

## **Attributes of God (Part Two)**

Last time we met we looked at six attributes of God that belong to God exclusively. This morning we look at four more attributes of God that are seen in God's relating to mankind. We see limited manifestations of these in mankind.

### **Righteous**

**Deuteronomy 32.4: *The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteousness and upright is He.***

It is impossible for God to do or cause anything that is wrong.

**Psalms 111.3: *His righteousness endures forever.***

***How does this related to you and I?***

Because God is perfect, He demands perfection from those who desire to be in His presence.

**Habakkuk 1.13: *Your eyes are too pure to approve (look at) evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor. So we have a problem because you and I are not righteous but we commit evil acts (sin).***

Jesus says, ***Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5.48).***

Humanly impossible to live up to this standard.

So, we must rely on God's grace – 2 Corinthians 5.21 – we need the righteousness of Christ!

### **Just**

It is impossible for God to do anything that unfair, either to Himself or to mankind. Justice is sometimes taken with the righteousness of God. The justice of God means that God is entirely correct and just in all His dealings with humanity; moreover, this justice acts in accordance with His law.

**Rectoral (Governing) Justice** – God is a moral ruler and imposes His moral law in the world, promising reward for the obedient and punishment for the disobedient.

**Psalms 99.4: *The strength of the King loves justice; You have established equity (uprightness); You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.***

**Distributive Justice** – Relates to the execution of the law in terms of both reward and punishment. This is both positive and negative. This is where love or wrath is expressed.

**Romans 2.7: *To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.***

**Romans 2.8: *But to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey righteousness, wrath and indignation.***

**READ - 2 Thessalonians 1.3-10**

All of mankind will face judgment. When mankind stands before God to be judged they will receive full justice. This is a comfort for those who have been wronged in life – Vengeance is truly the Lords. And it is a warning for those who think they have been getting away with evil. It will one day fall on their head.

**God is fair and right!**

### **Truth**

God is absolute truth!

**John 14.6: *Jesus said to him (Thomas), "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.***

**John 17.17: *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.***

**3 concepts involved:**

1. **God is Genuine** – There is no other God, He is the one true God.

**Isaiah 45.5: *I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God.***

2. **Reliable or Trustworthy** – He will never let you down.

**1 John 1.9: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

**3. See things as they really are (He knows things as they are) – reality** – He cannot be deceived; He knows what is true and what is not. He is the beginning of all knowledge and makes it available to all man through fellowship with Him.

**Hebrews 4.13:** *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

*He is the source of all truth, not only in the sphere of morals and religion, but also in every field of scientific endeavor (Enns).*

**Application: Truth is narrow – Air Force Carrier**

### Love

That perfection of the divine nature by which God is eternally moved to communicate Himself. It is not a mere emotional impulse, but a rational and voluntary affection, having its ground in truth and holiness and its exercise in free choice (*Thiessen, Lectures in Systematic Theology*).

**1 John 4.8:** *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**1 John 1.16:** *We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him.*

*God is love: that, in other words, the love which He shows to humanity, and which Christians know and rejoice in, is a revelation of His own inner being (J.I. Packer).*

**1 John 4.10:** *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**Romans 5.8:** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**John 3.16:** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

The Greek term *agape*, translated *love*, is frequently used to denote God and His response to humanity. *Agape* denotes a reasoned-out love, rather than an emotionally-based love (but not devoid of emotion) – it is one that loves the object irrespective of the worth of the object and even though the love may not be reciprocated.

*God's love is an exercise of His goodness toward individual sinners whereby, having identified Himself with their welfare, He has given His Son to be their Savior, and now brings them to know and enjoy Him in a covenant relation (J.I. Packer).*

**Deuteronomy 7.7-8:** *The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

**Romans 2.4:** *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

**The love of God is this:** That God allows you to enjoy and make much of Him (*Piper*).