



October 29 – Doctrine of God (Father)

I. Misconceptions of God

1. "a pure mathematical mind" (Einstein)
2. cosmic killjoy
3. angry policeman
4. tired old man
5. God in a box (limited)
6. vending machine
7. only cares about my happiness

Truth of God: He doesn't necessarily care about my happiness. He cares about my holiness.

II. God's Attributes

A. His "Natural" Attributes (qualities that constitute what He is, the very characteristics of His nature)

1. He is _____ separate _____ from His creation.

DEFINITION: Transcendent = above and beyond His creation, including the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1)

2. His power and presence _____ pervade _____ His creation.

DEFINITION: Immanent = He does not stand apart from the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is working with us. (Genesis 2)

3. He is _____ omnipotent _____, all powerful.

C. While God is able to do the impossible, in reality, He will do only what is in harmony with His moral character.

For example, "it is impossible for God to lie" (see Hebrews 6:18).

b) The omnipotence of God is not subject to conceptual absurdity.

For example, "Can God make a rock so big that even He cannot lift it?" As C. S. Lewis says, "Nonsense is still nonsense, whether we are talking about something else or about God."

4. He is _____ eternal _____; He never had a beginning and will never have an end (see Isaiah 57:15; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2).

5. He is infinite; He is not limited by, or confined to the universe. There is no place where God cannot be found.
6. He is unchangeable (see James 1:17, Malachi 3:6 & I Samuel 15:29). God's love is steadfast and constant, and not subject to the ebb and flow of human love. His wrath is a fixed attitude toward sin and is not like our fits of temper when something displeases us.

Malachi 3:6 "I the LORD do not change."

NOTE: God "repent?" The Bible speaks of God repenting, a term that seems to mean that He has changed His mind (see Jonah 3:10). Actually, instead of God changing His mind, the people have turned from rebellion to repentance, so that God was consistent, the people changed.

God is **CONSISTENT!**

7. He is omnipresent; He is fully present everywhere.
Jer. 23:24 "Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD."

Psalms 139:5-10 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

8. He is omniscient, that is, He knows everything, including our own thoughts.
Psalm 139:2 "You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."

9. He is a spirit; He does not have a physical body
John 4:24 "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

John 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'"

John 20:26 "A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'"

10. He is personal, that is, He is a person. He has the elements of personality - intellect, feelings, and will. Because he is personal, our relationships with him have dimensions of warmth and understanding. He is approachable. He is spoken to and he speaks.

B. God's "Moral" Attributes (characteristics of God as a moral being that allow Him to be trusted and loved)

1. Love

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

I John 4:7-16 – “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

2. Faithfulness

I John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

3. Holiness (set apart, perfect, pure)

Leviticus 19:2 – “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”

I Peter 1:15-16 – “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

4. Mercy

Ephesians 2:4 – “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.”

God is a God of Mercy. Mercy is not receiving the punishment or negative consequences that are deserved. (Titus 3:5)

Titus 3:5 - “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”

5. Grace

God is a God of Grace. Grace is unmerited divine assistance and favor - getting something good you don't deserve.

Ephesians 1:5-12 – “He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”

God's Riches At Christ's Expense ... GRACE

6. Righteousness

Psalms 119:137,142 – “You are righteous, Lord, and your laws are right. Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.”

7. Justice

Romans 9:14 – “What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!”

Psalm 37: 1-2, 10 – “Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.... A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.”

God is fair in the administration of his law – he doesn't show favoritism – who the person is, is not significant.