

Attributes of God – Part 1

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I. Introduction: the hardest subject is Who God is.

A. Heaviest term and most misunderstood.

1. Spiritual problems come from this.
2. Heresy comes from this.

B. An unknown god cannot be served, trusted, or loved. (Acts 17)

1. Those who know their God should do great exploits. (Daniel 11)
2. If we project anything on our heavenly Father, it is our earthly father.
3. Anyone who truly knows God would not say that he is having too much fun without Him.

II. Who is God?

A. We basically know Him through His attributes.

B. There is much that we cannot comprehend about God in our minds; therefore, God must reveal Himself.

C. What is an attribute?

1. The attributes are not parts of God. An attribute is a different glance of who God is in His character and nature. It is what is true of God.

D. God has revealed Himself in the Scriptures through His attributes.

IV. What are His attributes?

A. God is omnipotent - He is all powerful.

1. It means that He can do it.
2. He rules over all and nothing is too great for Him.
3. Our thoughts about Him are too human.
4. How does this affect us?
 - a. It allows us to pray for the impossible.
 - b. He gives strength to the weary.

c. It gives us a different look at insurmountable problems.

B. God is omnipresent.

1. There is no point nearer to God than any other point.
2. One can go nowhere where God is not. (Psalm 30:7)
3. God is here. God is immediately accessible wherever you are.
5. How can you draw near to God when you are no closer to Him at one point than another?
 - a. Drawing near to God speaks of experience.

C. God is Omniscient.

1. God knows all. God knows all things that could have happened, would have happened and will happen.
2. God is not just the God of reality but the God of all possibility. (Psalm 139)
 - a. God takes all the possibilities and chooses the best for us.
 - c. Being at the center of God's will is His number one choice.

D. God is immutable.

1. God never changes.
2. His power can never diminish nor His glory ever fade. (Malachi 3:6)
3. God repenting in the Scripture does not mean that He changes.
 - a. God is accommodating to our language.
 - b. He is consistent in His basic nature - it appears that He changes, but we are really the ones that changed in regards to Him.
4. Application.
 - a. It encourages us to pray. He is consistent in what He can do, and His attitude towards us stays the same. We do not have to fear.

IV. Conclusion: how we view our earthly father can overrule the image of our heavenly Father.

A. In most places the number one barrier for many to accepting Christ is the image of their earthly Father.

B. He is totally different than our earthly fathers. He is not our old man.

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STUDY GUIDE

Part 1: What do you see?

1. Understanding God is difficult because many people have a poor example in their earthly fathers. What other challenges might get in the way of understanding God?

2. What four unique attributes or characteristics of God did the speaker discuss? List them and provide your own illustration for each.

3. Look up two of the following Scripture passages: Psalm 30:7, Psalm 139:1-6, Malachi 3:6. How do these passages uniquely picture the characteristic of God that the speaker attributes them to?

Part 2: What do you think?

1. Why does understanding who God is help us to live as we are supposed to?

2. Drawing near to God is experiential. Is knowing God through His attributes an academic activity? If so, is that all it is? Explain.

3. Knowing that God is all-powerful and unchangeable helps us in our prayer life. Why is this so? What difference will it make in a man to believe that God truly possesses these attributes?

Part 3: What will you do?

1. Are you serving an unknown god? What characteristics of God have you had difficulty embracing? How have the attributes changed your view about God?

2. Which attribute stood out to you the most? How can this attribute affect your attitude and feelings about personal problems and circumstances?

3. What can you do in your personal prayer time to embrace a bigger view of God? Be specific.
