

Systematic Theology: Theology Proper

The Attributes of God, Part 2

What does GCBC teach?

We teach that there is but one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, **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?

The goodness of God demonstrated to His people "a greater goodness to us, than was for a time manifested to Christ himself. ... [God the Father] He was desirous to hear him groaning, and see him bleeding, that we might not groan under his frowns, and bleed under his wrath; he spared not him, that he might spare us; refused not to strike him, that he might be well pleased with us; drenched his sword in the blood of his Son, that it might not for ever be wet with ours, but that his goodness might forever triumph in our salvation; he was willing to have his Son made man, and die, rather than man should perish, who had delighted to ruin himself; he seemed to degrade him for a time from what he was."¹

What does the Bible say?

The Goodness of God

A definition of the goodness of God: "The goodness of God means that God is the _____ of good, and that _____ that God _____ and _____ is worthy of _____."²

Psalm 34:8—

Psalm 106:1—

Genesis 1:31—

James 1:17—

Romans 8:28—

Matthew 7:11—

Psalm 52:1—

How do we "image" the goodness of God?

Galatians 6:10—

Romans 16:19—

¹Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God*, quoted by Joel Beeke in *A Puritan Theology: Doctrine for Life* (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2012), 79-80.

²Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), 197.

James 1:17 reminds us of God’s good gifts. Take a couple minutes to list some of the good gifts you have seen from God’s hand in your life.

The Mercy of God

A definition of the mercy of God: “God’s mercy means God’s _____ toward those in _____ and _____.”³

Mercy presupposes _____.⁴

Psalm 145:9—

Exodus 2:23-25; 34:6—

2 Samuel 24:1, 14. (Legal context: Exodus 30:11-12)—

Matthew 9:27—

Titus 3:5-6—

Hebrews 4:16—

In what ways can you testify to God’s mercy in your life?

The Love of God

“It is not simply that God ‘loves,’ but that He is love itself. Love is not merely one of His attributes, but His very nature.”⁵

A definition of the love of God: “God’s love means that God _____ of Himself to _____.”⁶

5 Aspects of the Love of God⁷

The love of God is _____. Deuteronomy 7:7-8; 2 Timothy 1:9

The love of God is _____. Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-5.

The love of God is _____. Ephesians 2:4, 3:17-19.

The love of God is _____. James 1:17; Romans 8:35-39.

The love of God is _____. 1 John 1:5; Hebrews 12:6.

“The better we are acquainted with His love—its character, fullness, blessedness—the more will our hearts be drawn out in love to Him.”⁸

³Ibid, 200.

⁴Arthur W Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Blacksburg, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008), 72.

⁵Pink, 77.

⁶Grudem, 198.

⁷Pink, 78-80.

⁸Pink, 77.

What does this mean?

How does this doctrine relate to the Gospel?

What difference does it make?

How should we respond?

A hymn of praise should be on our lips! This is “When All Thy Mercies, O My God” by Joseph Addison”

When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.

Thy Providence my life sustained,
And all my wants redressed,
While in the silent womb I lay,
And hung upon the breast.

To all my weak complaints and cries
Thy mercy lent an ear,
Ere yet my feeble thoughts had learned
To form themselves in prayer.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From Whom those comforts flowed.

When in the slippery paths of youth
With heedless steps I ran,
Thine arm unseen conveyed me safe,
And led me up to man.

Through hidden dangers, toils, and deaths,
It gently cleared my way;
And through the pleasing snares of vice,
More to be feared than they.

O how shall words with equal warmth
The gratitude declare,
That glows within my ravished heart?
But thou canst read it there.

Thy bounteous hand with worldly bliss
Hath made my cup run o'er;
And, in a kind and faithful Friend,
Hath doubled all my store.

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the last a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.

When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renewed my face;
And, when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.

Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue
And after death, in distant worlds,
The glorious theme renew.

When nature fails, and day and night
Divide Thy works no more,
My ever grateful heart, O Lord,
Thy mercy shall adore.

Through all eternity to Thee
A joyful song I'll raise;
For, oh, eternity's too short
To utter all Thy praise!

ANSWER KEY

What are we talking about?

communicable, incommunicable

What does the *Bible* say?

The Goodness of God

final, standard, all, is, does, approval

The Mercy of God

goodness, misery, distress

sin

The Love of God

eternally gives, others

5 Aspects of the Love of God

uninfluenced.

eternal

infinite

immutable

holy