

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Topic: THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

(Introduction)

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I. **The Purpose Of This Study**

A. **To promote a Biblical/High view of God.** Why? Because what comes into a person's mind when he or she thinks about God is the most important thing about him or her life.

- Biblical views of God lead to high and holy living, worship, evangelism, and service.
- Biblical views of God helps the believer understand themselves and the world in which they live. (IS 6:1-5)
- Biblical views of God influence every area of one's life. (The how & why we do, say or think)
- Biblical views of God shape our worldview. (a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world)
- **Unbiblical/Low views** of God lead to a low and carnal/base way of interacting with God, self, and others.

→ **A.W. Tozer** says the following about **High Views & Low Views of God** - "A **low view of God** is the cause of a hundred lesser evils, but a **high view of God** is the solution to ten thousand temporal problems."

B. **To facilitate AHOW's theme in 2021 - Spiritual Alignment**

Jesus encapsulates the whole law into two commandments in Luke 10:27. I personally believe that this is also the formula/recipe for coming into alignment with God.

→ 'He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

- The more you come to know and understand God, the more you love Him and the better you come to understand your own lowly state before a high and lofty God.
- The more you love Him and the better you understand your lowly state, the easier it will be for you to extend Love, Grace and Mercy to your neighbor/brother! (jn 17:3 "and this is eternal life, that they might know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.")

II. **The definition of God - Defining the indefinable One!**

A. Here is where we run into a problem and it is this, that finite beings are not capable of defining the infinite.

B. God may be partly defined so far as He has been pleased to reveal Himself through creation & scriptures.

→ God is **the** divine being (person) who is wholly unique and entirely different from every personal creature whom He made and is distinguished from these personal beings by His **divine nature** and **incommunicable & communicable attributes** that He has revealed about Himself.

IV. **God's Make Up or Constitution**

→ As incomprehensible as God's make up (constitution) is, it seems to consist of the uncreated **Divine Nature** (Essence) with **Personhood**.

A. **God's Divine Nature - The Divine Essence**

- God's divine nature is that substance or essence, with its qualities and powers, that makes the three Persons of the Godhead, Father, Son & Holy Spirit to be God. Jn 10:30, Jn 14:9
- God's divine nature distinguishes Him from other persons, such as angels and humans. Jer. 10:6
- God's divine nature is uncreated. Gen. 1:1
- God's divine nature is the basis of all His outward manifestations. Gen. 1:1
- God's divine nature is spirit and invisible to fallen human eyes. Jn 4:24; Jn 1:18

B. Personhood

→ God is a personal being whose personhood is indicated by His personal features similar to what we find in ourselves. Below are just a few.

- ❑ **Self-consciousness.** “What man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:11).
- ❑ **Intellect.** “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor” (Romans 11:34).
- ❑ **Feelings.** “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30).
- ❑ **Speaking .** “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven” (Hebrews 12:25).
- ❑ **Anger.** “Therefore I was angry with that generation” and “With whom was He angry forty years” (Hebrews 3:10 and 17)? Again, “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks” (Hebrews 12:25-28).
- ❑ **Jealousy.** “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God” (Exodus 20:5).

V. The Divine Attributes of God

- Definition - An attribute is a quality or characteristic that belongs to a person.
- As they pertain to God, attributes help define and help describe the person of God.
- Although we cannot understand the full depth of God’s nature & character, this study explores some of the main characteristics of God that are mentioned in Scripture.

A. Some of God’s Attributes are called “**Incommunicable Attributes**” and others are called “**Communicable Attributes**.”

- ❑ God’s Incommunicable Attributes belong to God alone. (Holiness, Eternality, Infinity, ‘The Omnis’ etc.)
- ❑ God’s Communicable Attributes find their highest and fullest expression in God but can also be displayed on a smaller scale in humans. (Love, Mercy, Grace, Fidelity etc.)
- ❑ God’s attributes are not independent of one another but are all **interconnected** and **interwoven** together.
- ❑ Each attribute **characterizes** every other attribute.
- ❑ Each of these attributes have always belonged to God and always will, He doesn’t gain or lose attributes, nor can He be separated from them.
- ❑ Each attribute **describes** the other.
- ❑ Each attribute is a **manifestation** of the **Divine Nature** and **Personhood**.

Conclusion: T. Shedd writes, “The attributes are not parts of the essence, of which the latter is composed. The whole essence is in each attribute, and the attribute in the essence. We must not think of the essence as existing by itself, and prior to the attributes, and of the attributes as an addition to it. God is not essence and attributes, but in attributes. The attributes are essential qualities of God.”

→ Next Wednesday we will continue with the Incommunicable Attributes

