

# In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind  
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Multiple Sources)

Introduction: Ex. 15:11; Psalm 113

- A. The attributes of God may be classified under two main categories:
  - 1. His infinite powers - non-communicable to humankind in this life
  - 2. His personality attributes - communicable to humankind
- B. His personality attributes were given to humankind in the Creation
  - 1. Gen. 1:26-27; Ecc. 7:29; Acts 17:26-29
- C. His Divine attributes will be shared with His children at the Judgment
  - 1. 1John 3:1-3; 2Peter 1:4; Phil. 3:21; 1Cor. 15:49-54

## I. COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF REVEALED ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- A. Aseity - The aseity means God is so independent that He does not need humans or their help; He is fully independent - Acts 17:25
- B. Infinite - Includes His eternity and vastness
  - 1. Isa. 40:8, 12-15, 25-26, 28; 1Kings 8:27
  - 2. Infinity permeates all other attributes of God: His love is infinite, His power is infinite, etc.
- C. Holiness - He is completely separate from sin and wholly incorruptible.
  - 1. The refrain of "Holy, holy, holy" in Isa. 6:3 & 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.
- D. Immanence - Refers to God being in the world. It is contrasted with His transcendence - Psalm 114:5-8
  - 1. 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
- E. Transcendence - God is outside space and time, and therefore eternal and unable to be changed by forces within the universe.
  - 1. It is closely related to His immutability - 2Peter 3:8
- F. Immutability - God cannot change - James 1:17; Heb. 6:17-18
- G. Impassibility - The doctrine of the impassibility of God is controversial. It refers to the inability of God to suffer.
  - 1. More accurately would be represented as God's power to determine what He will permit to affect Him
  - 2. Psalm 138:6; Isa. 57:15
- H. Impeccability - Closely related to God's holiness; means He cannot sin
  - 1. James 1:13
- I. Non-corporeality - Refers to God being a Spirit - John 4:24
  - 1. Ex. 20:4 - It is not possible to represent spirit with flesh
- J. Incomprehensibility - It is not possible for man in this world to know God in His fullness.

1. "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).
  2. Isa. 55:8-9
- K. Omni-benevolence - Goodness; refers to God being all good to all. His goodness encompasses His grace, love, mercy and patience..
1. Ex. 34:6-7; Matt. 5:43-48
- L. Omnipotence - God is all powerful.
1. "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)
  2. Matt. 22:29-32; Job 1:9
- M. Omnipresence - God is present everywhere at all times
1. Psalm 139:8, 121:4; Job 26:6
- N. Omniscience - God is all knowing - Jude 25; Psalm 147:4-5
- O. Oneness - There is only one God as three Divine persons or hypostases (beings that are in the condition of Deity): the Father (Jehovah), the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.
1. The three persons are distinct, yet are one in condition, essence or nature. A nature is what one is, while a person is who one is.
  2. Heb. 1:1-3; John 15:26
- P. Providence - Refers to God's activity in the world and His sustainment of the universe.
1. General providence refers to God's continuous upholding of the existence and natural order of the universe - Gen. 8:22
  2. Special providence refers to God's intervention in the lives of people, especially the righteous - Psalm 37:23-28; 1Sam. 2:9

Conclusion:

- A. The next lesson will begin with God's emotions and character.
- B. The question we will endeavor to answer in this study: Who is like God?