

# LOGOS

(1<sup>st</sup> Year)

November 7, 2010

## THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

In order to understand the full study of God, we must first of all understand certain definitions. These definitions are vital to the entire system of categorizing the many aspects of God and His workings.

### DEFINITIONS

**ESSENCE** – Is the substance in which the attributes **unite/belong to** and the basis of the existence of the **Persons**.

- Or the **stuff** God is **made** of.

**ATTRIBUTES** – Are those distinguishing characteristics of the divine **essence** which constitute the basis of various **actions** in reference to God Himself or to **others**. These actions are co-existent with the **entire** essence and, being eternal, do not depend on **creation** for their **exercise**.

- Or the eternal **actions** of God.

**NATURE** - Is the sum total of the **essence** and the **attributes**; or that which is **natural** to the being of a person.

- In the essential characteristics; **or realm** of experience or that which comes naturally to a **person**.

**THEOLOGICAL FORMULA = E + A = N**

# ATTRIBUTES DEFINED

## The Attribute of Omniscience

1) Definition = God has perfect and eternal knowledge of **all** things.

2) Scriptures

- Isaiah 40:12-14
- Isaiah 46:9-10
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Psalm 147:5

3) Results of omniscience

- He knows the actual, the **possible**, the past, the present and the future of all things.
- God never **learns** anything new and has never been taught!

4) My response to the omniscience of God

- It demands that we are **honest** with Him (Job 23:10)!
- It should cause us to be very **thankful** for His grace and mercy shown to us.
- It destroys the **false** teaching of "openness" or "open theism."

## The Attribute of Omnipotence

1) Definition = God is able to do **whatever** He determines to do.

2) Scriptures

- Jeremiah 32:17
- Genesis 18:14
- Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3

### 3) Results of omnipotence

- God can do anything except that which is against His **nature**.
- God is never **tired**, worn out or unable to do what He has promised to do (Isaiah 40:28).

### 4) My response to the omnipotence of God

- Recognize that God is able to save you **forever** (Hebrews 7:24-25).
- Know that God is able to meet all your **needs** (Philippians 4:19).
- Acknowledge that God can deliver you from temptation so you do not **sin** (I Corinthians 10:13).

## THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### The Attribute of Love

1) Definition = God's desire for, and delight in, the **well-being** of the object loved, even to the point of self-sacrifice.

### 2) Scripture

- I John 3:1
- I John 4:8-10

### 3) Results of the attribute of love

- Since one attribute is not the **source** of another attribute, love is neither greater nor less than the other attributes.
- Because of God's love, the **kindness** of God is made known (I Corinthians 13:4-5).
- The grace of God is an **extension** of His love and kindness.

- Note this order: Love shown by kindness resulting in His **grace** (Ephesians 2:7).

- Grace is then love **directed** at an undeserving object.

#### 4) My response to the love of God

- Acknowledge that God's love keeps us within certain **boundaries** (2 Corinthians 5:14).

- God's love becomes a pattern for our "**love**" (I John 4:11).

- God's love should **motivate** us to love other believers (I John 3:16-18).

### The Attribute of Truth

1) Definition = God's ability to see Himself and all other things as they **really** are.

#### 2) Scripture

- John 14:6

- John 17:3

#### 3) Results of the attribute of truth

- God's opinion of who He is is completely **accurate**.

- God and His Word are the very **standard** of truth.

- God can only **tell** the truth.

- Because of His absolute truthfulness, He (God) is always **faithful**.

#### 4) My response to the attribute of truth

- I will always **measure** all "truth" in light of His truth.

- I will not doubt His **perfect** love for me and my life.

- Pray for a great **desire** to know the truth of Scripture so you might be free from **sin** (John 8:32-36).

## The Attribute of Holiness

1) Definition = God's ability to always **live up** to His own potential and standards. (Note - He is **set apart**, not from sin, but to His own purpose.)

2) Scripture

- Leviticus 11:44
- Isaiah 6:3
- Hebrews 7:26
- I Peter 1:15-16

3) Results of the attribute of holiness

- God will never **deviate** from His ordained purpose.
- God cannot **accept** any lower standard than His own.
- He must demand then a standard **equal** to His own to be in His presence (Romans 3:23).
- God's **wrath** is a result of the abhorrence, which He must display, against that which is unlike Himself (Romans 1:18).

4) My response to the attribute of holiness

- I will not expect God to **lower** His standards. (He knows my potential!)
- I will develop a desire to live up to my **full** potential in Christ (I Peter 1:16).

## The Attribute of Goodness

1) Definition = God is completely **satisfied** with who He is and always **acts** accordingly.

## 2) Scripture

- Nahum 1:7
- Psalm 25:8
- John 10:14

## 3) Results of the attribute of goodness

- Our Great God will never have an "identity" **crisis**.
- God is never **discouraged** with Himself.
- There is nothing God would **change** about Himself.
- There is nothing He would "**redo**" or **erase** about His eternal actions.
- God always **responds** perfectly.

## 4) My response to God's goodness

- As I meditate on His goodness, I should overflow with **thanksgiving** (Psalm 107:1-2).
- Once we **taste** of the goodness of God, He will always be our source for satisfaction and contentment (Psalm 34:8a).