

Systematic Theology: Theology Proper

The Attributes of God, Part 1

What does GCBC teach?

We teach that there is but one living and true God,¹ an infinite, all-knowing Spirit,² **perfect in all His attributes.**

What are we talking about?

Jeremiah 9:23-24

The _____ and _____ attributes of God refer to sets of God's attributes that He either shares with His image-bearers or He does not share with them.

What has the Church throughout history taught?

“What art Thou then, my God? what, but the Lord God? For who is Lord but the Lord? or who is God save our God? Most highest, most good, most potent, most omnipotent; most merciful, yet most just; most hidden, yet most present; most beautiful, yet most strong, stable, yet incomprehensible; unchangeable, yet all-changing; never new, never old; all-renewing, and bringing age upon the proud, and they know it not; ever working, ever at rest; still gathering, yet nothing lacking; supporting, filling, and overspreading; creating, nourishing, and maturing; seeking, yet having all things. Thou lovest, without passion; art jealous, without anxiety; repentest, yet grieveest not; art angry, yet serene; changest Thy works, Thy purpose unchanged; receivest again what Thou findest, yet didst never lose; never in need, yet rejoicing in gains; never covetous, yet exacting usury. Thou receivest over and above, that Thou mayest owe; and who hath aught that is not Thine? Thou payest debts, owing nothing; remittest debts, losing nothing. And what had I now said, my God, my life, my holy joy? or what saith any man when he speaks of Thee? Yet woe to him that speaketh not, since mute are even the most eloquent.”
—St. Augustine, *Confessions*, Chapter IV.

¹Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4

²John 4:24

What does the *Bible* say?

The Eternity of God

What is God's relationship to time?

Psalm 90:2—

Revelation 1:8—

Genesis 1:1—

How does God see time?

Psalm 90:4—

Isaiah 46:9-10 (particularly the phrase at the beginning of verse 10)—

How does God interact with history?

Galatians 4:4-5—

Acts 17:30-31—

A definition of the eternity of God: "God has no _____, _____, or succession of _____ in his own being, and he sees all time _____, yet God _____ events _____ time and _____ in time."³

The Infinity of God

While eternity is God's relationship to time, infinity is His relationship to _____.

Where is God?

Jeremiah 23:23-24—

Psalm 139:7-10—

How big is God?

1 Kings 8:27—

Isaiah 66:1-2—

"We should guard against thinking that God extends infinitely far in all directions so that He Himself exists in a sort of infinite, unending space. Nor should we think that God is somehow a "bigger space" or bigger area surrounding the space of the universe as we know it. All of these ideas continue to think of God's being in spatial terms, as if He were simply an extremely large being. ... God is a being who exists *without* size or dimensions in space.... God relates to space in a far different way than we do or than any created thing does."⁴

A definition of the infinitude of God: "God does not have _____ or _____ dimensions and is _____ at every point of _____ with His whole being, yet God _____ differently in different places."⁵

³Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), 168.

⁴Ibid, 174-5.

⁵Ibid, 173.

ANSWER KEY

What are we talking about?

communicable, incommunicable

The Eternity of God

beginning, end, moments equally vividly, sees in acts

The Infinity of God

space, size, spatial, present, space, acts

The Holiness of God

distinct, separate, class, morally pure, relation, every aspect