 - “Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. 12 Then David said, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver you. 13 So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.”
 - Matt. 11:21 - “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Wisdom - “Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. Wisdom is, in fact, the practical side of moral goodness. As such, it is found in its fullness only in God. He alone is naturally and entirely and invariable wise” (J. I. Packer).
 - Rom. 11:33 - “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Apprehending the wisdom of God requires will and work
 - James 1:5 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
 - James 3:13, 17 - “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Apprehending the wisdom of God requires will and work
 - Psalm 19:7 - “The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”
 - Psalm 111:10 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Will - God's will is the final reason for everything that happens.
 - Eph. 1:11 - "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will"
 - Rev. 4:11 - "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
 - Dan. 4:28-37

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Necessary Will is everything that God must will according to His own nature. He cannot choose to be different than who He is.
 - Ex. 3:14 - “And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Free Will is everything that God decided to will but had no necessity to will according to His nature: creation, redemption, revelation of Himself to humankind

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Secret Will includes God's hidden decrees by which He governs the universe and determines everything that will happen
 - Deut. 29:29 - "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."
 - Gen. 50:20 - "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."
 - Acts 2:23 - "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death"

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Revealed Will - God's declared will concerning what we should do or what God commands us to do.
 - Matt. 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
 - Eph. 5:17 - "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Has it occurred to you yet that these are only the revealed attributes of God? He has revealed only those things that He wants us to know in this world, that is the things we are capable of apprehending in this realm.
- In view of His infinite Greatness, it necessarily follows that there is much about Himself that He has chosen to reserve until He is fully revealed in all of His Glory in Heaven.

- 2Sam. 7:18-24 - “Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? 20 Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant. 21 For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. 22 Therefore You are great, O LORD GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name-and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land-before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? 24 For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.”