



**I. Introduction to the Attributes of God**

- An attribute is simply something that is \_\_\_\_\_ about God.

A.H. Strong – “The attributes of God are those distinguishing characteristics of the divine nature which are inseparable from the idea of God and which constitute the basis and ground for his various manifestations to his creatures.”

Millard Erickson – “When we speak of the attributes of God, we are referring to those qualities of God which constitute what he is. They are the very characteristics of his nature. We are not referring here to the acts which he performs. . . “

- There is a distinction being made between the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Communicable versus Incommunicable Attributes

- A “Communicable” attribute is a character quality of God that is \_\_\_\_\_ by man.
- An “Incommunicable” attribute is a character quality of God that is \_\_\_\_\_ by man.

Incommunicable Attributes	Communicable Attributes
Incomprehensibility	Holiness
Self-Existence (Aseity)	Righteousness (Justice)
Immutability	Wrath
Eternity	Truthfulness
Sovereignty	Goodness
Freedom	Mercy
Spirituality	Grace
Invisibility	Love
Omnipresence	Jealousy
Perfection	Knowledge
Blessedness	Wisdom
Beauty	Patience
Glory	Peace (Order)

- When we study the attributes of God, we are seeking not merely to know character qualities but we are seeking to know a \_\_\_\_\_. (John 17:3, 1 John 2:13, Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Misconceptions regarding the Attributes of God.

1. We should not think of God as some kind of \_\_\_\_\_ of various attributes added together.
2. We should not think of the attributes of God as something \_\_\_\_\_ from God’s real being.

**Instead, we should understand each attribute of God as being true of \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s being, and every attribute qualifying every other attribute.**



## II. Introduction to the Incommunicable Attributes of God

- The incommunicable attributes of God impress upon us the truth that there is \_\_\_\_\_ like God!

A.W. Pink – “The Solitariness of God”

Exodus 15:11 – “Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?”

Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11:36 – For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

### A. The Incomprehensibility of God

#### 1. Definition

**Because God is infinite and we are finite, we can never \_\_\_\_\_ understand God.**

#### 2. Verses

Psalm 145:3 – Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 139:6 – Such knowledge is too wonderful to me; I cannot attain to it

Psalm 139:17-18 – How precious also are Thy thoughts to me, O God!

Romans 11:33-36 – Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the LORD, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

#### 3. Explanation

- Although we can not know God \_\_\_\_\_, we can know God \_\_\_\_\_.
- Within each \_\_\_\_\_ attribute there is an incomprehensible depth of understanding to be explored.
- Theology is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Heaven will be an eternity of unfolding \_\_\_\_\_ of revelation.



B. The Self-Existence of God

1. Definition

**God depends on \_\_\_\_\_ else for existence. He has eternally existed without any external or prior cause.**

2. Verses

Exodus 3:14 – And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

John 8:58 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

Revelation 4:8 – “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.”

Acts 17:24-25- The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things.

3. Explanation

Augustine – God is the absolute IS.

J.I. Packer – “Our Maker exists in an eternal, self-sustaining, necessary way. . . necessary, that is, in the sense that God does not have it in Him to go out of existence, just as we do not have it in us to live forever. We necessarily age and die, because it is our present nature to do that; God necessarily continues forever unchanged, because it is His eternal nature to do that.”

Wayne Grudem – “God’s being is. . . something totally unique. It is not just that God does not need the creation for anything; God could not need the creation for anything. The difference between the creature and the Creator is an immensely vast difference, for God exists in a fundamentally different order of being. It is not just that we exist and God has always existed; it is also that God necessarily exists in an infinitely better, stronger, more excellent way. The difference between God’s being and ours is more than the difference between the sun and a candle, more than the difference between the ocean and a raindrop, more than the difference between the arctic ice cap and a snow flake, more than the difference between the universe and the room we are sitting in: God’s being is qualitatively different. No limitation or imperfection in creation should be projected onto our thought of God. He is the Creator; all else is creaturely. All else can pass away in an instant; he necessarily exists forever.”

- The difference between the Creator and the creation is not a matter of \_\_\_\_\_.
- God is not merely \_\_\_\_\_, He is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The wonder of the gospel is that the \_\_\_\_\_ God became \_\_\_\_\_.



C. The Immutability of God

1. Definition

**God is unchangeable in His \_\_\_\_\_, attributes, consciousness and will.**

2. Verses

Psalm 102:25-27 – “Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands. “Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. “But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end.”

Malachi 3:6 – “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

James 1:17 – Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

Deuteronomy 32:4 – “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”

3. Explanation

Herman Bavinck – The doctrine of God’s immutability is of the highest significance for religion. The contrast between being and becoming marks the difference between the Creator and the creature. Every creature is continually becoming. . . only he is pure being and no becoming. Hence, in Scripture God is often called the Rock. . . “

A.W. Pink – “Herein is solid comfort. Human nature cannot be relied upon; but God can! However unstable I may be, however fickle my friends may prove, God changes not. If He varied as we do, if He willed one thing today and another tomorrow, if He were controlled by caprice, who could confide in Him? But, all praise to His glorious name, He is ever the same. His purpose is fixed, His will stable, His word sure. Here then is a rock on which we may fix our feet, while the mighty torrent is sweeping away everything around us. The permanence of God’s character guarantees the fulfillment of His promises. . . “

- God’s immutability is closely tied into His \_\_\_\_\_.
- God’s immutability is the fundamental difference between Him and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because God is immutable, His \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ are sure and unchanging.
- God’s immutability is of great \_\_\_\_\_ to the believer in Christ.



D. The Eternity of God

1. Definition

**God is \_\_\_\_\_ in relation to time.**

2. Verses

Genesis 21:33 – And Abraham planted an tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Isaiah 40:28 – Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

Psalms 90:2 – Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

Revelation 1:8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

3. Explanation

Wayne Grudem – “God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time.”

- God’s eternity is closely related to His \_\_\_\_\_.
- God is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the succession of moments in time.
- The wonder of the gospel is that God who was infinite in relation to time, stepped into history! (Gal. 4:4)

**Questions for Application and Discussion**

1. Why is having a high view of God the foundation for experiencing joy as a Christian? Which one of the attributes we have discussed (incomprehensibility, self-existence, immutability, eternity) has helped you the most enlarge your understanding of God?
2. Do you have an emotional response to any of these attributes? Are any of them convicting? Encouraging? Inspiring? Challenging? Please share your response.
3. How would you use the doctrine of God’s immutability to encourage a believer who is doubting God’s love? Who feels that God doesn’t hear his prayer? Who doesn’t feel that God can forgive his sin? Explain.