

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of God: The Attributes of God Part 4

The Heights Church November 22, 2015

God's Communicable Attributes

6. God's goodness means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.

the final standard of good

The Lord is good. Psalm 100:5

No one is good but God alone. Luke 18:19

Good is what God approves.

all that God is and does is worthy of approval

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

You are good and do good; teach me your statutes. Psalm 119:68

God's Communicable Attributes

Mercy, grace and patience can be viewed as separate attributes or as specific examples of God's goodness.

- *God's mercy is God's goodness towards those in misery and distress.*
- *God's grace is God's goodness towards those only deserving punishment.*
 - *Common grace is given in various measures to everyone to maintain some order in society.*
 - *Saving grace is given only to the elect.*
- *God's patience is God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.*

God's Communicable Attributes

7. God's Love means that God eternally gives of himself to others.

- ***Agapē*** and its derivatives occur over 200 times in the New Testament. ***Agapē*** is the love God expresses and is the highest form of love, ultimately expressed as Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. It is an exercise of the will, not a feeling and is sacrificial in nature. ***Agapē*** is unselfish and committed. It loves when all other forms of love quit or where there is no apparent reason for love. It is how God loved the world in John 3:16 and the love Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 13.

God's Communicable Attributes

7. God's Love means that God eternally gives of himself to others.

- **Phileō** and its derivatives occur about 60 times in the New Testament. **Phileō** implies a strong emotional bond and is the basis of friendships and “brotherly love.” “he whom you love is ill” John 11:3 refers to Jesus’ **phileō** love of Lazarus.

The only other references to love in the NT are:

- 1 Timothy 3:3 and Hebrews 13:5 “**not a lover of money.**”
- Love one another with brotherly affection. Romans 12:10. ESV
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; NASB

Love is the Greek word **philostorgos** meaning tender loving affection

brotherly affection is **phileō**

God's Communicable Attributes

8. God's holiness means that God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6:3

- 1. God's holiness refers to his greatness and transcendence i.e. He is above and beyond anything in the universe.**
- 2. God's holiness also refers to his purity and absolute moral and ethical excellence.**

Holiness is communicable in the second sense. You shall be holy, for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:16

God's Communicable Attributes

9. God's peace means that in God's being and in his actions he is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33

God's Communicable Attributes

God's peace is communicable as a fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

God's Communicable Attributes

10. God's righteousness means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

- Hebrew and Greek each have only one word behind the English words of righteousness and justice.
- Whatever conforms to God's moral character is right.

We must never call God to task regarding his righteousness.

- And the Lord said to Job: "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Job 40:1-2
- Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? Job 40:8