

CHRISTIANITY



Understanding What Christians Believe

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PART 4: WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Bible scholar Wayne Grudem explains that when we come to talk about the character of God, we realize that we cannot say everything the Bible teaches us about God's character at once. We need some way to decide which aspect of God's character to discuss first, which aspect to discuss second, and so forth. In other words, we need some way to categorize the attributes of God. In this lesson we shall answer the question, "What is God like?" by describing his natural attributes (his greatness) and his moral attributes (his goodness).



A. GOD'S NATURAL ATTRIBUTES (HIS GREATNESS)

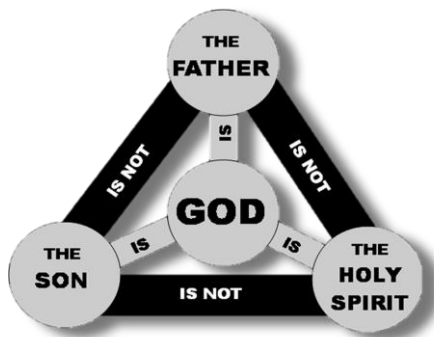
1. God is _____: He is greater than the creation and independent of it.
2. God is _____: He is actively involved in his creation.
3. God is _____: He is all-powerful and is always able to do what he wants to do.
4. God is _____: He is in all places, all the time.
5. God is _____: He knows everything and is all-wise.
6. God is _____: He never had a beginning and will never have an end.
7. God is _____: Because God is infinite (not limited in any way) and we are finite or limited, we can never fully understand God.
8. God is _____: Unlike human beings who always change, God never changes and is not volatile or capricious.
9. God is _____: God cares for us deeply.

10. God is _____: He does not have a physical body, but he is nonetheless real.
11. God is _____: God does not need us, or the rest of creation, for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify him and bring him joy.
12. God has _____: While God does not have sinful passions like humans, he does have emotions.

B. GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES (HIS GOODNESS)

1. God is _____: God has moral excellence and is free from all limitations to his moral excellence.
2. God is _____: His love is divine, a perfect love, loyal love (H. *hesed*), kind love.
3. God is _____: God's mercy means that he expresses goodness toward those in misery and distress.
4. God is _____: God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

C. THE TRINITY



“God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God. The word trinity is never found in the Bible, though the idea represented by the word is taught in many places. The word trinity means ‘tri-unity’ or ‘three-in-oneness.’ It is used to summarize the teaching of Scripture that God is three persons yet one God.” (Grudem)

1. God is _____ (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; Matt. 3:16-17; John 1:1-2; 9-18).
2. Each person is _____ (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-4; John 20:28; Matt. 28:19).
3. There is _____ (Deut. 6:5; Isa. 9:6; 45:5-7; Eph. 4:4-6; John 14:10).

More detailed information, including non-biblical views of God, can be found at:
<https://www.taylornotes.info/bible-studies>

