

# Understanding the Doctrine of God

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# What are the attributes of God?

# Attributes of God

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- **Attributes of God can be defined as:**
  - **Those distinguishing characteristics of the divine nature that are inseparable from the idea of God and which are the basis for his various manifestations to God's creation.**



# Attributes of God

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- **Attributes of God can be defined as:**
  - **God's attributes are different than God's works.**
  - **God's attributes do not add anything to God. They reveal God's nature.**



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# Absolute Attributes of God

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- **Immutability**

- God is perfect and unchanging. Neither God nor God's works nor God's purposes and promises change.
- Improvement or deterioration is not possible for God.
- **Read: Malachi 3.6 and James 1.17**





# Absolute Attributes of God

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- **Truth**

- This means that God is perfectly reliable in God's revelation and that God always sees things as they truly are.
- He is the true God and there is none like God. (Isaiah 44.8-10; 45.5)









# Absolute Attributes of God

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- **Love**

- 1 John 4.8 declares that God is love while verse 10 of that chapter declares how God's love is revealed.
- This is not simply emotional, but a rational, voluntary affection grounded in God's truth and holiness and exercised in free will.





# Absolute Attributes of God

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- **Love**
  - **Agape** means that loves the object of their affection irrespective of the worth of the object,
    - And loves even if that love might not be returned.



GODS

The word "GODS" is rendered in a word cloud style, where each letter is filled with various religious and spiritual terms. The letters are white and set against a dark background. The words visible within the letters include: GRACE, MERCY, HOLY, FOR YOU, LOVE, PRESE, RIGH, TEOUS, and LIFE-GIVE.









# Questions

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- **For each of the attributes discussed, can you name ways in which you have personally experienced these attributes?**
- **How have you witnessed these attributes on display in the world around you?**
- **How would you communicate these attributes to someone unsaved?**











# Relative Attributes of God

- **Omnipresence**
  - God is everywhere present.
  - Read Ps. 139.7-12
  - What are the practical implications for your life when you consider that God is omnipresent?





# Relative Attributes of God

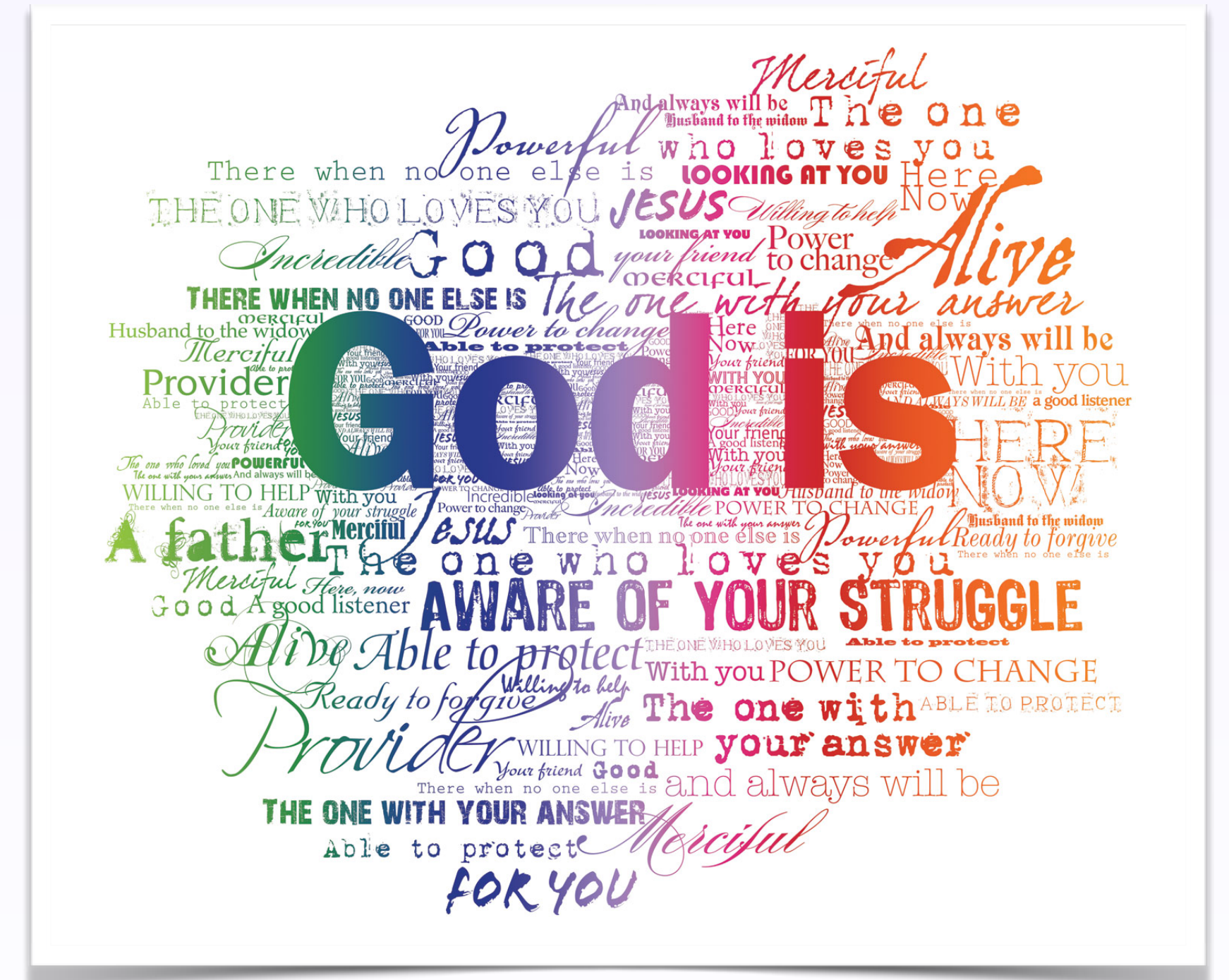
- **Omniscience**
  - God has all knowledge.
  - God knows all things actual. (Ps. 139.1-6; 147.4; Matt. 6.8, 10.28-30.)
  - God knows all things possible. (Matt 11.21)
  - God knows all things past, present and future.





# Relative Attributes of God

- **Omnipotence**
  - God is all powerful.
  - God is able to do whatever God wills and whatever is consistent with God's nature.
  - God is referred to as Almighty.
  - Because God is almighty, there is nothing impossible for God.





# Relative Attributes of God

- **Mercy**

- Refers to the goodness or love of God shown to those who are in misery or distress, irrespective of their desires.
- In the New Testament we see the language of **loving-kindness** used as one of the ways to describe God's mercy.





# Relative Attributes of God

- **Grace**
  - Refers to the unmerited or underserved favor of God towards those who are under condemnation.
  - In the New Testament the word ***charis*** is used to describe the favor of God manifested in God's redemption of humanity.





# Relative Attributes of God

- **Justice**

- The justice of God means that God is entirely correct and just in all God's dealings with humanity.
- God's justice acts in accord with God's law. Therefore, justice is related to the sin of humanity.



# Names of God

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- **What do you understand each of the names of God below to mean?**
- **Elohim**
- **Adonai**
- **Yaweh**
- **El Shaddai**
- **El Elyon**
- **El Olam**



# Names of God

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- **Are there other names for God not mentioned in the prior list?**
- **Which of these names carries the most meaning for you?**

# Trinity

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- **The Trinity is composed of three united Persons without separate existence - so completely united as to form one God.**
- **The divine nature exists with three distinctions - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

