

# APPROVED UNTO GOD

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE FATHER

### I. Misconceptions of God

- A. "a pure mathematical mind" (Einstein)
- B. cosmic killjoy
- C. angry policeman
- D. tired old man
- E. God in a box (limited)
- F. vending machine

### II. God's Attributes

#### A. His "Natural" Attributes

1. He is \_\_\_\_\_ *separate* \_\_\_\_\_ from His creation.

DEFINITION: Transcendent = above and beyond His creation, including the heavens and the earth.

2. His power and presence \_\_\_\_\_ *pervades* \_\_\_\_\_ His creation.

DEFINITION: Imminent = He does not stand apart from the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is working with us

3. He is \_\_\_\_\_ *omnipotent* \_\_\_\_\_, all powerful.

a) The omnipotence of God is limited by His

\_\_\_\_\_ *moral* \_\_\_\_\_ *character* \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, though "nothing is impossible for God, He cannot lie" (see Hebrews 6:18).

b) The omnipotence of God is limited to \_\_\_\_\_ *inherent possibilities* \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, "Can God make a rock so big that even He cannot lift it?" As C. S. Lewis says, "Nonsense is still nonsense, whether we are talking about something else or about God."

4. He is \_\_\_\_\_ *eternal* \_\_\_\_\_; He never had a beginning and will never have an end (see Isaiah 57:15; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2).

5. He is \_\_\_\_\_ *infinite* \_\_\_\_\_; He is not limited by, or confined to the universe.

6. He is unchangeable (see James 1:17). God's love is steadfast and constant, and not subject to the ebb and flow of human love. His wrath is a fixed attitude toward sin and is not like our fits of temper when something displeases us.

NOTE: God "repent"? The Bible speaks of God repenting, a term that seems to mean that He has changed His mind (see Jonah 3:10). Actually, instead of God changing His mind, the people have turned from rebellion to repentance, so that God was consistent, the people changed.

God is **CONSISTENT!**

7. He is omnipresent; He is fully present everywhere.  
Jer. 23:24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.
8. He is omniscient, that is, He knows everything, including our own thoughts  
Psalm 139:2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
9. He is a spirit, He does not have a physical body  
John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."  
John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"  
John 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"
10. He is personal, that is, He is a person. He has the elements of personality - intellect, feelings, and will.

## B. God's "Moral" Attributes

### 1. Love

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I John 4:8-16 - 'Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

### 2. Faithfulness

I John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

### 3. Holiness

Leviticus 19:2 - Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'

I Peter 1:15-16 - But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'

### 4. Mercy

Ephesians 2:4 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

God is a God of Mercy. Mercy is not receiving the punishment or negative consequences that are deserved. (Titus 3:5)

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

### 5. Grace

God is a God of Grace. Grace is unmerited divine assistance and favor - getting something good you don't deserve.

Ephesians 1:5-12 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

**God's Riches At Christ's Expense ... GRACE**

### 6. Righteousness

Psalm 119:137,142 - Righteous are you O Lord, and your laws are right. Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.

7. Justice  
Romans 9:14 - What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!

# Diagram of the Trinity

