

# Cornerstone Bible Church

## Systematic Theology

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Acknowledgment & Credits:

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May 8, 2011

LECTURES ON INTRODUCTION TO  
**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY** TAUGHT BY  
**RAFAEL ALCANTARA** IN 2009 DURING THE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT IGLESIA BIBLICA DEL  
SEÑOR JESUCRISTO. MATERIAL ADDED AND  
EXPANDED FOR THIS CLASS

# THEOLOGY PROPER

## General Contents:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Trinity
4. Creation
5. Providence

# The Attributes of God

## The Attributes of God

### 1. Recommended reading: (classics on this subject)

Thomas Watson – A Body of Divinity –

Stephen Charnock – The Attributes and Existence of God

J.I. Packer – Knowing God –

A.W. Pink – The Attributes of God

### 2. Enumeration:

1) The Aseity of God

2) The Eternity of God

3) The Immutability of God

4) The Omnipresence of God

5) The Unity of God

6) The Spirituality (Invisibility) of God

7) God's Omniscience

8) God's Wisdom

# **6. The Spirituality (Invisibility) of God**

## 6. The Spirituality (Invisibility) of God

By spirituality we mean that God, being someone with personality and faculties of His own (mind, emotions, will, etc.) and yet He is immaterial and does not have a body, reason why He cannot be perceived by our physical senses.

**Jn 4:24**

*“Invisibility means that we can never see the total essence of God’s spiritual being, even though God shows Himself through visible and created things.” (Grudem Biblical Doctrine, Pg.87)*

This definition tells us on the one hand that we will never be able to see the total essence of God’s spiritual being. Jn 1:18: *“No one has ever seen God”*

## 6. The Spirituality (Invisibility) of God

a) This definition tells us on the one hand that we will never be able to see the total essence of God's spiritual being.

Jn 1:18: *"No one has ever seen God"*

Jn 6:46: *"Not that anyone has seen the Father, but Him who comes from the Father has seen the Father."* Paul in

1 Tim 6:16 speaks of God in these terms: *"the only one who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or is able to see. To Him the Honor and eternal ruling. Amen."*

## 6. The Invisibility of God

b) The other side of the definition tells us that God shows Himself through created and visible things.

We read of manifestations “theophanies” of God in the Old Testament to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Manoa, Gibeon, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zacchariah (the prophet) and others. Many of these “theophanies” are associated to the second person of the Trinity before His incarnation. We will study that in Christology



## 6. The Invisibility of God

c) However, the greater visible manifestation of God we have in the person of Jesus Christ. He says in Jn 14:9 *“He who has seen Me, has seen the Father.”*

For Christians, we see God in a spiritual sense through Christ, in the reality of His presence, grace, mercy and love which we enjoy through Him (**2Cor 3:18**)

However, we will never be able to see God in His full essence. Moses spoke to God face to face, as a man speaks with his friend Ex 33:11; but God told Moses that he could not see His face, for **“no one can see me and live”** Ex 33:20

## 6. The Invisibility of God

*“It is correct to say that even when we will never be able to see the total essence of God, God shows us some of what He is through creation and especially in the person of Christ”*  
- Grudem -

When we are in heaven we will see a much greater manifestation of God, in the biblical language, we will see God in ways that we never saw on earth.

Mt 5:8 *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”*. I Cor 13:12 *“We will see face to face”*

## 6. The Invisibility of God

*“When we realize that God is the perfection of everything we long for and desire, and that He is the sum of everything that is delightful and beautiful, we realize that the highest joy in the life to come is that “we shall see His face”... This Vision of God will provide us with full delight and joy throughout eternity.” Grudem*

Ps 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven *but you?* And besides you, I desire nothing on earth. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever

Ps 17:15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with your likeness when I awake.

# 7. God's Omniscience

## 7. God's Omniscience

This attribute points to the fact that God knows Himself perfectly well, that He knows at all times absolutely everything that has taken place, that is taking place, and will take place, as well as the things that could have taken place. Note of translation: God knows all factual and contingent things. He knows what was, is, will be, and could have been.

a) God knows Himself perfectly. 1 Co 2:10-11 *for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

## 7. God's Omniscience

**Rom 8:27** *and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

b) God knows at all times every real thing. He 4:13 *13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

**Mt 10:29-30** *29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."*

## 7. God's Omniscience

c) God also knows the contingent causes, for example when David inquired whether or not the people from Keila would deliver him into the hands of Saul, God answered in the affirmative, though it never happened because David escaped. 1Sam 23:11-13:

“Woe is thee Chorazin, Woe is thee Bethsaida, for if in Sodom and Gomorrah the miracles who have been made in you, would have been made, long ago they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes”

*“They have Moses and the Prophets... if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not hear if anyone comes to them from the dead”*

# 8. The Wisdom of God



## 8. The Wisdom of God

God chooses the best means for the best ends. Rom 16:27 describes Him as *“the only wise God”*. And Job 9:4 *“God is wise in heart.”*

The wisdom of God is displayed in creation Ps **104:24**; Pr **3:19-20**; Jer **10:11-12** And we we can also perceive God’s wisdom in salvation **1Co 1:20-25**; Ef **3:8-11**

God deals with us according to His wisdom. He wants the best ends for us primarily to mold us into the image of His Son. In this task, God will use the best means for the best ends.

## 8. The Wisdom of God

We must remember that God's best means and ends are not necessarily what we believe to be the best means and ends. The events that transpire in our lives may seem to betray that reality, but "God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him, that is, those who are called according to His purposes" Ro 8:28. Many times, we experience that truth when we consider God's purposes in hindsight.

Whether we understand God's purposes or not or that we only see some of those purposes or none, Romans 8:28 is an absolute truth. God is more interested in our own welfare than that what we could ever be, or even understand.

## 8. The Wisdom of God

When we observe both of these Divine Attributes in unison (Omniscience and Wisdom), we can say with the apostle Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:32-36)

END