

In His Image

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

Introduction: Ex. 15:11; Psalm 113:5

A. The attributes of God may be classified under two main categories:

1. His infinite powers; in two groups
 - a. Eternally unique to God alone
 - b. Non-communicable to humankind in this life
2. His personality attributes - communicable to humankind
 - a. Given to humankind at Creation - Gen. 1:26-27; Ecc. 7:29
 - b. Those nobler, higher characteristics, behaviors, and emotions of humankind are reflections of having been created in God's image

B. In God's Image (Imago Dei)

1. A Bible term, applied only to humankind, which describes the similarities between God and humanity. Genesis 1:27 does not mean that God is in human form, but rather, that humans are in the image of God in their moral (free moral agents), spiritual (eternal souls), and intellectual (ability to reason) nature. Humans mirror God's divinity in their ability to consciously use the unique qualities they have been given, and which make them different than all other creatures: rational thinking, complete self-awareness, creative freedom, the ability to fulfill our purpose for being, and the power to transcend and control our condition.

(<http://www.pbs.org/faithandreason>)

I. COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF REVEALED ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

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

Q. Jealousy - God's jealousy is "zeal to protect a love relationship or to avenge it when broken, thus making it an aspect of His covenant love for his own people" (J. I. Packer)

1. Ex. 20:5-6

R. Love (as the Original Source) - 1John 4:16 - "God is Love."

1. God is the Original Source of love; no one taught Him to love or showed Him how or why to love; He loved first - John 17:24; Rom. 5:8

2. "From God's other known attributes we may learn much about His love.

We can know, for instance, that because God is self-existent, His love had no beginning; because He is eternal, His love can have no end; because He is infinite, it has no limit; because He is holy, it is the quintessence of all spotless purity; because He is immense, His love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea before which we kneel in joyful silence and from which the loftiest eloquence retreats confused and abashed. It is a strange and beautiful eccentricity of the free God that He has allowed His heart to be emotionally identified with men. Self-sufficient as He is, He wants our love and will not be satisfied till He gets it. Free as He is, He has let His heart be bound to us forever" (A. W. Tozer, 98, 100).

S. Sovereignty - There is no one greater than God

1. Psalm 71:19; Jer. 16:20-21; John 17:3; 1Cor. 15:27

T. Veracity - God never lies

1. Titus 1:2; Num. 23:19; Psalm 12:6; Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17

Conclusion:

A. 2Sam. 7:18-24 - This foreshadows the Kingdom of God today