

## **The Attributes of God God is Supreme...God is Glorious**

Communicable attributes of God are those that we can share with God, albeit imperfectly.  
Incommunicable attributes of God are those that we can never share with God, not even imperfectly.

God's supremacy is one of the ways that He is different than us.

### **God is supreme and you are not.**

A mistake that the Old Testament people of God made was to view Him as if He were just like them:  
The tendency of the human will, is to reduce God and not magnify Him.

*“You thought I was altogether like you.” Ps 50:21*

This is how disciples are made. A disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus and embraces the mission of Jesus. In order to embrace all of that, you need to see God and His Son Jesus as having THE most exalted place in your life.

Let's take a quick run through Scripture. If you like Bible study tools, you might know about Bible Gateway. Just type in the word exalt and see what you get.

Moses said God is highly exalted. Ex 15:1

David exalted God in prayer 1 Chr 29:11

Isaiah sees God as high and exalted in Is 6.

Ps 57:5,11 and 108:5 ***Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.***

Ps 113: 4-6 *The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?*

This is what it means for God to exist in supremacy:

The greatest wisdom in the world comes from God.

The greatest strength in the world is found in God.

The greatest power in the world resides within God.

The greatest honor in the world goes to God.

There is no one and no thing that is above God.

Therefore, there should be no one and no thing that carries a higher priority or a deeper pursuit or a stronger passion for the Christian than to know this God and to serve Him somehow.

### **The example of the Apostle Paul in Phil 3:7-10**

I counted as loss...for the sake of Christ. (Purpose)

I count everything as a loss... because of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ.

I count them as rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.

There are two obstacles to your embrace of the supremacy of God. Pain and pleasure.

Paul gave up the pleasure of his old life and received some pain in his Christian life because Jesus was worth all of that to him.

**Home Group Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Read the following Scriptures that Pastor Karl alluded to and reflect on the supremacy of God. Exodus 15:1, 1 Chronicles 29:11, Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 57:5,11 and 108:5, Psalm 113: 4-6.
- 2) Read Philippians 3:5-11 and discuss what Paul gave up for the sake of Jesus.
- 3) What is helpful to you in understanding the supremacy of God? What is challenging?
- 4) What have you traded out in order to receive Jesus as supreme?

# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

COMMUNICABLE

BEING

PURPOSE

MENTAL

MORAL

SUMMARY

INCOMMUNICABLE

To study God's attributes is to study his character, to answer questions like, Who is God? and What is God like? A typical classification of God's attributes divides them into those that are *incommunicable* (those that he does not share or "communicate" to anyone or anything else) and *communicable* (those that he shares with other beings). Like most theological classifications, this one is imperfect but still helpful as we seek to understand what is so far beyond ourselves.

God's communicable attributes can be further categorized into: attributes of God's being, mental attributes, moral attributes, attributes of purpose and "summary" attributes (attributes that, in a more particular way, modify each of the others).

It is important to consider that God is not simply the sum of his attributes. His attributes are not separate from one another, but each one modifies or qualifies each of the others.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

*Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem  
*The Attributes of God* by A.W. Pink

- TRANSCENDENCE** — GOD TRANSCENDS ALL CREATION AND IS UNKNOWABLE APART FROM HIS SELF-INITIATED REVELATION.
- IMMANENCE** — GOD IS ACTIVE IN THIS WORLD AND IN OUR DAILY LIVES. GOD CARES ABOUT EVERY ASPECT OF OUR EXISTENCE AND INVITES US TO WELCOME HIS GUIDANCE, GRACE, AND LOVE.
- ASEITY** — GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT AND HAS NO NEED OF HUMAN BEINGS OR THE REST OF CREATION.
- OMNIPRESENCE** — GOD HAS NO SIZE OR SHAPE AND IS PRESENT IN ALL PLACES WITH HIS ENTIRE BEING.
- UNITY** — GOD'S WHOLE BEING INCLUDES ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES AT ALL TIMES. THESE ATTRIBUTES ARE NEVER IN OPPOSITION.
- ETERNALITY** — GOD HAS ALWAYS EXISTED, HAVING NO BEGINNING AND NO END, AND EXPERIENCING NO SUCCESSION OF MOMENTS.
- IMMUTABILITY** — GOD CANNOT CHANGE IN HIS BEING, PERFECTIONS, PURPOSES, AND PROMISES.
- GLORY** — THE CREATED BRIGHTNESS THAT SURROUNDS GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF.
- BEAUTY** — GOD IS THE POSSESSOR AND THE SUM OF ALL DESIRABLE QUALITIES.
- BLESSEDNESS** — GOD DELIGHTS FULLY IN HIMSELF AND IN ALL THAT REFLECTS HIS CHARACTER.
- PERFECTION** — GOD FULLY POSSESSES ALL EXCELLENT QUALITIES AND LACKS NO QUALITIES THAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR HIM.
- JEALOUSY** — GOD ALWAYS SEEKS TO PROTECT HIS OWN HONOR.
- GOODNESS** — GOD IS THE FINAL STANDARD OF ALL GOOD, AND ALL HE IS AND DOES IS WORTHY OF APPROVAL.
- PEACE** — GOD, IN HIS BEING AND ACTIONS, IS SEPARATE FROM ALL CONFUSION AND DISORDER.
- HOLINESS** — GOD IS SEPARATED FROM SIN AND HE IS COMMITTED TO SEEKING HIS OWN HONOR.
- LOVE** — GOD ETERNALLY GIVES OF HIMSELF TO OTHERS.
- MERCY** — GOD IS GOOD TO THOSE IN MISERY AND DISTRESS AND HE IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO DESERVE PUNISHMENT.
- RIGHTEOUSNESS** — GOD IS THE FINAL STANDARD OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND HE ALWAYS ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT IS RIGHT. (THIS IS ALSO KNOWN AS GOD'S JUSTICE)
- WRATH** — GOD INTENSELY HATES ALL SIN.
- TRUTHFULNESS** — GOD IS THE TRUE GOD WHOSE KNOWLEDGE AND WORDS ARE BOTH TRUE AND THE FINAL STANDARD OF TRUTH.
- KNOWLEDGE** — GOD FULLY KNOWS HIMSELF AND ALL ACTUAL AND POSSIBLE THINGS. (THIS IS ALSO KNOWN AS GOD'S OMNISCIENCE)
- WISDOM** — GOD ALWAYS CHOOSES THE BEST GOALS AND THE BEST MEANS TO THOSE GOALS.
- WILL** — GOD APPROVES AND DETERMINES TO BRING ABOUT EVERY ACTION NECESSARY FOR THE EXISTENCE AND ACTIVITY OF ALL THAT EXISTS.
- FREEDOM** — GOD DOES WHATEVER HE PLEASES.
- OMNIPOTENCE** — GOD IS ABLE TO DO ALL HIS HOLY WILL. GOD EXERCISES COMPLETE POWER OVER HIS CREATION AND RULES AS SOVEREIGN.
- INVISIBILITY** — GOD'S TOTAL ESSENCE, ALL OF HIS BEING, WILL NEVER BE VISIBLE TO US.
- SPIRITUALITY** — GOD IS A BEING WHO IS NOT MADE UP OF MATTER AND WHO CANNOT BE PERCEIVED BY OUR BODILY SENSES.