

Theology #5 “The Natural Attributes of God”

I. God is Self-Existent- This teaching is that God depends upon no one. Everything other than God depends upon God.

- A. God possess life in Himself. He exists independently of any cause. Exodus 3:14, John 5:26
 - 1. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.²⁴ “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;²⁵ neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things.
 - 2. A. W. Tozer has noted that this is one reason why philosophy and science have not always been friendly toward the idea of God. These disciplines are dedicated to the task of accounting for things as we know them and are therefore impatient with anything that refuses to give an account of itself. Philosophers and scientists will admit that there is much they don’t know. But it is another thing to admit that there is something they can never know completely and which, in fact, they don’t even have techniques for discovering. To discover God, scientists may attempt to bring God down to their level, defining him as “natural law,” “evolution” or some such principle. But still God eludes them. There is more to God than any such concepts can delineate.
- B. This attribute brings comfort, assurance, and stability.
 - 1. He will never cease to exist.
 - 2. He is not subject to anything or anyone.

II. God is eternal- This teaches that God is without a beginning or ending. “In God there is no was or will be, but a continuous and unbroken is. In Him history and prophecy are one and the same. Whatever God is He is infinitely”. – Tozer. Gen. 21:33, I Tim. 1:17, Psalm 90:1-2, 102:12

- A. God’s nature is without beginning and without end, free from all succession of time. God dwells in eternity. Eternity is not just “extended time” but rather is existence above and apart from time. Since eternity never wears out neither do His attributes. Is. 40:28
- B. Man is immortal but God is eternal.
 - 1. Man had a beginning, and has an eternal soul. God does not have a beginning, but contains within Himself the cause of time.
 - 2. We can look forward to eternity in heaven because our God is eternal.

III. God is Immutable- God never changes in His nature and character. Ps. 102:27, James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8

A. This characteristic means that God unlike man is absolutely faithful.

1. We can rest completely in His promises. John 10:28-29, Romans 8:28, 12:2
- He is perfect and has no need to change.

2. We can trust in the Lord when things seem out of control.

B. We can reject any teaching that contradicts His Word.

1. Galatians 1:8, 2 Cor. 11:14, Matthew 5:18.

2. Anyone claiming to have a prophecy from the Lord must be tested by this attribute of God.

IV. God is Omnipresent- God is everywhere present. Ps. 139:7-12, Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:5

A. In one sense this is very comforting.

1. We can come to God at any time in prayer, and for refuge.

2. There is no place in our universe where there is a being greater than God for He is everywhere.

B. In another sense it's very challenging. Ps. 69:5

1. He sees what is done in secret and any hypocrisy within us.

2. Many things can be done while concealing our actions from men, but nothing can be done that God does not see.

VI. God is Omnipotent- He is All-Powerful. Jer. 32:7, Matt. 19:26, Job 42:2, Eph. 3:20-21

A. God is Sovereign.

1. Everyone's plans are subject to God, but God's plans cannot be stopped. James 4:14

2. God has given man free will, but man is accountable to God and subject to God's intervention.

B. This attribute of God demands our complete trust. Romans 8:38-39, John 10:28-29

1. There is not a situation that is outside of God's control.

*Note

Jesus is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient because he is God. He set aside the independent use of these attributes, and used them according to the Father's Will. We see Jesus power in multiplying the fish and bread, and yet that power was not used to provide food for himself after fasting. He told Peter to catch a fish that would have a gold coin in its mouth, we see Him reading thoughts and yet He asked "Who touched me", and said that "No one knows that day or the hour." His attributes were used in a limited capacity for His ministry in His humanity, but today as He possess all those attributes without limitations. Phil. 2:5-8