

The Attributes of God - Study One

Message Introduction

Worthwhile relationships are based on knowledge. When we meet someone for the first time, we do not consider that we really know that person until we have the opportunity to learn more about that person, such as his or her history, personality, likes, dislikes, and desires. As we come to know more about a new acquaintance, we better understand how to carry on a relationship with that person. In the same way, a vibrant relationship with the triune God must be rooted in a firm understanding of who He reveals Himself to be in His Word. In this message, Dr. Steven J. Lawson presents an overview of God's defining attributes and invites us to pursue a more intimate and worshipful relationship with Him.

Scripture Readings

Exodus 15:11–13; Psalm 55:8–9; Psalm 89:5–8

Teaching Objectives

1. To provide definitions and examples of divine attributes
2. To discuss the ways in which these attributes describe the triune God
3. To show how theology affects life and worship

Quotations

It is evident that man never attains to a true self-knowledge until he has previously contemplated the face of God, and come down after such contemplation to look into himself.

- John Calvin

This is eternal life, that we may know the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, whom he has sent, in the power and by the grace of the Holy Spirit. In his presence is life and joy forevermore, not simply for us, but for others beyond, for those yet to believe and for those not yet born, for generations to come and beyond that for eternity.

- Robert Letham

Study Questions

1. The attribute that best describes God's kind and generous dealings with believers, unbelievers, and inanimate creation is His _____.
 - a. Goodness
 - b. Omnipotence
 - c. Grace
 - d. Sovereignty
2. Some of God's attributes apply exclusively to the Father, while others mainly describe the Son or the Spirit.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. God's communicable attributes are His qualities which _____.
 - a. Can only belong to God
 - b. Are unknowable apart from special revelation
 - c. Are most easy to describe to others
 - d. God demonstrates perfectly but humans can share imperfectly
4. Each of God's attributes is _____.
 - a. A separate part of God
 - b. Unrelated to the others
 - c. Eternally part of God's character
 - d. Only found in the Godhead
5. God is better described as a simple being, rather than as a complex being.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Bible Study and Discussion Questions

1. Why is a person's belief in God important? In what ways do these beliefs shape other areas of a person's life?
 2. How does a biblical understanding of God's attributes impact the way that you perceive yourself and other people?
 3. As Dr. Lawson observes, our theology determines our doxology. Consider some of the different approaches to worship that you have seen in churches today; what are the different views of God that undergird these views of worship?
 4. Of the attributes of God mentioned in this message, which one is the most familiar to you? Which of these are you most curious to learn about?
-