

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: (ORGANIZED BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Part II: Theology Proper (Doctrines About God Himself)

B. The Divine Attributes (The Structure Of God Himself)

I. Introduction

- A. If we point out errors of theistic views such as pantheism or atheism, we need to show the correct stands.
- B. Scripture offers basic facts about our God Who is a Spirit, and we schedule God's attributes accordingly. In the process, we learn invaluable lessons on applying this basic theology for practical living as follows:

II. The Divine Attributes (The Structure Of God Himself)

- A. God has personality by definition, having will (James 4:15), intellect (Isa. 55:9) and emotion (Eph. 4:30).
- B. As a personal God, the basic "ingredients" of God, His **essence**, is described in Scripture as follows:
 1. God **alone** has **aseity**, the capacity to be self-existing as to cause and sustinment, Ex. 3:14.
 2. God is uncomplicated, or **simple** in essence. All that God is He is in a very straightforward, unvarying manner. 1 John 1:5 states that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at **all!**
 3. God is **immense** in filling all of His essence. Isaiah 40:21-22 pictures God's having to stretch out the stellar universe in order to **inhabit** it!
- C. Adhering within this divine essence are qualities of God as to ability and character that are true before, during and after the creation of time and the universe. These features are His **attributes** as follows:
 1. God is **omniscient**, or all-knowing in every possible way, Psalm 139:1-6.
 2. God is **omnipresent**, or existing in all places at all times in the universe, Psalm 139:7-10. This is not to say pantheistically that all that exists is God Himself, but to say God is **where** everything exists!
 3. God is **omnipotent**, or all-powerful in every possible way, Hebrews 1:3.
 4. God is **truth**, meaning all about Him is completely true, Psalm 138:2.
 5. God is **righteous**, or adheres absolutely to His true standard of uprightness, Deuteronomy 32:4.
 6. God is **good**, or infinitely wholesome in every possible way, James 1:17.
 7. God is **love**, having the capacity to take infinite selfless concern for others outside of Himself, 1 John 4:8b with 1 John 3:17-18.
- D. When the **essence** and **attributes** of God combine, they produced the universe; the way God **relates** to this universe reveals His **nature** as follows:
 1. God is **free**, meaning He is not bound in any way by any element(s) in creation, Romans 11:34-35.
 2. God is **sovereign**, totally ruling over all entities in the created universe, 1 Sam. 2:6-8; 1 Chr. 29:11-12.
 3. God is **infinite**, meaning He excels in every way the dimensions in every way of creation, Ps. 145:3.
 4. God is **eternal** contrasted to the temporality of the universe, Psalm 102:12-14; 90:2.
 5. God is **immutable**, meaning He is not capable of changing or being changed in any way by the universe and its functions, Ps. 102:24-27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8.
 6. God is **holy**, meaning He is separate from sin and its effects in every way, Isaiah 6:1-3.
- E. Summing up God's **essence** and **attributes**, and **combining** such **essence** and **attributes** to view His **nature** that is revealed in His relating to creation, we conclude that God is a **unity** in purpose, function and being, cf. John 10:30; Deuteronomy 6:4. In this sense, He is **ONE God**.

Lesson: *Our Biblical God is a unified Spirit with PERSONALITY Who has attributes (omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, truth, righteousness, goodness and love). These attributes combined with His essence (aseity, simplicity and immensity) have produced the universe and its functions, and He is related to that universe as the Free, Sovereign, Eternal, Infinite, Immutable, Holy, Almighty God!*

Application: *(1) Theologically, we can use this information to counter false views of God's identity offered by man who has erred in accord with the description of Romans 1:18ff. (2) In a practical way, we can RELY upon one or more of the qualities of God's essence, attributes or nature to meet specific needs or concerns we face in everyday living. For example, a party with a low value of himself due to a difficult background can rely upon the fact of God's INFINITE LOVE for him, and GOODNESS (wholesomeness) to see that his LIFE is VALUABLE to GOD as a creature of His, and avoid suicide!*