

Week 3: The Nature and Attributes of God (Part 2)

Communicable Attributes of God

Unlike God's incommunicable attributes, His communicable attributes are those that humans can reflect, though imperfectly. These attributes reveal how God relates to His creation and provide a model for our character and actions.

Love

Definition: God's love is His eternal and selfless commitment to the good of others.

Scriptural Basis: "God is love" (1 John 4:8); "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16).

Application: God's love inspires and enables us to love others as He has loved us (1 John 4:19).

Mercy

Definition: God's mercy is His compassion and forgiveness toward those in need or deserving judgment.

Scriptural Basis: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us..." (Ephesians 2:4); "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases... His mercies are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Application: God's mercy calls us to show compassion and forgiveness to others (Matthew 5:7).

Justice

Definition: God's justice is His commitment to what is right and His judgment against sin and wrongdoing.

Scriptural Basis: "For the LORD is a God of justice" (Isaiah 30:18); "He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:31).

Application: God's justice motivates us to seek justice and righteousness in our lives and society (Micah 6:8).

Holiness

Definition: God's holiness is His absolute purity and separation from sin.

Scriptural Basis: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3); "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:2).

Application: God's holiness calls us to live pure and set-apart lives for His glory (1 Peter 1:15-16).

The Relationship Between God's Attributes

God's attributes are not separate parts of His being; they are perfectly unified and interconnected. Each attribute complements and enhances the others, reflecting His infinite and harmonious nature.

God's Love and Holiness

God's love is not sentimental but holy, always aligned with His righteousness and purity.

His holiness ensures that His love is just and redemptive, never compromising His moral perfection.

God's Mercy and Justice

God's mercy does not negate His justice; instead, it demonstrates His patience and willingness to forgive while upholding His righteous standards.

The cross of Christ is the ultimate expression of this relationship, where God's justice against sin and His mercy toward sinners meet (Romans 3:26).

God's Omnipotence and Compassion

God's power is always exercised in harmony with His love and compassion, ensuring that His actions are both mighty and good.

Conclusion

God's communicable attributes reveal His relational nature and provide a model for our own character.

As we grow in our understanding of God's love, mercy, justice, and holiness, we are called to reflect these qualities in our lives. Additionally, the perfect harmony of God's attributes assures us of His trustworthy and unchanging nature. Next week, we will explore the doctrine of the Trinity, diving deeper into the mystery of God's triune being and its implications for our faith.