

## Attributes of God Which We Must Possess!

### Discussion:

1. Two Recent Sermons on the subject entitled "What is God Like?"
2. A topic to be approached with fear and trembling:
  - a. Lest we might fail to ascribe unto God the glory and honor He is due. I Cor. 10:31.
  - b. Because God is infinite in all His attributes, and we are finite. His ways and thoughts are as much above our ways and thoughts as the heavens are above the earth, Isa. 55:8-9.
3. However, as we have noted before, it is very important that we come to "know" God! John 17:3,
4. By mentioning "God," in this lesson we have in mind the "Godhead," Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9, which includes three divine beings – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all three of whom we have noted are also referred to as "God," a word denoting deity and divinity.
5. God is a God of many Attributes, which can be divided into two categories:
  - a. Incommunicable attributes – attributes which are not communicated to us, which belong to God Alone.
  - b. Communicable attributes – attributes may be communicated to us.

### Discussion:

#### I. Some of the Incommunicable Attributes – which belong to God alone.

- A. Immutability. He does not change.
  1. Mal. 3:67; Heb. 13:8; Jas. 1:17.
  2. We continue to change – for good or bad. 2 Tim. 3:13; 2 Peter 3:18.
- B. Omnipotence. He is Almighty, all powerful!
  1. Gen. 17:1; Psa. 33:9.
- C. Omniscience.
  1. Perfect, complete knowledge; Psa. 139:1-6; Heb. 4:13; Psa. 147:5.
- D. Omnipresence.
  1. God is everywhere simultaneously. Nothing in the universe escapes the presence of God. Jer. 23:24; Psalm 139:7-12.
  2. Jonah tried to flee from the presence of the Lord, Jonah 1:1-3, but was unsuccessful.
- E. Self-Sufficiency.
  1. God is able to maintain His existence apart from everything else in the universe! Psa. 102:24-27.
  2. Each one of us is totally dependent upon God for our very existence! Acts 17:28.
    - a. We cannot survive apart from what God has provided for us, but God can survive apart from us!
- F. Sovereignty.
  1. God is the Supreme Being; He is answerable to no one. I Tim. 6:15; Isa. 46:9-10.
  2. Each one of us is answerable to God! 2 Cor. 5:10.
- G. Perfection.
  1. God is sinlessly perfect! God is perfect in all His attributes. There is no flaw in His character, or in His attributes! Matt. 5:48.
  2. But we have all sinned! Rom. 3:23

#### II. Important Point.

- A. Morally and Spiritually, God wants us to be like Him!
  1. Matt. 5:48.
  2. 2 Peter 1:4.
  3. 2 Cor. 3:18.
- B. Important Admissions!
  1. We should strive to be "perfect," Matt. 5:48, but try as we may we invariably fall short of perfection. I John 1:8,10; 2:1.
  2. However, even though we fall short of perfection, we must strive to be as much like God as possible!
    - a. We are to be "partakers of the divine nature," 2 Peter 1:4.
    - b. We must grow in the divine likeness, 2 Peter 1:5-9.
    - c. We must endeavor to be "conformed to the image" of Christ! Rom. 8:29.
- C. In view of these important facts, it must be understood that God has attributes which are Communicable – attributes of which we must endeavor to be partakers.

#### III. Attributes of God which are Communicable.

- A. Holiness.
1. God is *"the Holy One,"* Isa. 40:25; Psalm 71:22; Acts 4:27; Acts 3:14.  
God is holy in the absolute sense; He is completely free of all defilement; He is infinitely pure. Because He is so pure then He has a holy hatred of sin. Heb. 1:9.
    - a. We cannot have a proper conception of sin until we become aware of God's infinite holiness.
  2. We are exhorted to be *"holy even as"* He is holy, I Peter 1:15-16. Cf. 2 Cor. 7:1.
    - a. Holiness is from *hagiasmos*; it signifies (a) separation to God, I Cor. 1:30; 2 Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; (b) the resultant state, the conduct befitting those so separated," I Thess. 4:3; 4:7 (Vine).
  3. We are encouraged to be *"partakers of His holiness,"* Heb. 12:10.
  4. As Christians, we are a part of a *"holy priesthood,"* I Pet. 2:5; we are to be a *"holy nation,"* I Pet. 2:9.
- B. Love.
1. God is love! I John 4:8; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.
  2. Love is from *agape* and is used (a) "to describe the attitude of God toward His Son, John 17:26; the human race, generally, John 3:16; and (b) to convey His will to His children concerning their attitude one toward another, John 13:34, and toward all men, I Thess. 3:12; I Cor. 16:14, (c) to express the essential nature of God, I John 4:8" (*ibid*).
- C. Mercy.
1. God is a God of mercy! Eph. 2:4; Tit 3:5; Luke 1:72; Rom. 15:9.
    - a. Mercy "is the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it." (*ibid*).
  2. Since God is merciful to us, He wants us to show mercy to others. Matt. 9:13; 12:7; 23:23; Luke 10:37; Jas. 2:13; Col. 3:12.
- D. Longsuffering.
1. "Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy," Vine. Patience is further defined as "the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope, I Thess 1:3." (*ibid*).
  2. God is a God of patience or longsuffering. Ex. 34:6; Rom. 2:4; I Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:15.
  3. Since God is patient or longsuffering to us, He wants us to be longsuffering toward others. 2 Cor. 6:3-6; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12, and in dealing with the events of life, Heb. 6:12.
- E. Goodness.
1. "Good," the adjective, is from *agathos* and "describes that which, being good in its character or constitution, is beneficial in its effect." Vine.
  2. "God is essentially, absolutely and consummately good," Matt. 19:17; Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19.
  3. God wants us to be good, and to do good. Rom. 12:9; Gal. 6:10; I Peter 3:13; Luke 8:15.
- F. Faithfulness.
1. From *pistos*, and means be trustworthy, reliable.
  2. God is faithful, I Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:13; I John 1:9.
  3. He wants us to be faithful, trustworthy, reliable. Matt. 25:21,23; Acts 16:15; I Cor. 4:2,17; Eph. 6:21; I Tim. 1:12; Rev. 2:10.
- G. Righteousness.
1. From *diakaiosune*; it "is the character or quality of being right or just." Vine.
  2. Righteousness is a quality which God possesses.
    - a. As it relates to God, it "means essentially the same as His faithfulness, or truthfulness, that which is consistent with His own nature and promises," (*ibid*).
    - b. God is righteous. Rom. 3:25.
    - c. The gospel is His plan for making people righteous or right with Him, Rom. 1:16-17.
  3. He wants us to be righteous, and to pursue that which is righteous, Matt. 5:6; 6:33; Eph. 6:14

#### Conclusion:

1. There are other attributes of God, or a moral and spiritual nature, which are communicable to man. Yes, morally and spiritually, God wants us to be like Him!
2. And it starts with one obtaining the forgiveness of sins through obedience to His saving gospel.

--Bobby Witherington, October 4, 2015