

UNIT 1: The Attributes of God

Section 23: God's Summary Attributes

Assigned Reading:
A. W. Pink – *The Attributes of God*
No Assigned Reading

Introduction:

As we close our study of Theology Proper (The Attributes of God), I'd like to wrap up our discussion by reviewing all of the information we've looked at over the past few months. We'll also take a brief glance at what might be termed "summary attributes." We'll follow **Wayne Grudem's** discussion of God's perfection, blessedness, and beauty.

Q1: *REVIEW TIME:* What do you remember from our discussions over the past months?

Q2: How many attributes of God can you remember? What does each one bring to mind?

Q3: How ought we understand the perfection, blessedness, beauty, and glory of God?

Outline:

I. Reviewing the Attributes of God: (*Working in small groups*)

A. 1st Exercise:

1. List as many attributes of God as you can...
2. Define those attributes...
3. Provide at least one scripture reference defending that attribute...

B. 2nd Exercise: Identify the "attributes of God" in the following

1. **I Chronicles 29:1-21 – David's Prayer!**
2. **Acts 17:22-31 – Paul's Sermon**
3. **Notice how God's attributes saturate prayer and preaching!**

II. The Perfection of God

A. Definition

1. **Grudem**, "God's perfection means that God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him."
2. Therefore, all of God's actions are perfect as well! A perfect being acts in perfect ways!
3. And, God demands perfection in our relationship with Him!

B. Discussion

1. Scriptural Evidences:
 - a. **God's Attributes are Perfect:**
 - (1) *This applies to all of God's attributes... He does not lack anything desirable!*
 - (2) **Job 36:4** "For truly my words are not false; One who is **perfect** in knowledge is with you. **37:16** "Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one **perfect** in knowledge,

- (3) **Is 25:1** O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans *formed* long ago, with **perfect** faithfulness.
- (4) **1 Tim 1:16** Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His **perfect** patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.
- b. **God's Works are Perfect: Deut 32:4** "The Rock! His work is **perfect**, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.
- c. **God's Word is Perfect: Ps 19:7** The law of the LORD is **perfect**, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
- d. **God's Will is Perfect: Rom 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and **perfect**.
2. What implications does God's Perfection have on our relationship to Him?
- a. **God Demands Perfection**
- (1) **Lev 22:21** 'When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be **perfect** to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.
- (2) **Matt 5:48** "Therefore you are to be **perfect**, as your heavenly Father is **perfect**."
- b. **But we are not perfect and cannot make ourselves perfect...**
- (1) While the Law of God is perfect, it makes nothing perfect: **Heb 7:19** "(for the Law made nothing **perfect**), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God."
- (2) **James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become **guilty of all**.
- c. **Therefore, God has provided the means of bringing about our perfection...**
- (1) **Ja 1:17** Every good thing given and every **perfect** gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
- (2) Through His perfect Son: **Heb 7:28** For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made **perfect** forever.
- (3) Jesus the PERFECT sacrifice laid down His life, granting pardon to all those who believe in Him and trust in His name.
- d. **God's Perfection drives us to desire perfection in ourselves and others...**
- (1) **Philippians 3:12** Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become **perfect**, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- (2) **Colossians 4:12** Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand **perfect** and fully assured in all the will of God.
- (3) **III**) Missing one question on a test... ☺
- e. **We are guaranteed that our perfect God will perfect us!**
- (1) **Philippians 1:6** *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will **perfect** it until the day of Christ Jesus.

- (2) **1 Peter 5:10** After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect**, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

III. The Beauty of God

A. Definition

1. **Grudem**, “God’s beauty is that attribute of God whereby he is the sum of all desirable qualities.”
2. **Grudem** explains, “God’s perfection was defined in such a way as to show that he does not *lack* anything that would be desirable for Him. This attribute, beauty, is defined in a positive way to show that God actually does possess all desirable qualities: “perfection” means that God doesn’t lack anything desirable; “beauty” means that God has everything desirable. These are two different ways of affirming the same truth.”

B. Discussion

1. *Since God is Beautiful, He defines what Beauty is and calls us to beauty!*
 - a. **Christ is beautifying His bride (the Church)... Eph 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
 - b. **Women called to pursue Godly Beauty: 1 Peter 3:1-4** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ² as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³ Your adornment must not be *merely* external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ *but let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
 - c. **Servant’s godly behavior is an expression of God’s beautiful doctrine: Titus 2:9** *Urge* bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.
2. *Ultimately all good and righteousness find their ultimately fulfillment in God and no one else! He is the One whom Christians desire to behold!*
 - a. **Ps 27:4** One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.
 - b. **The greatest blessing of the Heavenly City – Revelation 22:1-4** Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ² in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

- c. Sometimes called the “beatific vision” ... **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be **like Him**, because we will **see Him** just as He is.

IV. The Blessedness of God

A. Definition

1. **Grudem**, “God’s blessedness means that God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects His character.”
2. God is perfectly happy! He has fullness of joy within Himself!

B. Discussion

1. The title of “blessed” (utterly and completely happy) is ascribed to God
 - a. **1 Timothy 6:13-16** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.
 - b. **1 Timothy 1:11** according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.
2. God takes pleasure in everything in creation that mirrors His own excellence!
 - a. **Creation: Genesis 1:31** God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
 - b. **Redemption: Is 62:5** “And *as* the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, *So* your God will rejoice over you.”
 - c. **Grudem**, “It may at first seem strange or even somewhat disappointing to us that when God rejoices in his creation, or even when he rejoices in us, it is really the reflection of his own excellent qualities in which he is rejoicing. But when we remember that the sum of everything that is desirable or excellent is found in infinite measure in God himself, then we realize that it could not be otherwise: *whatever* excellence there is in the universe, *whatever* desirable, must ultimately have come from him, for he is the Creator of all and he is the source of all good.”
3. We also, then, ought to delight in what God delights in!
 - a. We ought to rejoice in Creation as it reflects elements of God’s character!
 - b. We ought to rejoice in God’s marvelous design of man (making him an image bearer)
 - c. We ought to rejoice in the church as it is made more and more like Christ
 - d. We ought to find our greatest rejoicing/happiness/blessedness in the source of all good qualities – God Himself!

V. Responding to the Attributes of God

A. Knowing God Truly

1. May we be stripped of all idolatrous views of God...
2. May we relate truly to the One and Only God – He who has revealed Himself in Creation and the Word of God! This is the one before whom we will give an accounting!

B. Knowing God Rightly

1. May this learning about God lead necessarily to worship of God...
2. As we contemplate God, may we worship Him for all He is! May we be swept up in deep biblical thoughts about Him and find delight in the sheer meditation upon Him and obedience to Him!