Systematic Theology: Theology Proper

The Attributes of God, Part 1

What does GCBC teach?

What are we talking about?

We teach that there is but one living and true God,¹ an infinite, all-knowing Spirit,² perfect in all His attributes.

Jeremiah 9:23-24		
The	and	attributes of God refer to sets of God's

attributes that He either shares with His image-bearers or He does not share with them.

What has the Church throughout history taught?

"What art Thou then, my God? what, but the Lord God? For who is Lord but the Lord? or who is God save our God? Most highest, most good, most potent, most omnipotent; most merciful, yet most just; most hidden, yet most present; most beautiful, yet most strong, stable, yet incomprehensible; unchangeable, yet all-changing; never new, never old; all-renewing, and bringing age upon the proud, and they know it not; ever working, ever at rest; still gathering, yet nothing lacking; supporting, filling, and overspreading; creating, nourishing, and maturing; seeking, yet having all things. Thou lovest, without passion; art jealous, without anxiety; repentest, yet grievest not; art angry, yet serene; changest Thy works, Thy purpose unchanged; receivest again what Thou findest, yet didst never lose; never in need, yet rejoicing in gains; never covetous, yet exacting usury. Thou receivest over and above, that Thou mayest owe; and who hath aught that is not Thine? Thou payest debts, owing nothing; remittest debts, losing nothing. And what had I now said, my God, my life, my holy joy? or what saith any man when he speaks of Thee? Yet woe to him that speaketh not, since mute are even the most eloquent."

—St. Augustine, *Confessions*, Chapter IV.

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¹Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4

²John 4:24

What does the *Bible* say?

The Eternity	y of God			
What is God	's relationship	to time?		
Psalm 90:2-	_			
Revelation 1	:8—			
Genesis 1:1-	_			
How does Go	od see time?			
Psalm 90:4-	_			
Isaiah 46:9-1	.0 (particularly	the phrase at the beginning o	of verse 10)—	
How does Go	od interact witl	h history?		
Galatians 4:4	1-5—			
Acts 17:30-3	1—			
		of God: "God has no		
		wn being, and he sees all tim		, yet
God	events	time and ir	i time." ³	
The Infinity	of God			
•		tionship to time, infinity is His	rolationship to	
wille eterm	ty is dod s reia	tionship to time, infinity is the		·
Where is Go				
Jeremiah 23				
Psalm 139:7	-10—			
How big is G	od?			
1 Kings 8:27	<u> </u>			
Isaiah 66:1-2	<u>!</u> —			
in a s area being size o	sort of infinite, u surrounding the g in spatial terms	ainst thinking that God extends nending space. Nor should we the space of the universe as we know, as if He were simply an extrem space God relates to space in	nink that God is someh w it. All of these ideas ely large being God	ow a "bigger space" or bigger continue to think of God's is a being who exists without
A definition	of the infinitud	de of God: "God does not hav	e or	dimensions
		at every point of	with His whole b	peing, yet God
differently ir	different plac	es." ⁵		
	om Sustamatic	 Theology: An Introduction to Bibl	ical Doctrina (Crand D	anide: Zandaryan 2000\ 169
=	em, <i>Systematic</i> i		icui Doctiille (Grand Ra	apius. Zuliuei vali, Zuuuj, 168.

⁵lbid, 173.

The Holiness of God

God is in a class by Himself
Exodus 15:11—
1 Samuel 2:2—
Psalm 86:8-10—
Holiness <i>does</i> means morally pure Psalm 24:3-5— Habakkuk 1:13a—
"Mhan wa usa tha ward halv to dosa

"When we use the word holy to describe God, we face another problem. We often describe God by compiling a list of qualities or characteristics that we call attributes. We say that God is a spirit, that He knows everything, that He is loving, just, merciful, gracious, and so on. The tendency is to add the idea of the holy to this long list of attributes as one attribute among many. But when the word holy is applied to God, it does not signify one single attribute. On the contrary, God is called holy in a general sense. The word is used as a synonym for his deity. That is, the word holy calls attention to all that God is. It reminds us that His love is holy love, his justice is holy justice, his mercy is holy mercy, his knowledge is holy knowledge, his spirit is holy spirit." 6

A definition	of the holiness of God: "To be h	oly is to be	,
in a	by oneself; to be holy is	to be	; and for God
to be holy is	for Him to be holy in	to	of His
nature and c	haracter " ⁷		

How does this doctrine relate to the Gospel?

What difference does it make?

How should we respond?

⁶Sproul, 60.

⁷Bob Deffinbaugh, *Let Me See Thy Glory—A Study of the Attributes of God*, "5. The Holiness of God", https://bible.org/series/let-me-see-thy-glory-study-attributes-god.

ANSWER KEY

What are we talking about?

communicable, incommunicable

The Eternity of God

beginning, end, moments equally vividly, sees in acts

The Infinity of God

space, size, spatial, present, space, acts

The Holiness of God

distinct, separate, class, morally pure, relation, every aspect