

The Attributes and Work of God

1.5: How God is Different From Man – Incommunicable Attributes

1.5.1 Divine Attributes

- A. What is an attribute?
1. An attribute is a property which describes the nature of a being.
 2. God's attributes are those properties which are essential to the nature of His Being.
 3. God's attributes are unchangeable by virtue of His perfection.

1.5.2 Incommunicable Attributes – How God is different from man

- A. **Incommunicable** attributes (unable to be shared, belong to God alone, how God is different from his creation). Some examples:
1. **Self-existence:** God is independent. He does not rely on anything outside of Himself
 - a. *John 5:26* For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;
 - b. *Romans 33-36* ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
 - c. *Revelation 4:11* Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.
 2. **Immutability:** God is unchangeable.
 - a. He is already perfect, so He can't be improved upon, nor can he be worsened.
 - b. God cannot change with regard to His Being, purposes, promises, principles, and will.
 - c. *Malachi 3:6* For I, the Lord, do not change;
 - d. *Hebrews 6:17* In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose,
 - e. *James 1:17* Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
 3. **Infinity:** God has freedom from all limitations (He is not subject to them). Three considerations:
 - a. Infinite in His Being (essence). He is unlimited in His knowledge, wisdom, goodness, love, righteousness, and holiness...He is transcendent.
 - i. *Psalms 145:3* Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.
 - ii. *Isaiah 40:18* To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
 - iii. *Job 11:7-10* ⁷ Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty? ⁸ They are high as the heavens, what can you do? Deeper than Sheol, what can you know? ⁹ Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. ¹⁰ If He passes by or shuts up, or calls an assembly, who can restrain Him?
 - b. Infinite in His eternity. He is above and outside of time. There is no past, present, or future, but only eternal existence...God eternally IS.
 - i. *Psalms 90:2* Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
 - ii. *Psalms 102:12* But You, O Lord, abide forever,
 - iii. *Jude 25* to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
 - iv. *Revelation 10:6* and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer,

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- c. Infinite in His immensity. God is omnipresent, existing everywhere, all of the time.
 - i. **Psalm 139:7-10** ⁷ *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?* ⁸ *If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.* ⁹ *If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,* ¹⁰ *Even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.*
 - ii. **Joshua 2:11** *When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*
 - iii. **Jeremiah 23:23-24** ²³ *“Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord, “And not a God far off?”* ²⁴ *“Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?” declares the Lord. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord.*
 - iv. Omnipresence vs indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
 - a. The difference is **NOT** one of **locale**, but of **purpose, revelation** (to our senses and spirits), and **benefit**.
- 4. **Simplicity:** God is not composed of different parts, He is indivisible.
 - a. The Three Persons of the Trinity are not *parts* of the One God, but rather, all three ARE fully God.
 - b. **Deuteronomy 6:4** *“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!”*
 - c. **Mark 12:29** *Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;”*
 - d. **1 Corinthians 8:6** *yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.*
 - e. **John 17:22** *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;*