

Lecture #1 - Incommunicable Attributes: How God Is Unique

Intro. Exodus 15:11; Deut. 4:38

Incommunicable Attributes = "Those divine perfections which have no analogies in the creature. They emphasize the absolute distinctness of God." (Berkoff).

1). Aseity is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Job 22:2,3; Acts 17:23-28; Romans 11:35,36; Psalm 104:27-30

Practical Implications:

God is the _____ and _____.

God does not _____ us but we always _____ Him.

We ought to be _____ that God is pleased to _____ us. This gives _____ to our lives.

2). Immutability is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Psalm 102:26,27 (Hebrews 1:10-12); Hebrews 6:13-18; 13:8; Lamentations 3:22,23

Practical Implications:

We can _____ God because His _____, _____, and _____ do not change.

God's _____ is grounded in the truth that He does not change.

Every single _____ God has made in His Word is true and will be kept.

If God changes in even the _____ way our _____ in Him is lost.

3). Infinity is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

E _____ Ps. 90:1,2; 102:12; Isaiah 46:9,10; 1 Timothy 6:16, Eph. 3:21; 2 Peter 3:8
I _____ 1 Kings 8:27; Is. 66:1; Ps. 139:7-10; Jer. 23:23,24; Acts 7:48,49; 17:27,28
A _____ P _____ Job 11:7-11; Ps. 145:3
I _____ Isaiah 55:8,9; Romans 11:33-36

Practical implications:

God acts in _____.

He is a _____ God.

Magnifies the mystery, glory, and goodness of the _____ and the _____.

Assures us that our _____ is certain and real.

4). Simplicity is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Deut. 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6

Practical Implications:

Assures us that _____ is the one true _____. And if we didn't have this our _____ would truly be lost.

This should drive us to _____ Him all the more.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Bumper Sticker Theology says things like "God has no hands but your hands" or "God needed help doing everything so He made mothers" or "Prayer changes things". Is there any truth in these statements? In what ways do they/could they violate Gods attributes?
- 2) A common stumbling block regarding God's immutability is those passages that speak of God "repenting/feeling sorry/relenting" and seemingly changing His mind (e.g. Gen. 6:6 & Jonah 3:10). How do we reconcile these passages with the truth revealed in God's Word that God doesn't change? (cf. Deut. 29:29, Is. 46:9-11) Do you think there is any room for God to change even just a little bit, especially as He relates and interacts with us? Why or why not? What would be gained or lost if God ever changed even just a bit?
- 3) God is self-sufficient and needs nothing from us, yet He calls us to glorify Him. What does it mean to glorify God, if it doesn't mean to add glory to His being? (Hint: Have these particular incommunicable attributes of God brought you encouragement/comfort, either in the past or currently? If so, share.)

Lecture #2 - Communicable Attributes I: The Omnis

Intro. Psalm 139:1-24

The Communicable Attributes: "those to which the attributes of man bear some analogy ... God is independent and infinite and unchangeable in His knowledge and wisdom, and in His love and holiness." (Berkhoff).

1). Omnipresence is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

2 Chronicles 6:18-21; Psalm 139:5,6; Colossians 1:17; Genesis 1:1,2; John 4:23,24

Practical Implications:

God is _____ at all times so we are never _____.

God is _____ in a most special way with His _____.

2). Omniscience is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Knowledge: Himself and Plan (1 Corinthians 2:10,11; 1 John 1:5); Actual (Psalm 139:1-4, 16; Matthew 10:29,30; Hebrews 4:13; 1 Kings 8:39); Possible (1 Samuel 23:11-13; Matthew 11:21,23)

Foreknowledge: Isaiah 45:21; 46:9-11; Ephesians 1:4,5 (Acts 2:23; Romans 8:29; 11:2; 1 Peter 1:2)

Wisdom: In Creation (Ps. 104:24); In Creation of Man (Ps. 139:13-15); In His decrees (Job 12:13); In Jesus (Isaiah 11:1-4, Luke 2:40); In Salvation and compared to Man's (1 Corinthians 1:18-31); In Mysteries (Mt. 11:25; Romans 11:33; 16:27)

Practical Implications:

We can _____ God's plans.

God's _____ will prevail, casting out _____ and _____.

God _____ to give _____ to His children.

God knows _____ and our _____.

God knows those who are _____.

God knows _____ _____.

God knows _____ _____.

3). Omnipotence is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

His title: Almighty = 'el-shaddai' (Genesis 17:1; Job 37:23,24 [appears 31x]; Revelation 19:6)

In Creation: (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:3)

Great Works and Wonders: (Ex. 14:16; 2 Chronicles 20:6,7; Psalm 106:2; Mark 4:39; Luke 11:19,20)

Doing the impossible: (Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:25,26)

Sovereignty: (Exodus 9:14-17; Job 42:2; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:9-11)

Over Satan: Job 1:12; 2:6; Mark 1:34; Revelation 20:2,3,10

Over the Sin and Evil plots of Man: Genesis 50:20; Acts 2:23,24; 4:27,28

Over death: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Hebrews 2:14

Over salvation: Psalm 3:8; Ephesians 1:11,12; Romans 8:28-30

Jesus given this authority as our Mediator: Matthew 28:18, Eph. 1:20-23; Philp. 2:5-11

Practical implications:

We don't have to be _____ of _____ or _____.

Our _____ is _____ and eternally _____.

There is _____ and _____ in life because nothing happens by _____.

Boldness in _____ and _____ to the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Discuss how Deism (God is impersonal and distant), Pantheism (everything is God), Panentheism (God is in all things), Open Theism (God knows all the possibilities but has left open the ending), Chance, Luck, Fate and Fatalism/Determinism are all distortions of the Omni Attributes of God (as well as some others). Where do we find these today?
- 2) Bumper Sticker Theology tells us to "Forgive and Forget" because this is what God does. Is this true? Is it possible for God, or even for us to forget? How should we understand passages such as Ps. 25:7 & Heb. 8:12? How does this understanding of God's knowledge impact how we forgive others?
- 3) A common foolish question is, "Can God make a rock so big that He can't pick it up?" What is a good way to respond to such a question? Look up: Num, 23:19; 1 Sam 15:2,9; 2 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 6:17:18; Jam. 1:13,17 What are some things God truly **can't** do? Why?

Lecture #3 - Communicable Attributes II: The "Feel Good" Attributes

Intro. Psalm 103:1-14

When I think of these attributes they make me want to say in the words of James Brown, "I feel good ... so goodso good"

1). Truth is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Facets of God's attribute of truth:

_____ Is. 44:6-10; John 17:3; Jesus in John 14:6
_____ Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; John 17:17-19; John 8:42-47
_____ Psalm 100:5; Lamentations 3:22,23; 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Practical Implications:

There is no other _____ and no other _____ by which we are saved.

We can _____ Him and His _____ as true and reliable.

He will _____ what He _____ He will _____.

He calls us to be _____.

2). Goodness is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Genesis 1; Ps. 34:8; Ps. 100:5; Vs. 1 of Ps. 106, 107, 118, 136; Ps. 143:10; Ps. 100; Matt. 19:7; 3 John 1:11

Practical Implications:

He providentially _____ for His _____.

He gives His _____ good _____.

We can truly believe _____.

A reason to _____, give _____ and do _____.

3). Love is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

His perfect _____. 1 John 4:7-11; John 3:16; John 15:12,13

His amazing _____. Eph. 2:7-9; Titus 3:4-7; Titus 2:11

His unfathomable _____. Psalm 72:12-14; 103:13-17; Matthew 9:36; James 5:11

Practical implications:

There is great _____ to be found in God's Love.

In Christ we get what we don't _____.

In Christ we don't get what we do _____.

4). Patience is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Exodus 32:7-14; 1 Cor. 13:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 9:21-23

Practical Implications:

God doesn't immediately _____ sin which gives us an opportunity to _____.

We are called to be patient with _____ and with _____.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Bumper Sticker Theology says, "God is Love, Love is God." What's true about this statement? What's false?
- 2) How would you respond to these common errors? What's at stake if we allow them to stand?
 - a. Pitting God's attributes against one another: "The God of the OT is angry, but the God of the NT is loving." Or "If God is good, He can't be all powerful and if He's all powerful, He isn't very good."
 - b. Elevating one of God's attributes above the others: e.g. "God is first and foremost a God of love".
- 3) Have there been times in the past or present when these particular attributes have been an encouragement/comfort to you? If so, share.

Lecture #4 - Communicable Attributes III: The "Terrible" Attributes

Intro. Job 23:13-17

"To beget a true fear in our souls for God: 'Let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; for our God is a consuming fire' (Heb. 12:28,29). We cannot serve Him 'acceptably' unless there is due 'reverence' for His awful Majesty and 'godly fear' of His righteous anger; and these are best promoted by frequently calling to mind that 'our God is a consuming fire'." (AW Pink).

1). Holiness is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Ex. 15:11; Leviticus 10:1-3; Isaiah 6:2-5; Revelation 4:8

Practical Implications:

God takes _____ very seriously.

In _____ we are declared holy.

In _____ we become more and more Holy.

Without _____ we will not see _____.

2). Righteousness/Justice is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

God is a righteous _____ who always does what is right. Gen. 18:25; Ps. 11:4-7; 2 Thess. 1:4-7

Remunerative _____: 1 John 1:9; Heb. 6:10; 1 Peter 3:8-12

Retributive _____: Romans 3:26; 6:23

Practical Implications:

All _____, _____, _____, and _____ will be judged.

We are called to be _____ and _____.

We have _____ and _____ because the God who abounds with _____ and _____ is a just _____ who will do that which is right at all times in all situations.

3). Jealousy is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Isaiah 48:11; 2 Corinthians 11:1-3

Practical implications:

What we do in _____ and how we _____ matter greatly to God.

4). Wrath is ...

Where do we find this in the Bible?

John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Rev. 6:16,17

Practical Implications:

If God did not pour out His just wrath on sin and evil: 1) He would not be a _____ God. 2) There would be no ultimate _____ of good and evil.

Those in Christ have been _____ from God's _____.

God's coming wrath on _____ and _____ should fuel our _____ for and _____ to the _____.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Bumper Sticker Theology says, ".....(nothing but crickets)...." regarding the "Terrible Attributes" of God. Though this may actually be a good thing given the distortions, why do you think these particular attributes are ignored or even denied by Christians? By the world?
- 2) How are such devalued representations (ignoring or denying) of these attributes detrimental to the call and mission Christ has given to His Church? How might it be detrimental to the calling and mission of the church if there is an over-emphasis on these attributes?
- 3) Consider the practical implications of these attributes. Are there any others you can think of? Have there been times in the past or present when these particular attributes have been an encouragement/comfort to you? If so, share. In what circumstances might these attributes be particularly comforting?