

“Attributes of God – A SUMMARY”

(I) THE CONFESSION STATED

Question 4 of Westminster Shorter Catechism:-

What is God?

God is a Spirit,¹ infinite,² eternal,³ and unchangeable,⁴ in his being,⁵ wisdom,⁶ power,⁷ holiness,⁸ justice, goodness, and truth.⁹

¹[John 4:24](#) ²[Job 11:7-9](#) ³[Ps. 90:2](#) ⁴[Jas. 1:17](#) ⁵[Exod. 3:14](#) ⁶[Ps. 147:5](#) ⁷[Rev. 4:8](#) ⁸[Rev. 15:4](#) ⁹[Exod. 34:6-7](#)

The purpose for our study is that the knowledge of God will bless our life.

GOD

Incommunicable Attributes Communicable attributes

God is Spirit

Being

MAN
Man is a living soul

Infinite

Wisdom

finite

Eternal

Power

temporal

Unchangeable

Holiness

changeable

Justice

Goodness

Truth

The incommunicable Attributes of God belongs only to Him. God is a Spirit. But the communicable attributes of God can be imparted to us! It is my prayer that these communicable attributes of God will more and more be a part of our daily lives till we see Him in glory.

(II) THE CONFESSION EXPLAINED

The 7 Aspect of God’s Communicable Attributes are:-

(1) God is Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable in His Being

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth... because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets... Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:1a, 7)

→ Be very sure of your eternal destiny!

We come into “being” when we acknowledge God in Christ Jesus.

(2) God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His Wisdom

His understanding is infinite. (Psalms 147:5)

James 1:5 “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*”

- (a) Acknowledging Perfect wisdom belongs to God.
- (b) It is revealed to us in His perfectly preserved Word.
- (c) Availing God's wisdom through prayer.

(3) God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His Power

This doctrine of the omnipotence of God brings us comfort and patience. Let God be pre-eminent in our lives. He is able to help and He never fails. Let us seek Him first in everything.

Isaiah 40:28-31 "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that **wait upon the LORD** shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

(4) God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His Holiness

The Holiness of God is the essence of His moral character. It denotes His absolute purity – totally separated from all evil and defilement.

It declares our sinfulness and prompts us to live holy lives. We have been cleansed by our Lord Jesus Christ based in His finished work of the cross. All who believe have been freed from the bondage of sin. We have a free will to choose not to sin. This is the great privilege God has given us. He treats us as adults. We are to live as adults. We saw that Isaiah knew that he has been cleansed and his whole desire was to thank his Master for the forgiveness he has received in his repentance. These are his words of consecration.

Isaiah 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

(5) God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His Justice

The justice of God naturally stems from His holiness. The Hebrew word *tsaddiq* means "straight" and the Greek word *dikaios* means "upright". Both words refer to the justice of a holy God. *God's justice* is the outward expression of His holiness for He cannot tolerate sin. This applies to both believers and unbelievers.

It is indeed the just nature of God that He has to send His only begotten Son to justify sinners for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). If God did not send Jesus Christ to die on the cross then there would have been no remedy for sin and the justice of God requires that all be condemned to the destruction of eternal hell fire.

This attribute of God's character also gives hope to the oppressed of His people that God will vindicate and strikes fear in the heart of the oppressor that God will catch up with them for their evil deeds. Justice will prevail for God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His justice. There is therefore no escape for every evil doer. May we make right with God in every aspect of our life for a just God demands a payment for every transgression of His law. May we flee to the cross for cleansing where we have fallen and be patient to wait upon the Lord in prayer where we have experienced injustice.

(6) God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His goodness

The word "goodness" in Hebrew is the masculine noun "*hesed*" meaning "goodness, kindness" in Exodus 34:6-7. It is an expression of God's love for God is love.

When used of God it depicts His kindness, lovingkindness in condescending to the needs of his creatures, more especially to sinners, in unmerited kindness. God's goodness is described as abundant.

May the Lord help us to see His goodness (kindness) by softening our hearts and come back to Him where we have backslidden. If God had punished us according to our sins, we would have perished long ago. Remember Israel in the wilderness who went a whoring. God heard Moses' plea and showed His mercy not to completely destroy them. As an application, have we been showing kindness to others who have been most undeserving? May this attribute of God's goodness be manifested in our lives.

(7) God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His truth

The word "truth" "*emeth*" speaks of the truthfulness or faithfulness of God to His covenant or promise or word. It has the following nuances (1) reliability and sureness (2) stability, continuance (3) faithfulness, reliableness as an attribute of God in Exodus 34:6 and Psalm 86:15. God is described as abundant, great, many. He does not change His mind and is fickle like men are.

He is the God of truth, truthfulness and faithfulness in that He does not lie – "it was impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18), "If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." (2 Timothy 2:13) and "God cannot lie" (Titus 1:2) against His revelation. Also, Truth is absolute! There is no negotiation with the truth.

Truth of Scripture is faithfulness, reliability, integrity, and consistency, all are the attributes of a person. We too are to be truthful and honest.

A direct application of this doctrine is the submission of every believer to the truth of God and to walk in it for their blessings. God's will is God's plan

Studies on the Attributes of God

Basic Bible Knowledge Class Lesson 1

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and purpose for His creation and for each individual and is revealed in His Word (Psalm 86:11).

(III) CONCLUSION

May we be reminded of these 7 aspects our life when as we ponder the attributes of God.

- (1) Being - Our Spiritual Birth
- (2) Wisdom - Our Devotional Life
- (3) Power - Our Comfort
- (4) Holiness - Our Purity
- (5) Justice - Our Hope
- (6) Goodness - Our Benevolence
- (7) Truth - Our Submission