

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- Immutability
 - God Cannot Change
 - Unchangeable in His existence
 - Unchanging in His character
 - Unchangeable in His faithfulness
 - Unchangeable in His wisdom

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Infinite vs. Personal
- Incommunicable vs Communicable

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTE

- God possesses all attributes essential to personhood.
- Intellect
- Self-consciousness
- Will
- But to an infinite degree.

COMMUNICABLE

- We can have these same attribute of God, albeit to a limited degree.
- We were made in God's image.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Incorporeality
- Intellectual: Omniscience
- Volitional: Omnipotence
- Moral: Holiness
- God's Love

INCORPOREALITY

- The property of being without a body.
- God is not made of matter
- People's physical body is, but we have an eternal spirit.

INCORPOREALITY: SCRIPTURE

- God is spirit- John 4:24
- God is omnipresent
- God is indiscernible to 5 senses- 1 Tim 6:16, 1:17
- Images of God are forbidden- Ex. 20:4-5
- God in bodily terms- Ps. 18:6-10
- Visions of God in corporeal terms- Ex. 33:20-23

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

JOHN 4:24

ESV

who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY 6:16

ESV

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible,
the only God, be honor and glory forever and
ever. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY 1:17

ESV

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God

EXODUS 20:4-5

ESV

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him, thick clouds dark with water.

PSALM 18:6-10

ESV

But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.” The Lord said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

EXODUS 33:20-23

ESV

SYSTEMATIC SUMMARY

- God is not material being or object.
- He is pure mind.
- We are a union of mind and body.

US VS HIM

- God is an infinite mind, consciousness.
- Man, as the image of God, bears the same sort of properties of God as being a personal being.
- That is why we can know God and be in communion with Him.

BODILY DESCRIPTIONS?

- Bodily descriptions of God are purely metaphorical.

TWO REASONS

1. They serve a clear literary purpose in the text.
2. If literal, they would be inconsistent.

LITERARY PURPOSE

- “Face”
 - In Hebrew, synonymous with the person.
- “Arm”
 - Power
- “Ear”
 - Attentiveness
- “Eyes”
 - Awareness

INCONSISTENT

- God is described in many different ways and would be a quite strange creature if all were literal.

VISIONS OF GOD

- Not hallucinations
 - Manufactured by our own brains based on mental illness or stimulus.
- Something God projects to see a mental image of.

SUMMATION

- God is an infinite mind without a body.
- The passages that portray Him as corporeal are metaphorical in order to help us grasp.

NEXT TIME

➤ Read:

➤ Defenders 2-3- 11: Doctrine of God, pg. 84-96
(Personal: Intellectual: Omniscience)

QUESTIONS?

