

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God

Lesson 26 - The Attributes of God: Truth and Faithfulness

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Truth and Faithfulness

- God's truth and faithfulness are the perfect correspondence of His nature with what He should be (authenticity), with the reliability of His words and deeds, and with the accuracy of His knowledge, thoughts, and words. - MacArthur, pg. 180
- God is true.
- God is what He should be.
- God's revelation of Himself is perfectly reliable and accurate.
- God is absolutely faithful and cannot be unfaithful.
- God's truthfulness means that He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth. - Grudem, pg. 195

The True God and false gods

- God is the only True God, thus He is true in contrast to the false gods.
- Deut. 32:21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by *what* is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by *those who are* not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.
- Psalm 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
- Psalm 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; 6 They have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; 7 They have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. 8 Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.

The True God and false gods

- Isaiah 44:9 Those who make an image, all of them are useless, and their precious things shall not profit; they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. 10 Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

God Cannot Lie

- God cannot lie or repent like a man, that is, in such a way that His word is untrue.
- Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
- 1 Samuel 15:29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.”
- Hebrews 6:18 ... it is impossible for God to lie,
- Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

Loyal Love and Truth

- God is the God of chesed (covenant love, loyal love) and truth.
- 2 Samuel 2:6 And now may the Lord show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing.
- Psalm 40:11 Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.

God's Words are True

- All of God's Words are true and faithful.
- 2 Samuel 7:28 “And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant.
- Psalm 19:9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth.
- Psalm 111:7 The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

God is Faithful and Dependable

- God's faithfulness extends to the clouds and He is a Rock and Refuge because of His dependable firmness.
- Psalm 36:5 Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
- Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.
- Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

God is Faithful and Dependable

- Psalm 31:6 I have hated those who regard useless idols; but I trust in the Lord.
- Psalm 43:2 For You are the God of my strength; why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? 3 Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.
- Psalm 57:3 He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.
- Psalm 146:6 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,
- Isaiah 26:4 Trust in the Lord forever, for in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.

God Keeps His Covenants

- Deut. 4:31 (for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.
- Deut. 7:9 “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;
- Nehemiah 1:5 And I said: “I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,
- Psalm 40:11 Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.

God is Faithful to Save

- God is faithful to give a full salvation.
- 1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
- 1 Thess. 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.
- 2 Thess. 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.
- Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

God is True Metaphysically

- He is what God should be.
- Psalm 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; 7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. 8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

God is True Ethically

- His revelation of Himself is perfectly reliable.
- Exodus 34:6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,
- Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.
- Jer. 10:10 But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.
- 1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 2 Tim. 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

God is True Logically

- He knows everything as it really is.
- Job 37:16 Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?
- Psalm 139:1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
- Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;** 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The Way, the Truth, the Life

- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.