



# In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind  
Lesson Five, Conclusion

## Job 11:7-9

- “Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are higher than heaven -- what can you do? Deeper than Sheol -- what can you know? 9 Their measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.” (Zophar, the Naamathite)

# Characteristics Unique to God the Father

- Aseity
- Holiness
- Omni-benevolence
- Omnipotence
- Omnipresence
- Omniscience
- Oneness
- Providence
- Sovereignty
- Grace
- Mercy
- Infinity

# Characteristics Conferred to the Children of God at the Judgment

- Knowledge (of Himself)
- Invisibility
- Immanence
- Transcendence
- Immutability
- Impassibility
- Impeccability
- Non-corporeality
- Incomprehensibility

# Characteristics Conferred in Part to Humankind at Creation or Salvation

- Jealousy (Divinely approved)
- Love
- Veracity
- Wrath (Divinely approved)
- Wisdom
- Will
- Freedom
- Perfection (completeness)
- Blessedness
- Beauty
- Glory
- Patience
- Peace (Order)

# Communicable Attributes Shared On A Limited Basis With Humans

- God's incommunicable attributes, those attributes that God does not share with others: sovereignty, independence, unchangeableness, timelessness, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, and omni-benevolence.
- These are attributes of God's nature that can never and in no sense be shared with humanity. These attributes define and characterize God's "God-ness" in a way that makes Him unique and singular.

# Communicable Attributes Shared On A Limited Basis With Humans

- God's communicable attributes, those attributes that God does share with others *to some extent*
- Communicable attributes are those aspects of God's character that we have in common with God, but not in the same measure as God.
- Even in those attributes that God chooses to share with humanity, we must remember that God is always infinitely characterized by those attributes that saved humanity only shares in a finite sense.
- God cannot give us any of His attributes in this world in an infinite, perfect, fulfilled manner.

# Communicable Attributes Shared On A Limited Basis With Humans

- “God is infinite in his relation to space and time; we are finite in our relation to both. But he is no less infinite as to his knowledge, will, goodness, and righteousness in all their modes, and we are finite in all these respects. All God's attributes known to us, or conceivable by us, are communicable, inasmuch as they have their analogy in us, but they are all alike incommunicable, inasmuch as they are all infinite.”  
*(A. A. Hodge, “Outlines of Theology”)*

# Communicable Attributes Shared On A Limited Basis With Humans

- Why would God share attributes with us?
- This is one of the most loving acts God can do, because by sharing Himself with humanity, He gives of the greatest good to humanity.
- How does God share attributes with us? How does man manifest the communicable Divine attributes?

# In Creation

- Gen. 1:26-27 - “Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
- Ecc. 7:29 - “Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright...”

# In Creation

- Man is born an eternal spirit
  - John 5:28-29 - “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”
- Man is born a free moral agent
  - Joshua 24:15 - “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

# In Creation

- Man is born with the capacity to reason
  - Rom. 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
- Man is born with the ability to design and create
  - Ecc. 2:4-6 - “I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. 5 I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.”

# In Creation

- Man is born with the capacity for goodness
  - Ecc. 7:29 - “Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.”
- Man is born with the capacity to develop all good qualities within the limits of existence in this world
  - Gal. 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

# In Salvation

- Man is born into Christ as a pure being
  - Acts 22:16 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
- Man is born into Christ with the power to partake in the Divine Nature in all of its manifestations in a limited world
  - 2Peter 1:3-4 - “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”

# In Salvation

- Man is born into Christ with power to enter heaven
  - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
  - John 1:12 - “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”

# In The Word

- 1John 2:3-5 - “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

# In The Word

- Man transforms into the image of God as much as is possible in this world
  - 2Cor. 3:18 - “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
- Man transcends flesh to live and walk in the Spirit
  - Rom. 8:1 - “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

# In the Judgment

- 1John 3:1-3 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

# In the Judgment

- Man is transformed into the actual nature and form of Christ; he achieves his fulfilled design intended by God from before the beginning
  - Eph. 1:3-6 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

# In His Image

- This world is a temporary proving ground for humankind. God gave us our nature; part of that nature is the power to choose our course of life in this world and our eternal destination in the world to come. God did not give that power to any other created thing, living or inanimate, in this world. God did not give the power to become His children to anyone except humankind, not even angels and beings of power. Man is uniquely created in the image of God.

- “The man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems, for he sees at once that these have to do with matters which at the most cannot concern him for very long; but even if the multiple burdens of time may be lifted from him, the one mighty single burden of eternity begins to press down upon him with a weight more crushing than all the woes of the world piled one upon another. That mighty burden is his obligation to God. It includes an instant and lifelong duty to love God with every power of mind and soul, to obey Him completely, and to worship Him acceptably. And when the man’s laboring conscience tells him that he has done none of these things, the inner pressure of self-accusation may become too heavy to bear. The gospel can lift this destroying burden from the mind, give beauty for ashes, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. But unless the weight of the burden is felt, the gospel can mean nothing to the man; and until he sees a vision of God high and lifted up, he will feel no woe and no burden.” (A. W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, 5)