

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD -- ABSOLUTE ATTRIBUTES

God's SPIRITUALITY

Negatively, when we say Spirituality:

We don't say that God is spiritual, but we do say that He is Spirit. Jno 4:24, Rom 1:20, 1Tim 1:17, Col 1:15

God as Spirit is NOT matter, not even refined matter, but immaterial substance. He is invisible, uncompounded and indestructible.

God is NOT dependent on matter nor necessarily connected with matter.

God as Spirit does NOT have bodily parts or organs even though these symbolically describe His attributes.

Positively Spirituality is:

(a) **LIFE** -- He is a living Being, the living God. Psa 18:46, Jer 10:10, 1 Thess 1:9, Jno 5:26, 14:6, Heb 7:16, Rev 11:11. This life is not merely a process or a Divine life without a Person. Life is not merely correspondence or relationship otherwise there would be no life of God possible before creation, but life is rather energy of intellect, affection, and will.

(b) **PERSONALITY** -- God is a personal Being.

He is Someone with the power of self consciousness and self determination. Self and determination here are used in the highest moral sense. In Exodus 3:14 He called Himself *I AM WHO I AM* and did not say "it is" or even "I was" or "I will be".

Ex 3: 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

Psa 18: 46 The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Jer 10: 10 But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

Jno 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Jno 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

Jno 5: 26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

Jno 14: 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Rom 1: 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

1Thess 1: 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

1Tim 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Heb 7:16 Who is made not according to the law of a carnal commandment, but according to the power of an indissoluble life:

Rev 11: 11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

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God's INFINITY

Not that the Divine Nature has no known limitations, nor boundaries, but that it has NO limits nor bounds. Psa 145:3, Isa 66:1, 1 Kings 8:27, Rom 11:33.

God is above all and over all; He has freedom from all spatial and resource restrictions.

(Only ONE can be infinite. Infinity is not just a negative idea ie. that there cannot be two infinities) but it is also positive.

Infinity does not confuse God with "the all" or the "sum of existence". It simply implies that God exists in no necessary relation to finite things or beings, and that whatever limitations of the Divine nature which result from creation are self limitations on God's part.

Infinity is not a mere(ly) (extensive) extension where we think of God as filling space outside of space, but it is rather infinite energy and spiritual life. ie. quality rather than quantity.

In God there is a transcendence that is not exhausted by any self-revelation either in creation nor in redemption.

Eternal Self-Existence Ex 3:14.

His reason for existence is in Himself, as ours is not in us. God is independent for existence.

It is His nature to BE. His existence is necessary because of who He is.

Immutability. By this we mean that the nature, attributes and will of God are exempt from all change. No cause for change in the Godhead (better or worse) exists either within or outside of God

AND any apparent change in Him must be either merely a different method of manifesting His immutable truth and wisdom; or a revelation of His immutability when moral conditions change;

OR His timing of things He has purposed from Eternity. Immutability does not limit the mobility of God. Psa 102:27, Mal 3:6, Jas 1:17.

Unity. The Divine Nature is individed and indivisible. There is but one Infinite and Divine Spirit. There is not a multitude of Gods as in polytheism. There are not three Gods. There are not two Gods, but there is ONE GOD, and this is not inconsistent with the doctrine of the Trinity. Deut 6:4, Isa 44:6, Jno 5:44, 17:3, 1 Cor 8:4, Eph 4:5, 4:6.

Psalms 145:3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"

1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!"

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Psalms 102:27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.
Malachi 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

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As related to Himself

God's Perfection

By perfection we mean not merely a complete quantity, but a complete quality of excellence. The attributes of God's perfection are moral attributes. God's activity presupposes a principle of Intelligence, of Affection,, and of Will, AND the existence of a worthy object for each of these powers. He must and does find the sufficient object of intellect, affection, and will in Himself.

There is a self-knowing, a self-loving, and a self-willing which constitutes His absolute perfection. Mtt 5:48, Col 1:28, Deut 32:4, Psa 18:30.

Perfection of TRUTH. Not merely that God is truthful, but that He is truth itself. Jno 14:6. Truth of being must precede truth of action. He is the only Being who truly knows and He is the Truth that is known. All truth among men is regarded as having its foundation in God who is Truth, and it discloses facts about the Being of God. This attribute constitutes the principle and guarantee of all revelation.

Perfection of LOVE. By this we mean the principle that eternally moves the Divine Nature toward self-communication. 1 Jno 4:8, Jno 3:16, Jno 17:24, Rom 15:30.

The love of God is not God, nor is it the all inclusive attribute. We must not confuse the principle of the love of God with its transitive manifestations to moral creatures.

The love of God has regard for moral quality, it is not merely emotional affection nor is it merely an outlet for use someplace or anywhere.

The immanent love of God (that is that it is His nature to love) is a rational and voluntary affection, grounded in perfect reason and deliberate choice.

Love is absolutely consistent with God's TRUTH and HOLINESS.

The love of God requires and finds a perfect standard in His Holiness and a perfect object in His own Perfections. The existence of Creation is not necessary for God to love and to be love.

The love of God also involves the possibility of Divine suffering on account of sin to effect the reconciliation of offended holiness.

Perfection of HOLINESS. Holiness is self-affirming purity.

God eternally wills and maintains His own moral excellence. Ex 15:11, 19:10-16, Isa 6:3, 2 Cor 7:1, 1 Thess 3:13, 4:7, Heb 12:29.

Holiness is a separate attribute from the sum of the Divine Perfections and it is separate from the other attributes of God. Holiness is not self love in the sense of supreme regard for His own interest and happiness. It is not just "useful" to maintain His excellency -- it is His nature to do so.

Holiness is Purity of Substance. He is the source and standard of right.

Holiness is the free moral movement of the Godhead. It is God's self-affirming purity. His moral excellence affirms and asserts itself as the highest possible motive and end.

Scriptures

Mtt 5:48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Psa 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

1 Jno 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Jno 3:16 For so greatly did God love the world that He gave His only Son, that every one who trusts in Him may not perish but may have the Life of Ages.

Jno 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world

Rom 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

Ex 15:11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Ex 19:10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

12 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:

13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

15 And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.

16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Heb 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

2 Cor 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 Thess 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thess 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness

Heb 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.