

Biblical Theology

Unit 2: Doctrine of God – Lesson 5: Communicable Attributes of God Part 2

Goodness

- Definition: God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.
 1. **God is not subject to a standard of goodness, rather, God is the standard of goodness.**
 - *Luke 18:19 - Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.*
 - *Psalm 100:5 - For the Lord is good...*
 - *Psalm 34:8 - O taste and see that the Lord is good*
 2. **All that God does is worthy of approval (is good).**
 - *Genesis 1 – “It is good.”*
 - *Psalm 104:28 - When you open your hand, they are filled with good things.*
 - *Psalm 119:68 - You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.*

 - Everything God does is good because he is the one doing it.
 3. **God is the source of all that is good in the world.**
 - *James 1:17 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above*
 - *Romans 8:28 - All things work together for good[a] for those who love God*
 - *Psalm 84:11 - No good thing does the Lord withhold*

 - If it is good, it comes from God; if it comes from God, it is good.
- Communicable Tie to Mankind
 - Man desires that which is good.
 - *Psalm 34:8 - O taste and see that the Lord is good*
 - God calls man to be good and do good.
 - *Galatians 6:10 - let us do good to all people*
 - *Luke 6:27 - love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.*
 - *Matthew 5:16 - that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father*

Love

- Definition: God's love means that God eternally gives of himself to others.
 1. **God is love.**
 - *1 John 4:8 – God is love.*
 - *John 15:13- No greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*
 - *1 John 4:10 - He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - *Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us*

 - Love is self-giving for the benefit of others.
- Communicable Tie to Mankind
 - Man imitates God's love by loving God and others in the giving of himself.
 - *Matthew 22:37-38 - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*
 - *John 13:35 - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Mercy, Grace, Patience

- Hebrew Saying:
 - Exodus 34:6 - *“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,”*
 - (Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 4:31, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15, 103:8, 108:4, 145:8, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2)
 - 1. **Mercy: God’s goodness toward those in misery and distress.**
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3 - *the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation*
 - 2 Samuel 24:14 - *for his mercy is great*
 - Matthew 9:27 - *“Have mercy on us, Son of David!”*
 - God has regard for one’s distressful condition: Mercy
 - 2. **Grace: God’s goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.**
 - Exodus 33:19 - *I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious*
 - 1 Peter 5:10 - *God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ*
 - Romans 3:23-24 - *they are now justified by his grace as a gift*
 - God gives to man what he doesn’t deserve (punishment): Grace
 - 3. **Patience: God’s goodness in withholding punishment toward those in sin.**
 - Exodus 34:6 - *slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,”*
 - (Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 4:31, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15, 103:8, 108:4, 145:8, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2)
 - Romans 2:4 - *the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience*
 - 2 Peter 3:9 - *but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish.*
- All three attributes are tied together.
 - God is merciful (has regard for man’s sinful condition) as a result is patient (withholding punishment for their sin) so that he may be gracious (giving him free gift of rescue and salvation, even though he doesn’t deserve it).
- Communicable Tie to Mankind
 - Believers are called to be merciful:
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - *so that we may be able to console*
 - Believers are called to be gracious:
 - Colossians 12-14 - *just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*
 - Believers are called to be patient:
 - Galatians 5:22 – *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...*
 - James 1:19 - *let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;*

Discussion Questions

1. God is good. See how many good gifts from God you can list on a piece of paper in five minutes. To whom in your life should you display this same goodness?
2. What is the difference between God’s love and the emotional love of the world?
3. We are called to emulate the mercy, grace, and patience God displays toward us. Who in your life doesn’t deserve your mercy, grace, and patience? Your move.

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 12: The Character of God: “Communicable” Attributes
Read Section C. Moral Attributes.