

Session 3: The Attributes of God

(First Pause)

Answer the following questions:

If someone asked you, “What is God like?”, how would you answer right now?

Answers will vary

When you think about how people today describe God, what attributes are often emphasised, and which ones are often ignored?

Answers will vary

Why do you think God wants us to know His attributes at all?

Because God is fundamentally loving he wants to know us and be known in turn

(Second Pause)

Answer the following questions:

If we are made in God’s image, how does reflecting His communicable attributes show the world what He is like?

Answers will vary – when we reflect the character of God, the world can look at us and see an imperfect glimpse of him.

Which of God’s communicable attributes do you most long to reflect more clearly in your own life, and why?

Answers will vary

Why do you think God chose to make us in His image, to share some of His attributes, rather than remaining completely unlike us? What does that say about His heart for relationship?

God is fundamentally loving he wants to know us and be known in turn – reflecting the attributes of God brings glory to him

(Third Pause)

Answer the following questions:

How do the incommunicable attributes help us understand why only God is worthy of worship?

They are unique to God and set him far above us – they are totally alien to our existence

Which of God’s incommunicable attributes gives you the most comfort or assurance right now, and why?

Answers will vary

How can we hold together both truths: that God is far above us (in His incommunicable attributes) and yet deeply personal and near to us (through Christ and His Spirit)?

God is fundamentally loving he wants to know us and be known in turn – he makes the effort to present himself in a way knowable to us

(Fourth Pause)

Answer the following questions:

How does God's indivisibility protect us from creating a "pick-and-choose" version of God that fits our preferences?

Because God is whole we cannot choose the easy parts of God (Love, mercy, etc) without also having the difficult (Jealousy, Wrath, Justice)

When we pray or worship, how can we make sure we are responding to the whole of who God is, not just the parts we find easiest to grasp?

While earnest effort to address God as he presents himself can take us part of the way, it is impossible for us to fully grasp God

How does knowing that "all that God is, He is for us" (as His people) fill you with confidence or gratitude? And what difference does that make for your relationship with Him this week?

Answers will vary

(Final Section)

Complete the table and answer the following questions:

| Verse: | Attribute: God is... | Communicable or Incommunicable? |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Ecclesiastes 3:11-14, Isaiah 55:8-9, Romans 11:33,</i> | <i>Incomprehensible</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>1 Kings 8:27</i> | <i>Infinite</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>1 John 4:7-12</i> | <i>Love</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>1 John 1:5</i> | <i>Light</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>1 Peter 1:16</i> | <i>Holy</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Psalms 139:7-12</i> | <i>Omnipresent</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>James 1:5, Proverbs 2:6</i> | <i>Wise</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>1 John 2:29, Psalm 89:14</i> | <i>Righteous/Just</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Psalms 103:13</i> | <i>Compassionate</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Romans 1:18</i> | <i>Wrathful</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Ephesians 2:4-5</i> | <i>Merciful</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Malachi 3:6</i> | <i>Immutable</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>Psalms 147:5</i> | <i>Omniscient</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>Numbers 23:19</i> | <i>Truthful/Trustworthy</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Psalms 90:2</i> | <i>Eternal</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>2 Peter 3:9, Exodus 34:6</i> | <i>Patient</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |
| <i>Jeremiah 32:17, Revelation 19:6</i> | <i>Omnipotent</i> | <i>Incommunicable</i> |
| <i>Psalms 119:68</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Communicable</i> |

Now, how would you answer the question "What is God like?"?

Answers will vary

In your own perception of God, which of these attributes do you struggle with?

Answers will vary

How does/will knowledge of God and his perfect character affect your walk with him?

Answers will vary