

Credit to Dr.'s Beeke and Wellum for their writings on this this week.

How can humans who are finite (created, limited to one space and time) and fallen, begin to understand the one who is uncreated, simple, independent, self-sufficient, infinite in being, infinite in knowledge and infinite in perfection?

- humanity's attempts
 - Muslims idea of god
 - hindus idea of gods
 - JW
 - mormon
 - other religions
 - atheists and intellectual elites (I'm god)

Outside of God revealing Himself, there is no knowing. It's only in His words about Himself that we can know Him.

We need to be careful - what God reveals of Himself is true, not total.

Our finiteness is not from sin
Genesis 1 and 2

God still needed to speak, for Adam to understand God, himself, and the world correctly.
Sin made our finiteness worse.

What does God say about Himself?

1. Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one!”(Deuteronomy 6:4 LSB)

God is One.

2. Isaiah 31:3,

“Now the Egyptians are men and not God, And their horses are flesh and not spirit; So Yahweh will stretch out His hand, And he who helps will stumble, And he who is helped will fall, And all of them will come to an end together.”(Isaiah 31:3 LSB)

1 John 1:5

“And this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”(1 John 1:5 LSB)

(God is Light, no darkness at all),

John 4:24

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.””

(John 4:24 LSB)

(God is Spirit)

God is simple. He is not complex, not a compilation of parts.

- a. God's attributes are not separate from Him. They are His essence.
- b. God's attributes are not part, they are all of who He is.
- c. We make distinctions (finiteness). 1 undivided essence, we understand in different ways. God is spoken of in analogies in scripture because of our finiteness.

What God is and who God is is the same. Different from creation.

3. Attributes of being we won't discuss today

- Aseity: God's independence, His Self-sufficiency
- Immutable: God's unchangeableness in His nature, character, plans, purposes and promises.
- impassibility: God being unaffected by others actions
- Eternality: infinite in relation to time
- Immensity/Omnipresence: infinite in relation to space
- Omnipotence: infinite in power
- Omniscience: infinite in knowledge/truth
- Wisdom: practical application of God's perfect knowledge and perfect truth

4.

Isaiah 65:16

"Because he who is blessed in the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth, And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former distresses are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight!"

Daniel 9:13

"As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not entreated the favor of Yahweh our God by turning from our iniquity and acting wisely in Your truth."

Zech 8:8

"and I will bring them back, and they will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness."

Mark 12:14

"And they *came and *said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a tax to Caesar, or not?"

John 3:21

"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been done by God.""

John 4:24

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.""

God is the source of truth

God is the standard of truth (Gods thoughts are the standard)

Since God is reality and truth, it would makes sense that HE would give His creation (us) the rational faculties to know God and His world.

We cannot know God fully (exhaustively)

We can know God truly (objectively)

(Also applies to truth)

This should grow your awe of God as you discover more about Him.

Society believes that truth is an either/or....

Either the lie that humans have the ability to have exhaustive, objective knowledge (we don't)

or

we are finite, subjective always and arbitrary in our knowledge (we are)

They have no place for God, hence their statements of My truth, or that's true for you....

The reality is The True One (God in His being) is the foundation for truth, therefore by knowing God better, humans can know objective truth.

Our knowledge of God's truth will be revealed truth, but limited, sufficient and objectively true.

OVERARCHING ATTRIBUTES

GOODNESS - moral qualities, perfect, uncorrupted

Luke 18:18, Mark 10:18

“And a ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”

Matthew 19:16

“And behold, someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.””

Truth of God's thoughts are GOOD.

God's thoughts are the standard for Goodness.

Genesis 18:25

“Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put to death the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do justice?””

Matthew 4:4

“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’””

HOLINESS

Holiness is embedded in all His actions, interprets all His attributes.

What is Holiness?

Holiness is the backdrop for all else the Bible declares about God.

1. Separate/otherness (be separate) - Above and beyond all creation

Isaiah 40:8

Deuteronomy 4:35, 39

1 Kings 8:60

Isaiah 45:5, 6, 14, 18, 21, 22

Isaiah 46:9

Joel 2:27

2. Apart from uncleanness and evil

Isaiah 5:16

Habakkuk 1:13

3. Unapproachable by sinners apart from a HOLY sacrifice.

Leviticus 17:11

Hebrews 9:22

Romans 6:23

Hosea 11:9

4. Everything associated with God must be HOLY

Exodus 16:23

Psalms 20:6

Psalms 47:8

Psalms 2:6

Exodus 20:7

Exodus 12:16

Deuteronomy 7:6

Because of God's simplicity - we must think about His other attributes in tandem, especially His Goodness and Holiness.

Righteousness: outward expression of God's Holiness and Love

Psalms 145:17

Justice: also an expression of God's Holiness and Love

Requires moral conformity - How God deals with conformity or lack of conformity

HOLY JUSTICE

– God's Justice is totally separate from creation and is based on His will and His nature.

– impartial - expected from us as well.

God is the Holy, righteous, just, absolute standard.

God's will and nature determine law. (right and just)

Justice and righteousness is the outworking of His holiness.

God's words, righteousness and justice consistent with Himself and His glory.

HOLY LOVE - Grace and Mercy

God's Goodness worked out, consistent with God's holiness

God's love and God's holiness are intrinsic to God and are totally connected.

The fullness of Love between the Father, Son and Spirit lacks nothing, needs nothing or no one else.

Think of it as total devotion - holiness connected to the love of God is the intensity of love devoted to each other and their own glory, name and honor.

All of God's attributes are complete - He is wholly God without creation and the cross.

Creation and the cross demonstrates the attributes of Love, Grace, Justice, Righteousness, and Holiness.