



In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind

# 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

# In His Image

- The attributes of God may be classified under two main categories:
  - His infinite powers - non-communicable to humankind in this life
  - His personality attributes - communicable to humankind

# In His Image

- His personality attributes were given to humankind in the 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, But they have sought out many schemes.”

# In His Image

- His personality attributes were given to humankind in the Creation
  - Acts 17:26-29 - “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.”

# In His Image

- His Divine attributes will be shared with His children at 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 His Image

- His Divine attributes will be shared with His children at the Judgment
  - 2Peter 1:4 - “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”
  - Phil. 3:21 - “who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”
  - 1Cor. 15:49-54

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Aseity - God is so independent that He does not need humans or their help; He is fully independent
  - Acts 17:25 - “Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Infinite - Includes His eternity and vastness; Infinity permeates all other attributes of God: His love is infinite, His power is infinite, etc.
  - Isa. 40:8, 12-15, 25-26, 28
  - 1Kings 8:27 - “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Holiness - He is completely separate from sin and wholly incorruptible.
  - The refrain of "Holy, holy, holy" in Isa. 6:3 and Rev. 4:8 manifests that only one Divine characteristic in scripture is elevated to the third degree; the Bible never says that God is love, love, love or power, power, power.

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Immanence - Refers to God being in the world. It is contrasted with His transcendence
  - Psalm 114:5-8 - “What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? 6 O mountains, that you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs? 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the God of Jacob, 8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters.”
  - God cannot manifest Himself in this world, or universe, or in the presence of man, because if God should appear in this world in the fullness of His glory and power, it would destroy this world

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Transcendence - God is outside space and time, and therefore eternal and unable to be changed by forces within the universe. It is closely related to His immutability
  - 2Peter 3:8 - “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Immutability - God cannot change
  - James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
  - Heb. 6:17-18 - “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Impassibility - The inability of God to suffer; His power to determine what He will permit to affect Him
  - Psalm 138:6 - “Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.”
  - Isa. 57:15 - “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Impeccability - Closely related to God's holiness; He cannot sin
  - James 1:13 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Non-corporeality - Refers to God being a Spirit
  - John 4:24 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- It is not possible to represent spirit with flesh
  - Ex. 20:4 - “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Incomprehensibility - It is not possible for man in this world to know God in His fullness.
  - “In so far as God reveals Himself in His attributes, we also have some knowledge of His Divine Being, though even so our knowledge is subject to human limitations” (Louis Berkhof).
  - Isa. 55:8-9 - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omni-benevolence - Goodness; refers to God being all good to all. His goodness encompasses His grace, love, mercy and patience.
  - Ex. 34:6-7 - “And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Matt. 5:43-48 - “You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omnipotence - God is all powerful.
  - “His Omnipotence means power to do all that is intrinsically possible, not to do the intrinsically impossible. You may attribute miracles to him, but not nonsense. This is no limit to his power” (C. S. Lewis)
  - Job 1:9 - “So Satan answered the LORD and said, Does Job fear God for nothing?”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Matt. 22:29-32 - “Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. 31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omnipresence - God is present everywhere at all times
  - Psalm 139:8 - “If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.”
  - Psalm 121:4 - “Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.”
  - Job 26:6 - “Sheol is naked before Him, And Destruction has no covering.”

# Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omniscience - God is all knowing
  - Jude 25 - “To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.”
  - Psalm 147:4-5 - “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
  - He knows every detail from every moment of every human being who ever lived