

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?
WEEK 18 – RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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| <p><i>** Communicable – We share with God</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Love2. Jealousy3. Graciousness4. Just5. Wrath6. Merciful7. Goodness8. Faithfulness9. Wisdom | <p><i>**Incommunicable – Unique to God</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Omniscience11. Incomprehensibility12. Glory13. Majesty14. Sovereignty15. Omnipresence (& Immanence)16. Holiness17. Righteousness |
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Introduction

What Does This Attribute Mean?

Righteous = just; equitable; honest; holy

- *Acting in accord with divine or moral law*
- *Free from guilt or sin*

Biblical Definition: Let's try to get to a Biblical definition for clarity:

Jer. 12:1 Righteous are you, O LORD, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?

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Listen to Theologian Louis Berkhof:

The fundamental idea of righteousness is that of strict adherence to the law. Among men it presupposes that there is a law to which they must conform. It is sometimes said that we cannot speak of righteousness in God, because there is no law to which He is subject. But though there is no law above God, there is certainly a law in the very nature of God, and this is the highest possible standard, by which all other laws are judged. A distinction is generally made between the absolute and the relative justice of God. The former is that rectitude of the divine nature, in virtue of which God is infinitely righteous in Himself, while the latter is that perfection of God by which He maintains Himself over against every violation of His holiness, and shows in every respect that He is the Holy One. It is to this righteousness that the term "justice" more particularly applies. Justice manifests itself especially in giving every man his due, in treating him according to his deserts. (Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology, p74-75)

Let's look at another OT passage...

Deut. 32:1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. **2** May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. **3** For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! **4** "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

NASB:

"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Young's literal translation:

The Rock! -- perfect is His work, For all His ways are just; God of steadfastness, and without iniquity: Righteous and upright is He.

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New Testament Passage

Rom. 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3** What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” **5** But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) **6** By no means! For then how could God judge the world?

Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?

Ex. 9:27 Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, “This time I have sinned; the LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. **28** Plead with the LORD, for there has been enough of God’s thunder and hail. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.”

Psa. 36:5 Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. **6** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.

Psa. 48:10 As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

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Psa. 97:2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Psa. 119:134 Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. **135** Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. **136** My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law. **137** Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules. **138** You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. **139** My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. **140** Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. **141** I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. **142** Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

Is. 45:21 Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

Is. 51:8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations."

New Testament

Matt. 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

John 17:25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Rev. 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! **4** Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

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How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1 – God’s Righteousness & The Word

2 – God’s Righteousness & The Fall

3 – God’s Righteousness & Imputation

Imputed Sin

Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Imputed Righteousness

Rom. 5:18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Self-Righteousness

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Rom. 3:10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

.....**Rom. 3:21** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. **26** It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Salvation

4 – God’s Righteousness & Unbelievers