

The Truth about God

What Are Attributes?

- A concept expressed by an adjective or noun used to describe a person or thing
- Something true about God
- Aspects, views, or portraits of God

The Crown Jewels



The Star of Africa



Kinds of Attributes

- Essential or defining – define who God is; w/o these he would cease to be God
- Non-essential – things true about God; but if they weren't, he would still be God.

Guiding Principles

- Attributes describe God's entire essence from different perspectives.
- God's attributes are not add-ons to his person—each describes who he is.
- His attributes are either specifically stated in Scripture or can be deduced from what the Bible says.
- God is not a collection of abstract properties—he is a person!

Classifying the Divine Attributes

- Communicable
 - can be shared by man
 - E.g., holiness, love
- Incommunicable
 - cannot be shared by man
 - E.g., immutability

Independence

- Aseity
 - From Latin *a se*
 - "from or by himself"
- Self-existence

A Definition

- John Feinberg:

"God depends on nothing other than himself for his existence."

The Biblical Data

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| I. Self-existent | II. Self-determination |
| ● Gen. 1:1 | ● Ps. 33:8-11 |
| ● Ex. 3:14 | ● Ps. 115:3 |
| ● Job 35:6-8 | ● Rom. 11:33-34 |
| ● Ps. 90:2 | ● Rev. 4:11 |
| ● John 1:3 | |
| ● John 5:26 | |
| ● Acts 17:24-25, 28 | |
| ● Rom. 11:34-36 | |

The Ramifications

- We were made for God.
- The greatest assault on God's character is to live independent from him.
- Our worship doesn't meet God's needs.
- There's a sense in which we can't serve God.
- There is no greater expression of God's love for us.
- We can bring delight to the heart of God.