

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of God: The Attributes of God Part 7

The Heights Church December 20, 2015

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Preservation:** God keeps all created things existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them.
- **Concurrence:** God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.
- **Government:** **God has a purpose in all that he does in the world and he providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish his purposes.**

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Government: God has a purpose in all that he does in the world and he providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish his purposes.**

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:11-12

all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" Daniel 4:35

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Government:** God has a purpose in all that he does in the world and he providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish his purposes.

for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose Isaiah 46:9-10

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. Acts 4:27-28

God's Communicable Attributes

17. God's Summary Attributes:

All the previously studied attributes of God modify all the other attributes in some sense but Summary Attributes more directly apply to, or describe the specific attributes of God previously listed.

a. Perfection: God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him.

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

God's Communicable Attributes

17. God's Summary Attributes:

All the previously studied attributes of God modify all the other attributes in some sense but Summary Attributes more directly apply to, or describe the specific attributes of God previously listed.

b. Blessedness: God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.

in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the **blessed** God with which I have been entrusted 1 Timothy 1:11

which he will display at the proper time—he who is the **blessed** and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 1 Timothy 6:15

Eulogētos is usually translated as blessed BUT the Greek word here is *makarios* which means happy.

God's Communicable Attributes

17. God's Summary Attributes:

All the previously studied attributes of God modify all the other attributes in some sense but Summary Attributes more directly apply to, or describe the specific attributes of God previously listed.

c. Beauty: God is the sum of all desirable qualities.

- “perfection” means God doesn't lack anything desirable
- “beauty” means God has everything desirable

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4

God's Communicable Attributes2

17. God's Summary Attributes:

c. Beauty: God is the sum of all desirable qualities.

- “perfection” means God doesn't lack anything desirable
- “beauty” means God has everything desirable

The beauty of our lives is so important to Christ that his purpose now is to sanctify the entire church

so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:27

God's Communicable Attributes

17. God's Summary Attributes:

d. Glory: glory means “honor” or “excellent reputation”

- bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7
- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23
- And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. John 17:5
- He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, Hebrews 1:3

God's Communicable Attributes

17. God's Summary Attributes:

d. Glory: God's glory also means the created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of himself.

- And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. Luke 2:9
- And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. Matthew 17:2
- And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. Revelation 21:23

God's Communicable Attributes

17. God's Summary Attributes:

d. Glory: God made us to reflect his glory

- And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2Corinthians 3:18

God's Communicable Attributes

The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but himself; a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, every way infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and **withal** most just and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty. 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith 2:1

withal = with it all or nevertheless

God's Communicable Attributes

God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; he is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and he hath most sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth; in his sight all things are open and manifest, his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent or uncertain; he is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands; to him is due from angels and men, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience, as creatures they owe unto the Creator, and whatever he is further pleased to require of them. 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith 2:2

God's Communicable Attributes

III. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Heights Church Affirmation of Faith.