

Theology Proper Part II

Camp Arete' Counselor Training Program

The Communicable Attributes:

- 1A** Introduction: The communicable attributes are those which human beings are commanded to imitate, incorporating each into their own life, so that they may be characterized by them. In this we truly become "Christian," or like Christ, the Son of God. Our godly character in every circumstance of life is the essence of our testimony for God.
- 2A** The Attributes
- 1B** Life: God is a living person who intervenes in His creation. His intervention is always according to His holiness.
- 1C** Joshua 3:10, And Joshua said, By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Gergashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite."
- 2C** Psalm 42:1-2, David is once again in a jam, 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?"
- 3C** We are to live even as God lives in the expression of His perfect character. John 10:10, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
- 2B** Righteousness, or holiness: God is perfect in all that He thinks, says, and does.
- 1C** 1 Samuel 2:2, 2 "There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.
- 2C** Job 36:4, For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you."
- 3C** Isaiah 6:3, 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- 4C** Psalm 11:7, "For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face."
- 3B** Justice, which is righteousness in action, or deeds based on the perfect standard of righteousness.
- 1C** Justice rights wrongs.
- 2C** Justice rewards righteousness in creatures, blessing them in time and eternity.
- 1D** Psalm 75:7, "But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another."
- 2D** Proverbs 29:26, "Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man *comes* from the LORD."
- 3C** Mankind also is to be just:
- 1D** Psalm 37:27-31, "27 Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever. 28 For the LORD loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are

preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. 29 The righteous will inherit the land And dwell in it forever.

2D Proverbs 21:3, "To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice."

3D Isaiah 61:8, "For I, the LORD, love justice"

4D Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow."

4B The motivation attribute: Love

1C 1 John 4:16, "God is love."

2C God loves Himself: John 3:35, "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

3C Divine love is the holy motivation for all that God does for His creatures. John 3:16, "16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

4C Divine love is the desire for His character in His creatures when it is *not present*.

1D Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

2D Ephesians 2:4-7, "4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved, 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

3D 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

4D 1 John 4:9-10, " 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

5D Proverbs 3:12, "For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights."

5C Divine love is His recognition and appreciation of His character, when it is *present* in His creatures.

1D Genesis 39:21, "But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him favor and love to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer."

2D Psalm 11:7, "For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face."

- 3D John 16:27, "...for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father."
- 6C There are many results of divine love for man:
- 1D Divine love is found in the expressions compassion and mercy.
- 2D Accommodation, God wants us to understand Him in our human frame of reference:
- 1E God became man: John 1:18, "18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
- 2E The Word of God, the Bible, is given in a human voice:
- 3E Compare:
- 1F Matthew 15:4, 4 For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'
- 2F Mark 7:10, 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'
- 3D Humility in service: Philippians 2:5–8, "5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
- 7C Human beings are to imitate the love of God in every respect:
- 1D Deuteronomy 6:5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."
- 2D This is expressed in learning from and living in His Word, Deuteronomy 10:12, "Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"
- 3D It is expressed in serving the Lord, Deuteronomy 11:13, "It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul."
- 4D Ephesians 5:1-2, "1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."
- 5B Truth: the communicable attribute of communication.
- 1C Truth is the nature of absolute reality. It is the relation of knowing to reality.

- 2C God is truth, He gives truth, He demands that we live by the truth, He demands truth of our words and lives.
- 3C God is absolute reality, and He communicates absolute reality. His version of reality is a true one.
- 4C God is truth and He abounds in truth.
- 1D Exodus 34:6, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;"
- 2D Psalm 57:10, "For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds."
- 3D Psalm 117:2, "For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!"
- 5C The truth of God is inseparable from the other attributes. Psalm 85:10, "Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other."
- 6C God has veracity; He keeps His word. Psalm 132:11-12, "11 The LORD has sworn to David A truth from which He will not turn back: "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne. 12 "If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I will teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever.""
- 7C God's truth goes into action. Psalm 111:7-8, "7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure. 8 They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness."
- 8C We are to match our lives to God's truth. Psalm 86:11, "Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name."
- 1D In our prayers: God answers truthful prayers with truth. He answers truth with truth.
- 1E Psalm 69:13, "But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, at an acceptable time; O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness, Answer me with Your saving truth."
- 2E Psalm 145:18, "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth."
- 2D In our service: Joshua 24:14, "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD." 1 Samuel 12:24, "Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."
- 3D In our worship:
- 1E Psalm 15:1-2, O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? 2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart.
- 2E John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- 4D In justice:
- 1E Exodus 18:21-22, "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able

men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them *as* leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 22 "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear *the burden* with you."

2E Zechariah 8:16-17, "16 'These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. 17 'Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD.""

5D In guidance:

1E Psalm 25:5, "Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day."

2E Psalm 43:3, "O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places."

3E Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

6D In the exercise of authority, Proverbs 20:28, "Loyalty and truth preserve the king, And he upholds his throne by righteousness."

7D In sanctification:

1E John 17:17-19, "17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."

2E Psalm 119:9, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word."

8D In our own words:

1E Ephesians 4:14-15, " 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,"

2E Ephesians 4:22-25, " 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *OF YOU* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another."

6B Logos: God is orderly: He is the perfection of reason and logic, from premise to conclusion.

1C This is seldom discussed directly as an attribute of God. It seems obvious at first that we should conceive of God as a rational being, but somehow the doctrine does not receive attention as such.

- 2C Christians and non-Christians alike are guilty of de-emphasizing the rational aspect of faith.
- 3C By emphasizing emotional and ecstatic experiences, Christians wrongly focus away from an intelligible and conscious relationship with God.
- 4C Non-Christians commonly ridicule faith as being the opposite of rational thought, though this is of course a great fallacy.
- 5C If we can scripturally determine the logical and rational nature of God, then that demands of us much the same: a life measured by logical and rational thought.
- 6C The "Word of God" is presented as the creative principle (Gen 1:3; Ps 33:6);
 1D Genesis 1:3, "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."
 2D Psalm 33:6, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host."
- 7C The Word of God is presented as an instrument of judgment, Hosea 6:5, "Therefore I have hewn *them* in pieces by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And the judgments on you are *like* the light that goes forth."
- 8C The Word of the Lord as a person: Genesis 15:1-5, 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2 Abram said, "O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." 4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
- 9C In the Book of Proverbs wisdom is coeternal with Yahweh and assists Him in creation, Proverbs 8:22-31
- 10C God is a God of order. 1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace [order]."
- 11C In the Gospel of John, Jesus is the principle of reason and order, who personally existed as God from eternity past:
 1D John 1:1-3, "John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."
 2D John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- 12C God reasons, and demands reason of man.

- 1D Genesis 15:6, "Then he believed in the LORD; and He **reckoned** it to him as righteousness."
- 2D Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us **reason** together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool."
- 13C So we also are to reason.
- 1D Galatians 6:3-5, " 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have **reason for** boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load."
- 2D Philippians 2:14-16, " 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have **reason** to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain."
- 14C God plans:
- 1D Psalm 33:11, "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The **plans** of His heart from generation to generation."
- 2D Jeremiah 29:11, " 'For I know the **plans** that I have for you,' declares the LORD, '**plans** for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"
- 3D Isaiah 14:24-27; Isaiah 25:1; Jeremiah 18:11; Jeremiah 36:3; Jeremiah 49:20; Jeremiah 50:45; Acts 2:22-24.
- 15C So man is to plan according to divine principles:
- 1D Psalm 5:3, "In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch."
- 2D Proverbs 16:1-3,9: " The **plans** of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. 2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives. 3 Commit your works to the LORD And your **plans** will be established... 9 The mind of man **plans** his way, But the LORD directs his steps."
- 3D Proverbs 19:21, "Many **plans** are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand."
- 4D Proverbs 21:5, "The **plans** of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty."
- 5D Isaiah 32:8, "But the noble man devises noble **plans**; And by noble **plans** he stands."

- 6D Genesis 1:14, "Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;"
- 1E This allows an organization for the lives of men. The division of time allows for us the division of our lives.
- 2E So God gave us ways to divide up our time, intending for us to use these lights for organization.
- 7D There is a proper time for everything.
- 1E Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, "1 There is an appointed **time** for everything..."
- 2E Numbers 23:23, ""For there is no omen against Jacob, Nor is there any divination against Israel; At the **proper** time it shall be said to Jacob And to Israel, what God has done!"
- 7B Grace: the divine algorithm, or approach to solving the problems that have resulted from creature volition.
- 1C Grace is God's solution to man's problems, wherein God freely provides what is needed.
- 2C But furthermore, God has respect for human free will in the provision of grace.
- 1D Grace does not overwhelm man's freedom, so that it is forced upon him unwillingly.
- 2D God provides the grace, informs man of its availability, and then He lets man decide whether he will take the free gift.
- 3C Grace as a direct attribute of God.
- 1D Exodus 34:6, Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and **gracious**, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;
- 2D Psalm 145:8-10, 8 The LORD is **gracious** and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. 9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works. 10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, And Your godly ones shall bless You.
- 4C God as the source and giver of grace.
- 1D Genesis 39:21-23, 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him **favor** in the sight of the chief jailer. 22 The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible *for it*. 23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.
- 2D Numbers 6:22-27; 2 Kings 13:22-23; Ezra 9:8; Psalm 4:1; Psalm 25:15-16; Psalm 84:11-12.
- 3D Grace comes from the wealth of God: Ephesians 2:4-9, 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were

dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His **grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by **grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

5C God longs to be gracious to man, Isaiah 30:18-19, 18 Therefore the LORD longs to be **gracious** to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. 19 O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be **gracious** to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

6C Human works nullify the grace of God:

1D Romans 4:1-7, 1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 for what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 4 now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a **favor**, but as what is due. 5 but to the one who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom god credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered.

2D Romans 11:5-6, 5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to *God's* gracious choice. 6 But if it is by **grace**, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise **grace** is no longer **grace**.

3D Galatians 2:20-21, 20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. 21 "I do not nullify the **grace** of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

7C Grace is found after seeking it (the fact that it was found implies a seeking).

1D Genesis 6:8, But Noah found **favor** in the eyes of the LORD.

2D Genesis 18:1-3; Genesis 19:15-20; Genesis 33:1-11; Genesis 39:1-4; Exodus 33:12-23; Ruth 2:1-13; Esther 2:8-9; Esther 2:15-17;

8C Humility is the condition for grace. James 4:4-7, 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? 6 But He gives a greater **grace**. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES **GRACE** TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

9C The purpose of grace. Psalm 67:1-7, 1 <A Psalm. A Song.> God be **gracious** to us and bless us, *And* cause His face to shine upon us -- 2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let

all the peoples praise You. 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. 7 God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

10C Grace is God's algorithm for eternal salvation:

1D Ephesians 2:8–9, "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2D Titus 2:11–13, "11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

3D Titus 3:4–7, "4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

11C Grace continues to be God's algorithm for the Christian life:

1D God's grace is ideal for situations where we are weak, and even when prayer goes unanswered. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, 7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me -- to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My **grace** is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2D Grace allows believers to endure unfair suffering. 1 Peter 2:19-20, 19 For this **is grace**, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this **is grace** with God.

12C Grace as a human virtue:

1D Psalm 37:21, The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is **gracious** and gives.

2D Proverbs 11:16, A **gracious** woman attains honor, And ruthless men attain riches.

3D Proverbs 14:21, 31, He who despises his neighbor sins, But happy is he who is **gracious** to the poor. 31 He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is **gracious** to the needy honors Him.

4D Proverbs 19:17, One who is **gracious** to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

5D Proverbs 28:8, He who increases his wealth by interest and usury Gathers it for him who is **gracious** to the poor.

6D Ecclesiastes 10:12, Words from the mouth of a wise man are **gracious**, while the lips of a fool consume him.

8B Divine patience, the communicable attribute of restraint:

1C God restrains His wrath and judgment in hopes of the repentance of mankind:

1D Exodus 34:6, "6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

2D Psalm 86:15, "15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

3D Nehemiah 9:30, "30 Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

4D Jeremiah 15:15, "15 O Lord, You know; Remember me and visit me, And take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your enduring patience, do not take me away. Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke.

2C Likewise He calls upon us to be patient:

1D Romans 15:5–6, "5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2D 2 Thessalonians 3:5, "5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

9B Faithfulness, the communicable attribute of love and immutability.:

1C Direct testimony

1D 1 Corinthians 1:9, "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

2D Deuteronomy 32:4, "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."

3D Psalm 36:5, "Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness *reaches* to the skies."

4D Psalm 119:90, "Your faithfulness *continues* throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands."

2C God is faithful to us when we are in difficulty.

1D While we are under temptation, 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

2D When we are the targets of the schemes of the evil one, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*."

3D When we fail.

1E 2 Timothy 2:13, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny

Himself.”

2E 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

4D When we suffer as a part of God’s plan, 1 Peter 4:19, “Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

5D In national disaster, ALamentations 3:21-23, “21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 *They* are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

3C God is faithful to us by means of His discipline, Psalm 119:75, “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.”

4C Our unfaithfulness does not nullify His faithfulness (the Judas principle), Romans 3:3, “What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?”

5C The faithfulness of God is cut off from those who have died unbelieving, Isaiah 38:18-19, “18 For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness. 19 It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness.”

10B Humility, or Kenosis: the communicable attribute related to authority and mission orientation.

1C This attribute is found in Jesus Christ and His deference to the authority of the Father and His mission on earth:

1D Hebrews 10:5–9, "5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ” 8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

2D Philippians 2:5–8, "5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

3D Galatians 1:3–4, "3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

- 4D Galatians 2:20, "20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- 5D Ephesians 5:25–27, "25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- 2C Proverbs 15:33, "33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.
- 3C Proverbs 22:4, "4 By humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches and honor and life.
- 4C 1 Peter 5:5, "5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
- 5C Isaiah 29:19, "19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.
- 11B Goodness: result of every thought, word, and action that comes from Him. Every result is beneficial toward the object of the words and deeds.
- 1C God is good:
- 1D Genesis 1:31, "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
- 2D Exodus 33:17–20, "So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." 18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." "
- 3D Exodus 34:6–7, "6 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." "
- 4D Psalm 145:9–10, "The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works. 10 All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. "
- 5D Mark 10:18, "So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. "

6D 1 Chronicles 16:34, "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. "

7D Psalm 119:68, "You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes. "

8D Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

2C We are called to goodness:

1D 1 Peter 2:11–12, "11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

2D James 3:17, "17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

3D Ephesians 2:10, "10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

3A Questions for Reflection and Interaction

1B In what ways can I imitate God?

2B In what ways am I prohibited from imitating God, and why?

3B When I cannot imitate a divine attribute, what is my responsibility toward it?

4B What is the greatest divine attribute, and why?

4A Looking to the Future: theology proper and eschatology.

1B God made human history in order to vindicate His character before angels, fallen and elect. Psalm 8:1, "1 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

2B His essence and character are constantly being slandered by His enemies. Job 1:7–11, "7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

3B Therefore God's purpose for humanity is praise:

1C Psalm 50:23, "23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."

- 2C Psalm 86:9, "9 All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name.
- 3C Psalm 86:12, "12 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore.
- 4B Likewise, our deeds in the Lord also glorify Him:
- 1C Matthew 5:16, "16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- 2C Our prayers, Jesus' answers, God's glory:
- 1D John 14:12–13, "12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 2D John 15:7–8, "7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
- 3C In undeserved suffering a share of His glory comes to us.
- 1D Romans 8:17, "17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
- 2D 1 Peter 4:16, "16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.
- 4C The second coming is a time for Christ to be glorified again, especially through His followers, 2 Thessalonians 1:9–10, "9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.
- 5A For Further Reading (works suggested/cited)
- 1B Ryrie's Basic Theology, Charles Ryrie.
- 2B The Moody Handbook of Theology, Paul Enns.
- 3B Systematic Theology, Lewis Sperry Chafer.