

As Scripture is the source of information about itself, God is the source of information about Himself, and He speaks about Himself in the Bible. He has chosen to reveal a number of attributes about Himself to us.

#### I. God Exists

- A. Scripture does not set out to prove that God exists, rather, it simply assumes He does (Gen. 1:1).
- B. Everyone has a deep inner sense of his existence (Rom. 1:19-20). Therefore, it isn't simply "blind faith" to believe in God.

#### II. God is Knowable

- A. Because God has chosen to reveal Himself in the pages of Scripture, we can know Him.
- B. We will never fully know God because His greatness is "unsearchable" and too great for us (Ps. 145:3; 139:6).
- C. But, we can personally know Him, a far greater experience than simply knowing facts about Him (John 17:3; Jer. 9:24).
- D. Because He has chosen to tell, we can gain a good deal of knowledge about our God from Scripture.

#### III. God is Independent

- A. God doesn't need us or anything else in Creation to exist (Acts 17:24-25).
- B. God always was, meaning that He never came into being (Ps. 90:2). As the source of everything, He has never nor ever can be dependent. Rather, creation depends on Him (Rom. 11:36). Our importance, value and significance comes from God's choice to give us these.

#### IV. God is Unchangeable

- A. This doesn't mean that God must always be completely emotionless, without change whatsoever in every aspect of his being. Rather, He is unchanging in the areas that Scripture reveals.
- B. God is unchanging in His being, attributes, purposes, and promises (Ps. 102:27; Mal. 3:6).

\* The material in this handout is a summary of chapter two, "What is God Like?" in Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, ed. by Elliot Grudem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 21-36.

- C. God's unchangeableness does not mean that He cannot experience emotion or have feelings (Hos. 11:8-9).

#### V. God is Eternal

- A. God has no beginning or end (Ps. 90:2; Eph. 1:4).
- B. He knows and understands time as vividly today as a thousand years ago (Ps. 90:3; 2 Pet. 3:8).

#### VI. God is Omnipresent

- A. Unlike us and every other physical aspect of this universe, God does not have size or spatial dimensions. He is everywhere at all times (Jer. 23:23-24; Ps. 139:7-10).
- B. Yet, God is able to act in certain places and at certain times

#### VII. God is Spirit

- A. God is not made up of matter, like other physical beings. Rather, God is a spirit being (John 4:24). To think of Him in terms of any other created thing is to misrepresent God.
- B. He has chosen to make us like Him by giving us a spiritual nature.

#### VIII. God is Invisible

- A. No one has ever seen God, nor will anyone ever see His entire essence (John 1:18).
- B. Yet, God has chosen to manifest Himself at times. He has taken on visible form and appeared to men (Isa. 6:1; Gen. 18:1; Gen. 32:30).
- C. The greatest manifestation of God is found in the person of Jesus Christ (John 14:9).

#### IX. God is Omniscient

- A. God knows everything (1 John 3:20). He knows everything that exists and everything that happens. Nothing is hidden from Him (Heb. 4:13).
- B. His knowledge does not change because He has known everything from all eternity. This is why He can tell us what will happen in the future.

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## X. God is Wise

- A. While God knows everything, He also chooses the best goals and best possible means to reach those goals (Rom. 16:27; Job 9:4 and 12:13).
- B. His wisdom is the source of creation (Ps. 104:24). Because of his wisdom, all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28). God has given of His wisdom to humanity (James 1:5; Ps. 19:7).
- C. Yet, we will never fully know all of God's wisdom because they are above us (Rom. 11:33). When difficult times come that do not make sense in our wisdom, we are called to trust in the Lord and His wisdom, not our own understanding (Prov. 3:5-6).

## XI. God is Truthful

- A. God reveals truth, and He is the final standard of truth and what is true (Jer. 10:10).
- B. We can trust Him to always reveal the truth (Num. 23:19).

## XII. God is Good

- A. God is the final standard of what is good (Luke 18:19).
- B. His creation reveals his goodness because everything that He made is very good (Gen. 1:31).
- C. Not only is God the standard but He is also the source of goodness (James 1:17).
- D. God's goodness is revealed in His mercy and grace extended to us. We are called to do the same to others (Gal. 6:10).

## XIII. God is Love

- A. God is love (1 John 4:8), and His love has been evident for all eternity between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (John 17:24).
- B. God's love is revealed to us in the giving and death of His Son (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
- C. Because God is love, we are able and expected to love (Matt. 22:37-39).

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## XIV. God is Holy

- A. He is separate from sin and evil, and He is devoted to seeking only goodness and his own honor (Ps. 99:9; Isa. 6:3).
- B. God's holiness gives us a pattern to imitate in our own lives (Lev. 19:2).

## XV. God is Righteous and Just

- A. He always acts in accordance with what is right, because He is the ultimate standard of what is right (Deut. 32:4).
- B. God's righteousness demands that He treat people as they deserve. This means that He must punish sin.
- C. Yet, He is able to forgive because Christ died to take that punishment for sin (Rom. 3:25-26).
- D. God's justice promises us that eventually everything will be made right again in this universe.

## XVI. God is Wrathful toward Sin

- A. God hates sin, and His wrath will ultimately destroy those who reject His Son (John 3:36).
- B. If God did not hate sin, He would not be a God worthy of our praise and worship. We are likewise commanded to hate sin and wickedness (Heb. 1:9).
- C. When an individual trusts Christ, God's wrath is satisfied because the just punishment for sin fell on Christ at the cross (Rom. 3:25; 5:8-9). Those of us who have trusted in Christ have been saved from the wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:10).

## XVII. God Wills What He Will

- A. God "works all things according to the counsel of his will" (Eph. 1:11). God's will is how God chooses to act.
- B. The lives of humanity are dependent on God's will (James 4:15). Even the death of Christ was the result of God's will (Acts 4:27-28).
- C. Sometimes God clearly reveals His will for our lives in the pages of Scripture (the commands of what we should and shouldn't do), but at other times we are to rely on Him to make His will known for our lives.

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- D. God is not held responsible for evil in Scripture. Rather, Scripture always places the blame for wrong and sinful actions on the individual creature doing them.

#### XVIII. God has Freedom

- A. God is completely free to act however He wants to act (Ps. 115:3). He can move even the most powerful men's hearts (Prov. 21:1).
- B. There is no force or power that constrains God.

#### XIX. God is Omnipotent

- A. God is all powerful. Nothing is too hard for the Lord (Jer. 32:17) because God is able to do all his holy will (Eph 3:20). With Him, all things are possible (Matt. 19:26).
- B. God's infinite power, though, is qualified by his own attributes. He cannot do things against His character as God. He cannot lie (Titus 1:2); He cannot be tempted by evil (James 1:13); He cannot deny himself (2 Tim. 2:13).

#### XX. God is Perfect

- God possesses all excellent qualities and lacks nothing that He would desire. He is perfect (Matt. 5:48)

#### XXI. God is a Unity

- A. God is unified in all his attributes. He is not more of one attribute than another. He also is not one attribute at one time and another at another time. He is fully all His attributes at every time.
- B. Each one of God's attributes qualifies the other attributes. The attributes give us a glimpse of who are God is and how He acts.

#### Questions to Ponder

- What would be the danger in considering one of God's attributes more important than another?
- Which attribute seems most amazing to you? What have or can you learn about God by considering this attribute?

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