

Attributes of God

Week 10 – Love and Glory

Love: God's goodness toward people unconditionally through His **affection**, **care**, and **delight**.

"If God were merely a self-existent, eternal field of energy, who would ever want to worship Him? How could we have fellowship with an impersonal force? ... As a personal being, God is capable of loving and being loved. The God we worship is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all people, and that means that God is a God of people. He is a personal God with whom human persons can have a love relationship." – R.C. Sproul

"When we looked at God's wisdom, we saw something of His mind; when we thought of His power, we saw something of His hand and His arm; when we considered His word, we learned about His mouth; but now, contemplating His love, we are to look into His heart." – J.I. Packer

1. God is **love** (1 John 4:8, 16)

2. God is self-**loving** (John 17:24; 1:18; Matthew 3:17; John 3:35, 14:31, 17:23; 1 John 3:1)

"The Father loves sinners so that by loving them, He can express His love to His Son. We're nothing but the Father's love gift as the elect bride to the Son." – John MacArthur

3. God is **initiating** (Ephesians 1:4-5, Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

"God does not love us because we are valuable, but we are valuable because God loves us." – Martin Luther

"God loves creatures who have become unlovely and (one would have thought) unlovable. There was nothing whatever in the objects of His love to call it forth; nothing in us could attract or prompt it. Love among persons is awakened by something in the beloved, but the love of God is free, spontaneous, unevoked, uncaused. God loves people because He has chosen to love them... and no reason for His love can be given except His own sovereign good pleasure." – J.I. Packer

4. God is **sacrificing** (1 John 4:9, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:4-5, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 5:25)

5. God is **affectionate** (Deuteronomy 30:9, Isaiah 62:4-5, Zephaniah 3:17, Luke 15:4-7)

"When the great God gave His Son He gave God Himself, for Jesus is not in His eternal nature less than God. When God gave God for us He gave Himself. What more could He give? God gave His all: He gave Himself. Who can measure this love?" – Charles Spurgeon

Take aways – Love

1. God's love is perfected in believers. (1 John 4:12)

2. Perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4:18)

"[God] is the only One with perfect love and He casts out our fear of others, of death, and of sin. If you know deep down that you are unconditionally loved by the King of the universe, what is there to fear?" – Beeke/Cosby

3. We can love God and others because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

"Let us never lose sight of God's constant care for us. His love never stops giving to meet our needs. He is always going ahead of us to prepare the way. He comes behind us to protect us. He is under us to support us. He is beside us to encourage us. He is in us to strengthen us. We are forever immersed in the breadth and length and height and depth of His great and glorious love." – Steve Lawson

Glory: God's radiant **display** of His perfect nature, splendor and majesty, revealing His infinite **worth**.

Displays of God's glory:

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|---|---|
| a) creation (Psalm 19:1, Isaiah 6:3) | f) Jesus Christ (John 1:14, Matthew 17:2) |
| b) the Garden (Genesis 3) | g) believers (Eph 3:21, Col 1:27, 1 Cor 10:31) |
| c) Mount Sinai (Exodus 33-34) | h) Christ's return (Matt 24:30, Phil 2:11) |
| d) the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) | i) heaven (Rev 21:22-23, Col 3:4, Phil 3:21, Rom 8:30) |
| e) the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11) | |

1. God is **glorious** and **majestic** (Exodus 33:18)

"The weight of glory adds to the worth, the weightier gold is the more it is worth. This glory is not transient, but permanent, an eternal weight; it is better felt than expressed." – Thomas Watson

2. God is self-**revealing** (Exodus 33:19, Hebrews 11:6)

"Moses can only know God to the extent that God chooses to make Himself known. The greater must condescend to the lesser. Moses can make no demands on God. Moses can only appeal to God to reveal more of Himself. This self-revelation of God is entirely at His sovereign discretion." – Steve Lawson

3. God is **awesome** (John 1:18, Exodus 33:21-23)

"For in the cross of Christ, as in a splendid theatre, the incomparable goodness of God is set before the whole world. The glory of God shines, indeed, in all creatures on high and below, but never more brightly than in the cross...in that death we see a boundless glory." – John Calvin

4. God is **worthy** (Psalm 24:7-10)

You may be asking:

- How can we glorify God when He is already perfectly and completely glorious?

a) Acknowledge His glory (Psalm 29:2)	c) Worship Him in response to His glory (Revelation 4:11)
b) Reflect His glory (Matthew 5:16)	d) Proclaim the gospel for His glory (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Take aways – Glory

1. Never tire of the magnificence of God's glory.

2. Remember your chief end, which is to glorify God.

- What ways are you actively seeking to know Him more?
- Does His glory produce a sense of reverence and awe in you?
- Does the display of His glory in creation and other believers impact your understanding of His character?
- Are you reflecting His glory through your actions and attitudes?

"There is no one here present but God has put in some capacity of glorifying Him; the health He has given you, the parts, estate, seasons of grace, all are opportunities put into your hand to glorify Him; and, be assured, He will call you to account, to know what you have done with the mercies He has entrusted you with, what glory you have brought to Him." – Thomas Watson

Attributes of God

Summary

Definitions

The features, qualities, and characteristics that inherently exist in God as revealed in Scripture.

- Aseity: God is self-existent, self-sufficient, and not dependent on anything or anyone else.
- Immutability: God is not subject to change in His being, character, or will.
- Omniscience: God's complete and infinite knowledge of all things, including past, present, and future events, as well as the thoughts and intentions of all beings.
- Omnipresence: God is everywhere present with His whole being at all times.
- Omnipotence: God's ability to do anything consistent with His nature.
- Sovereignty: God's undisputed right to govern all that He has created.
- Holiness: God's moral purity, absolute perfection, and complete separateness from sin and evil.
- Justice: God's impartial judgment and vindication of His righteousness.
- Jealousy: God's limitless and fervent zeal to glorify Himself in the lives of His people.
- Wrath: God's holy and just response to sin and evil.
- Truthfulness: God's absolute and unchanging revelation of Himself and His will to humanity.
- Wisdom: God's perfect use of knowledge according to His eternal plan and purpose.
- Goodness: God's perfect and unwavering moral excellence and benevolence toward His creation.
- Patience: God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward sinners over a period of time.
- Mercy: God's goodness toward those in misery and distress through His compassion and forgiveness.
- Grace: God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment through His unmerited favor and generosity.
- Love: God's goodness toward people unconditionally through His affection, care, and delight.
- Glory: God's radiant display of His perfect nature, splendor and majesty, revealing His infinite worth.

Resources

Books:

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| • <i>None Else</i> , Joel Beeke and Brian Cosby | •• <i>Our Awesome God</i> , John MacArthur |
| • <i>Show Me Your Glory</i> , Steve Lawson | ••• <i>Attributes of God, Volumes 1 and 2</i> , A.W. Tozer |
| • <i>Enjoying God</i> , R.C. Sproul | ••• <i>None Greater</i> , Matthew Barrett |
| •• <i>Knowing God</i> , J.I. Packer | ••• <i>Biblical Doctrine</i> , John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue |
| •• <i>Gleanings in the Godhead</i> , A.W. Pink | •••• <i>A Body of Divinity</i> , Thomas Watson
https://bit.ly/3P8vNPn |
| •• <i>None Other</i> , John MacArthur | •••• <i>The Existence and Attributes of God</i> , Stephen Charnock
https://bit.ly/43SQYsR |

Studies:

- *Knowing the Living God: The Doctrine of God*, Paul Washer

Videos:

- The Attributes of God (Steve Lawson) – <https://bit.ly/3J5ziCq>
- A Portrait of God: 2004 Ligonier National Conference – <https://bit.ly/3NkGehw>

Conferences:

- The Sovereignty of God: 2023 G3 National Conference (Sept. 21-23) – <https://bit.ly/3NmcVr>

Take aways (C) = Stephen Charnock, (W) = Thomas Watson

1. Meditate on God's attributes.

(C) *"Let us be often viewing and ruminating on the holiness of God."*

(C) *"How foolish a thing is it to set our hearts upon that which shall perish, and be no more what it is now!"*

(C) *"The greater our dangers, the more we should call to mind God's former kindness."*

(W) *"Get an interest in the unchangeable God, then thou art as a rock in the sea, immoveable in the midst of all changes."*

2. Worship God with reverence and awe.

(C) *"If He be God, He is to be revered, and the more highly revered, because He cannot but be God."*

(C) *"In all our worship, therefore, our minds ought to be filled with the highest admiration, love, and reverence. Since our end was to glorify God, we answer not our end, and honor Him not, unless we give Him the choicest we have."*

(C) *"The gospel ... takes off the terror, but not the reverence of God."*

(C) *"Our reverence to God in all our addresses to Him will arrive to greater degrees, if every act of duty be ushered in and seasoned with the thoughts of God as sitting upon a throne of holiness."*

(W) *"Viewing ourselves as under the eye of God's omniscience, would cause reverence in the worship of God."*

3. Be humbled in light of God's nature.

(C) *"The counsels of a boundless being are not to be scanned by the brain of a silly worm, that hath breathed but a few minutes in the world."*

(C) *"How unworthy is it for dust and ashes, kneaded together in time, to strut against the Father of eternity!"*

(C) *"Let the consideration of God's eternity abate our pride."*

(W) *"As God's mercy makes the saints happy, so it should make them humble."*

4. Trust God and do not doubt Him.

(C) *"His promises are established upon His eternity; and His perfection is a main ground of trust."*

(C) *"The mercy of God is the proper object of trust."*

(C) *"The immutability of a good God is a strong ground of consolation."*

(C) *"Though God, as true, be the object of our trust, yet God, as wise, is the foundation of our trust."*

(C) *"His power indeed is a foundation of trust, but His goodness is the principal motive of it."*

(W) *"We have not a richer jewel to trust God with than our souls, nor has God a richer jewel to trust us with than His truth."*

(W) *"Trust Him where you cannot trace Him. God is most in His way, when we think He is most out of the way."*

5. Persevere in holiness.

(C) *"From this infiniteness of power in God, we have ground of assurance for perseverance."*

(C) *"If we would have God crown us with an immutable glory, we must crown our beginnings with a happy perseverance."*

(C) *"If He declare Himself constant in His promises, He expects we should be so in our obedience."*

(C) *"Since holiness is an eminent perfection of the Divine nature, let us labor after a conformity to God in this perfection."*

6. Be comforted.

(C) *"But here is the comfort, God is eternal, and He has appointed eternal recompenses for the saints."*

(C) *"The sense of His omniscience should be a ground of our comfort in the stirring of our infirmities: He remembers we were but dust when He made us, and yet remembers we are but dust while He preserves and forbears us."*

(C) *"As Omnipotence is an ocean that cannot be fathomed, so the comforts from it are streams that cannot be exhausted."*

(C) *"Here is comfort in all afflictions and distresses. Our evils can never be so great to oppress us, as His power is great to deliver us."*

(W) *"Christ being exalted at God's right hand is for the comfort of believers, that they may one day be exalted to that place of glory where He is."*

7. Remember God's church will persevere.

(C) *"If God be eternal, here is a strong ground of comfort against all the distresses of the church, and the threats of the church's enemies. Why, then, should mortal men be feared in their frowns, when an immortal God hath promised protection in His word, and lives forever to perform it?"*

(W) *"The church is the apple of God's eye, and the eyelid of His providence daily covers and defends it."*

"My desire is that these ... transcendent truths will significantly shape your life into who you must become. May you never see God the same way again, and may you therefore never see yourself, your salvation, or the world in which you live the same way again." – Steve Lawson