



[3] What Is God Like? | October 12, 2014

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3 (NIV)

Last week we talked about how the God of the Bible has revealed Himself to all humankind. While we will never *fully* know God, He *is* personally knowable. Our ideas of God need to be based on truth and God has revealed who He is most fully in the Bible, His Word.

[Q] Discuss: Where do you think some incorrect ideas about God come from?

[Q] According to the following verses, why does God want us to know Him?

[Psalm 46:10](#)

[2 Peter 1:2-3](#)

Some of God's attributes are called "incommunicable attributes," and others are called "communicable attributes." God's attributes have crucial implications for our day-to-day lives.

God's incommunicable attributes ...

...belong to Him alone.

Read [Exodus 15:11-13](#). What qualities of God does Moses sing of?

- God is *self-existent*: He has life in Himself and depends on no one. (Acts 17:24-25)
- God is *sovereign*: He rules over all things. (Psalm 33:11)
- God is *omnipresent*: He is boundless, present in all places at once. (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Isaiah 46:8-10)
- God is *omniscient*: He knows all things. (Romans 11:33-36)
- God is *omnipotent*: He is all-powerful. (Isaiah 40:28-31; Ephesians 3:20-21)
- God is *immutable*: He never changes. (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8)

[Q] From the list above, pick one or two of the attributes of God and state a beneficial implication for your life from the attribute. (For example, because God is all-sufficient, I can know that there is not a need in my life He cannot supply.)

Because God is _____, I can...

God's communicable attributes...

...find their fullest expression in Him, but can also be displayed on a smaller scale by us, His image-bearers.

[Q] From the list below, which characteristic of God is particularly meaningful to you today? Why?

- God is *holy*: He is pure, blameless, and flawless in all of His being. (1 Peter 1: 16).
- God is *just*: He loves purity and punishes impurity. (Genesis 18: 25)
- God is *truthful*: He speaks accurately and authoritatively. (John 1:14; 14:6)
- God is *wise*: He is all-wise and is the source of wisdom. (James 1:5; Romans 11:33–34)
- God is *good*: He is kind and deals abundantly with His creatures. (James 1:17; Psalm 145:8-9)
- God is *gracious*: He freely bestows salvation on undeserving sinners. (1 Cor. 15:10; Titus 2:11–14)
- God is *loving*: He demonstrates selfless love for His children. (Titus 3:4-6; 1 John 4:7–12)

[Q] This list is not complete. What attribute would you add?

[Q] Read [Ephesians 5:1-2](#). Which characteristic of God would you like to reflect more fully? Why?

[Q] How will you do that?

- One way is to look up verses related to that attribute. Check a concordance or search the topic at biblegateway.com. Select a verse, write it down on an index card and look at it throughout the week.
- Many songs praise God for His attributes- check here: valleycommunity.cc/resources/this-weekend-at-valley.
- Ask God for His help and insight into what areas or relationships you can be more like Him.
- Ask a friend to check in on you.

How can we turn our knowledge *about* God into knowledge *of* God?
The rule for doing this is demanding but simple.
It is that we turn each truth that we learn *about* God
into matter for meditation *before* God,
leading to prayer and praise *to* God.

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Parents: Check out these great resources for kids of various ages related to our sermon series:

valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomebelieve

Pray

Reminder: Community Service Day is Sat, Nov. 1. valleycommunity.cc/ministries/outreach/community-service-day