

The Attributes of God – Part 2

Josh McDowell

I. Introduction.

- A. He may be our Father, but He is not your old man.
- B. God's attributes are that which are true to His very nature and character.
- C. God is omnipotent (He can do it), omnipresent (He is here) omniscient (He knows it), and immutable (He never changes).

II. Attributes continued.

A. God is infinite, eternal, and limitless. (Psalm 90, Psalm 147:5)

- 1. Application: it turns me from my limitation to a God who knows no limitations.

B. God is just. (Romans 1:8)

- 1. The application of equity to a moral situation.
- 2. God balances the scales morally.
- 3. It is God's character by which He measures all things by.
- 4. God is totally fair and impartial with all of His dealings with man.
 - a. God is always fair.
 - b. He knows all and His understanding is bigger than ours.
- 5. All that God does agrees with all that God is.
 - a. We are to mimic Him in His character.
 - b. We are to leave vengeance up to God.
 - 1) We should never judge by our own standards.
 - 2) We may only judge by the very character of God.

C. God is truth - veracity.

- 1. His knowledge and His word coincides with reality. The truest thing is that which God says.
- 2. Even against the sayings of scholars God's word is true.

3. God cannot lie because it is against His very character.

4. If we knew all truth we would choose the same things that God would, knowing all.

D. God is good. (Psalm 119:69)

1. To be at the presence of God is to fear yet to not be afraid.

2. Two manifestations.

a. God's mercy.

b. God's grace.

3. How does it apply?

a. We should want to be people who exercise God's goodness and grace.

b. Understanding God's goodness provokes us to praise.

E. God is love - an aspect, not merely a characteristic.

1. When God loves He is simply being Himself.

2. The more we understand that God loves us, the more we come to love Him.

3. Once we begin to realize that the Bible is valid, then the love of God can win us over.

4. God loves us so much individually that if we were the only person alive He would have died for us.

5. Christ's love is uninfluenced and was initiated by Himself on His own behalf.

a. God's love is eternal.

b. God's love is omnipotent.

c. God's love is infinite.

d. God's love is immutable.

e. God's love is holy.

1) How can God send anyone to hell if He is loving?

2) God is also just - He cannot exercise any of His attributes without the other.

F. God is patient. (Exodus 34:6)

G. God is faithful. (Psalm 119:90)

1. Knowing that God is faithful causes us to trust Him even more and worry less.
2. Knowing that God is faithful increases our confidence in Him.

III. Is there anything that God cannot do?

A. God cannot perform any reality inconsistent with His basic nature.

1. He cannot act unlovingly.
2. He cannot act unjustly.

B. Every single attribute of God was met at the cross - it explains how a holy and righteous God can accept sinners into His presence.

C. The greater our knowledge of God the greater He will be glorified in each one of our lives.

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STUDY GUIDE

Part 1: What do you see?

1. What is the relationship between God's justice and love? How are the demands of both met at the cross?

2. What attributes God did the speaker discuss? Which of these are His unique moral attributes? List them and provide your own illustration for each.

3. Look up two of the following Scripture passages: Psalm 90, Romans 1:8, Psalm 119:69, Psalm 119:90. How do these passages uniquely demonstrate the characteristic of God that the speaker attributes them to?

Part 2: What do you think?

1. Why is it that knowing God's love is far more important than knowing facts about Him? How can one come to love God?

2. How possibly can a loving God send people to hell? What does the speaker claim? How would you answer this question to someone who asked.

3. Why does our glorifying God depend upon a greater knowledge of Him? What kind of knowledge is this?

Part 3: What will you do?

1. How has reflecting upon God's attributes changed your attitude towards Him and towards your life?

2. Which attribute stood out to you the most? What about God's moral attributes is most compelling to you?

3. In light of the character of God, what steps will you take to improve your relationships with others? How can you extend justice, patience, love, goodness, and faithfulness to others?
