



In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind
Lesson Two

In His Image

- Ex. 15:11 - “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”
- Psalm 113:5 - “Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high”

In His Image

- The attributes of God may be classified under two main categories:
 - His infinite powers, in two groups:
 - Non-communicable and eternally unique to God alone
 - Non-communicable to humankind in this life, but conferred after the Judgment
 - His personality attributes, communicable to humankind and given at Creation
 - Those nobler, higher characteristics, behaviors, and emotions of humankind are reflections of having been created in God's image

In God's Image (Imago Dei)

- “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>)

In His Image

- Aseity - God is so independent that He does not need humans or their help
- Infinity - His eternity and vastness; permeates all of His attributes
- Holiness - He is completely separate from sin and wholly incorruptible
- Immanence - God is in the world.
- Transcendence - God is outside space and time
- Immutability - God cannot change
- Impassibility - The inability of God to suffer
- Impeccability - He cannot sin
- Non-corporeality - God is a Spirit
- Incomprehensibility - It is not possible for man in this world to know God in His fullness

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omni-benevolence - Goodness; refers to God being all good to all. His goodness encompasses His grace, love, mercy and patience.
 - Ex. 34:6-7 - “And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Matt. 5:43-48 - “You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omnipotence - God is all powerful.
 - “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)
 - Job 1:9 - “So Satan answered the LORD and said, Does Job fear God for nothing?”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Matt. 22:29-32 - “Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. 31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omnipresence - God is present everywhere at all times
 - Psalm 139:8 - “If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.”
 - Psalm 121:4 - “Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.”
 - Job 26:6 - “Sheol is naked before Him, And Destruction has no covering.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Omniscience - God is all knowing
 - Jude 25 - “To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.”
 - Psalm 147:4-5 - “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
 - He knows every detail from every moment of every human being who ever lived

Revealed Attributes Of God

- 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.
- 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.

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Heb. 1:1-3 - “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”
- John 15:26 - “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Providence - Refers to God's activity in the world and His sustainment of the universe
- General Providence refers to God's continuous upholding of the existence and natural order of the universe
 - Gen. 8:22 - “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Special Providence refers to God's intervention in the lives of people, especially the righteous
 - Psalm 37:23-28 - “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed. 27 Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore. 28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- 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)
 - Ex. 20:5-6 - “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Love
 - 1John 4:16 - "God is Love."
- God is the Original Source of love; no one taught Him to love or showed Him how or why to love; He loved first without cause
 - John 17:24 - "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."
 - Rom. 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Revealed Attributes Of God

- “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.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- “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).

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Sovereignty - There is no one greater than God
 - Psalm 71:19 - “Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?”
 - Jer. 16:20-21 - “Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods? 21 Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; And they shall know that My name is the LORD.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Sovereignty - There is no one greater than God
 - John 17:3 - “And this is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
 - 1Cor. 15:27 - “For He has put all things under His feet. But when He says all things are put under Him, it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Veracity - God never lies
 - Titus 1:2 - “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began”
 - Num. 23:19 - “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
 - Psalm 12:6 - “The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.”

Revealed Attributes Of God

- Veracity - God never lies
 - Prov. 30:5-6 - “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. 6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”
 - John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

- 2Sam. 7:18-24 - “Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? 20 Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant. 21 For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. 22 Therefore You are great, O LORD GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name-and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land-before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? 24 For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.”