

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God - Lesson 42

The Attributes of God: Blessedness, Beauty, and Glory

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Perfection

- God's perfection means that God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him. - Grudem, pg. 218
- God is perfect and complete and Jesus tells us, "You, therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5:48).
- David says of God that "His way is perfect." (Psa. 18:30).
- God lacks nothing in His excellence.
- This is known as a "summary attribute" as it is an attribute and can also modify all of His other attributes. Every attribute is perfect, and thus a "perfection."

Perfection

- God is perfectly holy, just, and good.
- God's greatness in its totality is beyond human discovery - Psa. 145:3; Isa. 40:28
- God's mercy toward those who fear Him is greater than man's perception - Psa. 103:11
- God's work is perfect in that His acts perfectly truthful and just - Deut. 32:4
- God's way is perfect, so His Word is perfectly true - 2 Sam. 22:31
- God is morally perfect, without sin - Matt. 5:48
- God is perfectly self-sufficient.
- - MacArthur, pg. 178

Perfection

- 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 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul...
- Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.
- Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
- Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Blessedness

- God's blessedness speaks of Him being perfectly delighted with Himself. Since God is absolutely perfect, sovereign, and unhindered in all His purposes and works to glorify His name, he is supremely happy, the happiest Being conceivable. - MacArthur, pg. 188
- He is "the blessed God" - 1 Tim. 1:1
- He is "the blessed and only Sovereign" - 1 Tim. 6:15
- The Greek word used in 1 Timothy is "Makarios" which means happy and refers to happiness due to a sense of great privilege.
- God is God, and it doesn't get any better than that!

Blessedness

- God delights in all that reflects His character. - Grudem, pg. 218
- When He finished creation He saw that it was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). This indicates His delight in and approval of His creation.
- God rejoices over His people - Isa. 62:5; Prov. 8:30; Zeph. 3:17
- He rejoices in the reflection of Himself in His work and His people.
- Whatever excellence there is in the universe, it must have come from Him!
- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Beauty

- God's beauty is that attribute of God whereby He is the sum of all desirable qualities. - Grudem, pg. 219
- Perfection means that God does not lack anything. Beauty means that God has everything that is truly desirable.
- All of the desires (good and righteous) that really ought to be in us (ours) find their ultimate fulfillment in God and in no one else.
- Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.
- Psalm 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

Beauty

- We reflect God's beauty when we do what is pleasing to Him.
- 1 Peter 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

Beauty

- Ephesians 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- Titus 2:9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Glory

- God's glory refers to the consummate beauty of the totality of His perfections. It is His supreme significance and splendor. - MacArthur, pg. 188
- The words in Scripture translated glory help us understand the fulness of the glory of God:
 - Heb. Kabod - weight, significance
 - Heb. Hod and Hadar - splendor
 - Gk. Doxa - brightness
- Glory usually refers to the manifested glory, brightness, and splendor of God sourced in His essence and displayed as bright, blinding light.

Glory

- God manifested His glory in the shekinah that filled and hovered over the Tabernacle and Temple.
- God manifested His glory in the cloud and pillar of fire.
- God manifested His glory as He allowed Moses to see where He had just been, experiencing the “wake” of His presence causing His face to glow to the point that it frightened the children of Israel.
- God’s ultimate manifestation of His glory was shown in Christ (John 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:4-6).
- God also manifests His glory in His church (Rom. 15:7; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:27).

Summary

- God's perfections constitute His essence, or character, which far transcends all created things in greatness. God's essence is one indivisible whole, so that each and all of His perfections actively characterize His entire Being. God's perfections must be thought of as always actively present together and mutually influencing each other without any hierarchy, even when they are not all mentioned in a given passage of Scripture. God is His essential nature is truly beyond human understanding, and the only appropriate responses to studying even the fringes of His ways are awe-filled reverence, worship, adoration, trust, and service (obedience). - MacArthur, pg. 188

Summary

- 2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- Matt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Matt. 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!