

Bible Doctrines I
Fundamental Bible Baptist Institute
Class Ten: The Doctrine of God
Part III: The Attributes of God

Text: Psalm 89:6 *“For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?”*

Introduction: In this class, we will study the attributes of God. As we study God’s attributes, we will discuss absolute attributes, relative attributes, and moral attributes.

1. **When we speak of “absolute” attributes, we are referring to those “qualities belonging to God in, and of, Himself-those attributes God possesses apart from any relationship He may sustain toward His creatures”.**
2. **When we speak of “relative” attributes, we are referring to the specific attributes which represent God in His relationship to His creatures and creation.** These attributes inspire confidence in God.
3. **When we speak of “moral” attributes, we are referring to those qualities of God that are revealed through His personal interaction with men.** These attributes reveal the moral character of God. While mankind can never possess absolute and relative attributes, we can possess these moral attributes as we strive to be like Christ.

I. Absolute Attributes:

1. Immensity:

- a. II Chronicles 6:18 *“But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? **behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!**”*
- b. The immensity of God simply teaches us that the center of God is everywhere and His circumference is nowhere. This is more than omnipresence which teaches that God is everywhere. *“Not only does He fill all space – space is an extension within His immensity.” - Lockyer*

2. Eternity:

- a. Isaiah 57:15 *“**For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**”*
- b. God has no beginning nor ending. His existence is eternal. This means that He is not limited by time. There has never been a time when God did not exist and there will never be a time when God does not exist. He is eternal in His existence.

3. Infinity:

- a. I Kings 8:27 *“**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?**”*
- b. The attribute of infinity teaches us that God has no limitation in space! In fact, there is no limit to Him, His essence, and His attributes.

4. Immutability:

- a. Malachi 3:6 *“**For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.**”*
- b. Hebrews 1:12 *“**And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.**”*
- c. *“**God is not capable of nor susceptible to change; He is unchangeable, invariable, and permanent.**” – Bible Doctrines for Today _ A Beka Book*
- d. *“**In His essence, attributes, counsel, and will, God Himself remained unchanged and unchangeable. All His attributes are like Himself, unalterably fixed, enduring forever.**” - Lockyer*

5. Self-sufficient:

- a. Psalm 50:12 *“**If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.**”*

- b. Because God is Self-Existent, He is Self-Sufficient. He is independent of everything about Himself. All His creation is completely dependent upon Him, but He remains unconscious of need.

II. Relative Attributes:

1. Omnipotence:

- a. Jeremiah 32:17-18 ***“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name.”***
- b. God is all power and all powerful! God can do anything He wills to do! Jesus said *“All power is given unto Me...”* Power and might belong to God! There is absolutely nothing that God cannot do other than those things He chooses not to do of His own free will. All Nature is subject to His Power; All Men are Subject to His Power; All Spiritual Beings (Good and Evil) are subject to His Power; Satan himself is subject to the Power of God.

2. Omniscience:

- a. Psalm 147:5 ***“Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.”***
- b. Omniscience means *“God knows everything He wills to know”*. – *Bible Doctrines for Today* God is all knowing! God sees and knows EVERYTHING. There is nothing that God does not know.

3. Omnipresent:

- a. Psalm 139:7-12 ***“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”***
- b. *“God is everywhere He wills to be.”* -*Bible Doctrines for Today* He is Present everywhere at the same time. While His Omnipresence fills all creation, His Immensity fills space!

4. Wisdom:

- a. Romans 11:33 ***“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”***
- b. Wisdom is *“the virtue of God which manifests itself in the selection of worthy ends and in the choice of the best means for those ends.”* – *Lockyer* Since wisdom is the right use of knowledge, God is never wrong! He is all knowing, and all wise at the same time. He never makes a mistake.

5. Goodness:

- a. Psalm 145:9 ***“The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.”***
- b. God’s goodness is *“that perfection which prompts Him to deal kindly and bountifully with all His creatures.”* – *Lockyer*

6. Freedom:

- a. Daniel 4:35 ***“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”***
- b. *“God cannot be confined, or crippled by the laws of the universe which He Himself created. He must be free to interpose, alter, or abrogate their laws as He deems fit.”* – *Lockyer*

III. Moral Attributes:

1. Holiness:

- a. Leviticus 19:2 ***“Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.”***
- b. *“Holiness is that perfection of God whereby He abhors that which is evil and demands purity. God is separated totally from sin and evil.”* – *Bible Doctrines for Today* God is

the very origin and source of holiness. God is Holy in His essence, Holy in His attributes, Holy in His character! As a Trinity, He is thrice Holy! When Isaiah saw Him, He saw Seraphim in His Presence crying “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”.

2. **Love:**

- a. I John 4:8 “*He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*”
- b. “*Love is the attribute of God which moves God to communicate His concern for the ultimate welfare of the ones that He loves.*” – *Bible Doctrines for Today* He communicates with His creature through Creation, through the Scriptures, and ultimately, through the Savior. The bloody suffering, death, and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are the very definition and description of LOVE.

3. **Justice:**

- a. Deuteronomy 32:4 “*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*”
- b. “*Justice is the attribute of God by which He carries out the laws that He has imposed.*” – *Bible Doctrines for Today* Justice can be rewarding or chastising. Justice gives every man his due. God is both holy and loving in His distribution of justice. He is a just God!

4. **Mercy:**

- a. Micah 7:18 “*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.*”
- b. “*Mercy is God’s compassion for the sinner (Romans 5:8) in NOT giving him what he deserves.*” – *Bible Doctrines for Today* “*As a merciful God, He is full of pity, slow to punish and ready to pardon.*” - Lockyer

5. **Righteousness:**

- a. Genesis 18:25 “*That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*”
- b. “*Righteousness is the attribute of God that causes God to always do right.*” – *Bible Doctrines for Today* Righteousness guarantees that God will always keep His promises; that He will always be right. It is always right to do right.

6. **Grace:**

- a. Ephesians 1:7 “*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*”
- b. Grace is the unmerited goodness and love of God for sinners. While mercy keeps us from getting what we deserve, grace gives us that which we do not deserve.

7. **Truth:**

- a. Numbers 23:19 “*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*”
- b. The attribute of Truth simply teaches us that God cannot lie! He is the definition of truth. Jesus said “*I am the way, the truth, and the life...*” As truth, God cannot tolerate untruth.