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Eternal, Infinite, Immutable, Sovereign
The Attributes Of God, Pt. 3

As we have been studying the attributes of God, we begin to see the uniqueness of the Person of God, in that He stands in distinction from angels, creation, man and certainly above the kingdom of Satan for He is the Creator of all things.

We have studied five natural attributes of God that are incommunicable to man, they are God's alone.

1. Omnipotence.
2. Omnipresence.
3. Omniscience.
4. Foreknowledge.
5. Wisdom.

We want to look at four more natural attributes of God that are incommunicable to man, once again they are God's alone.

1. Eternal.
2. Infinite.
3. Immutable.
4. Sovereign.

These natural attributes describe the quality of God's person as well as His moral attributes.

1. Holiness.
2. Righteousness.
3. Faithful.

4. Mercy.
5. Grace.
6. Goodness.
7. Kindness.
8. Love.
9. Patience.

I. Eternal.

- A. The attribute of God regarding His eternal essence means that it is contrary to time, as we know it a permanent state of His being.
 1. Whenever we think about eternity, we usually think about a quantity of time that never ends as opposed to a quality of time.
 - a. Yet as we look at the attribute of God being eternal, we get a proper perspective about that which is eternal, in that it deals more with quality than with quantity.
 - b. The attribute of being eternal is a perpetual duration, which has neither beginning or and end.
 - c. The attribute of being eternal has nothing to do with growth, development or maturity for it is an immutable state.
 2. The definition of pupil in the institute for the dumb in Paris regarding of being eternal.
 - a. It is duration, without beginning or end; existence, without bounds or dimension; present, without past or future. His eternity is youth, without infancy or old

age; life, without birth or death; today, without yesterday or tomorrow.”

- b. Angels and souls are said to be everlasting and will exist for ever in that they will live on in eternity with God or separated from God, but not that they are eternal in and of themselves, for both angels and man had a beginning though they will have no end.
3. Example:
- a. When you buy a product that has a life time guarantee of the product, the company is not saying you are going to get a lot for your money, as much as they are saying you are going to get your money's worth because of the quality.
 - b. Yes, time is involved, but the emphasis is quality.
 - 1) People will spend eternity either in the presence of God or the Lake of Fire, but they are not eternal by virtue in that they had a beginning from the Creator. Matt. 25:41
 - 2) And as Moses lifted up... that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Jn. 3:14-15
 - 3) And I give to them eternal life. Jn. 10:28
 - 4) But God He is eternal, “Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be

changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail”. Heb. 1:12

- B. The eternity of God is taught throughout the Scriptures.
 - 1. He is called the everlasting God. Gen. 21:33
 - 2. He is called the eternal God. Deut. 33:27
 - 3. His name will endure forever. Ps. 72:17
 - 4. He is from everlasting to everlasting which means from the vanishing point to vanishing point, time out of mind. Ps. 90:2
 - 5. He is contrasted to the temporal thing of His creation. Ps. 102:24-27
 - 6. “I am that I am”, “The becoming One”, having no beginning nor end. Ex. 3:14
 - 7. Isaiah calls Him the eternal Father. Is. 9:6
 - 8. Jeremiah calls Him the living God and eternal king. Jer. 10:10
 - 9. Daniel tells us that His kingdom and dominion are eternal. Dan. 4:3,34
- C. The attributed of God's eternal quality is applied to his attributes.
 - 1. They are all forever the same in quality regardless of time.
 - a. Omnipotence.
 - b. Omnipresence.
 - c. Omniscience.
 - d. Foreknowledge.
 - e. Wisdom.
 - f. Holiness.

- g. Righteousness.
 - h. Faithfulness.
 - i. Mercy.
 - 2. They will abide with God for all eternity or God would be less than God at one time.
 - a. He is God and will always be, even in the incarnation He continued to be God. Phil. 2:5
 - b. Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday**, today, and forever. Heb. 13:8
- D.** The attribute of being eternal is a quality that is shared by the Trinity.
1. The Father.
 - a. The eternal God refers to the Father. Deut. 33:27
 - b. The Ancient of Days refers to the Father. Dan. 7:13
 2. The Son.
 - a. To the King eternal, immortal, refers to Jesus Christ. 1Tim. 1:17
 - b. Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is **to come**, the Almighty." Rev. 1:8
 4. The Spirit.
 - a. David say, "Where can I go from Your **Spirit**? Or where can I flee from Your presence?" Ps. 139:7
 - b. The Eternal Spirit is said of the Holy Spirit. Heb. 9:14

God, alone is eternal!

II. Infinite.

- A.** The definition of being infinite is in relation to God as having no limitation because he is self-determinate and self-existing.
 1. He is immanent, which means He is involved in the world and its process.
 2. He is transcendent, which means that He is beyond our temporal world or our abilities to comprehend or understand intellectual Him to a full end, for He is outside and beyond our demensions of time, space and matter.
- B.** The Scriptures teach that God is infinite, without limitations or hindrances.
 1. God created "bara" from nothing. Gen. 1:1
 2. God told Abraham, "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?, in reference to Isaac's birth. Gen. 18:14
 3. Joseph told his brothers, "But as for you, you meant it for evil against me; but God meant it for good...to save many people alive". Gen. 50:20
 4. God divided the Red Sea, made the Sun to stand still, He fed Elisha through the ravens, He protected Daniel in the lion's den, etc.

5. God is never limited yet the Psalmist says that Israel limited God as they tempt God in the wilderness. Ps. 78:41

C. God is not limited in terms of:

1. Space.
 - a. He inhabits all eternity. Is. 57:15
 - b. The heaven and heaven of heavens can not contain Him. 1Kings 8:27
 - c. Yet he abides in my body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1Cor. 6:19
 - d. In him we live, and move, and have our being. Acts 17:28
2. Nor is time a limitation for Him.
 - a. God lives in an eternal present. EccI. 3:15
 - b. He is everlasting, time out of mind. Ps. 90:2
 - c. Jesus was transfigured and communed with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matt. 17
 - d. John was taken into the future to the Day of the Lord. Rev.
 - e. One day is as a thousand years.. 2Pet. 3:8
3. He never runs out of energy.
 - a. Is. 40:28, Col. 1:16-17
 - b. He is able to lay his life down and take it up again.
 - c. He is able to raise the dead and heal.
 - d. He works all things after the counsel of his own will. Eph. 1:11

- e. And no one can tell him what are You doing?

D. So the quality of infinite or limitless is equally ascribed to his attributes.

1. Omnipotence.
2. Omnipresence.
3. Omniscience.
4. Foreknowledge.
5. Wisdom.
6. Holiness.
7. Righteousness.
8. Faithfulness.
9. Mercy.

God alone is infinite!

III. Immutable.

- A. The attribute of Immutability describes God as unable to change, He cannot increase or decrease, for better or worse.
 1. He is the only one not subject to change because he is the perfect Creator.
 2. Angels rebelled, on third followed Lucifer.
 3. Adam and Eve failed, they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 4. Israel turned her back on God over and over again till she went into captivity.
- B. The immutability of God is taught in the Scriptures.

1. The word itself occurs only two times in the New Testament.
 - a. The immutability of God's counsel, confirmed it by an oath to Abraham to bless and multiply him. Heb. 6:17
 - b. That by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie... Heb. 6:18, Num. 23:19
 - c. The word immutable, "ametathetos" means fixed or unalterable
2. Throughout the Scriptures it is clearly stated that God is not subject to change because of his perfection.
 - a. The Old Testament.
 - 1) "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent." 1Sam. 15:29
 - 2) The contrast of the constant change of the earth and heavens and aging as an old garment is declared, "They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end". Ps. 102:26-2; Heb. 1:11-12
 - 3) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob". Mal. 3:6
 - b. The New Testament.

- 1) For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Rom. 11:29
 - 2) God who cannot lie is in reference to the promise and hope of eternal life. Tit. 1:2
 - 3) The two in Hebrews. Heb. 6:17-18
 - 4) In whom is no variableness or shadow of turning. Ja. 1:17
 - a) This word appears only this time in the New Testament "parallage".
 - b) The word is made up of two words, "para" alongside and "allaso" to make different, to change neither shadow or shading of obscurity.
3. Then what does it mean when the Scriptures declare that God repented, Aren't these seeming contradictions?
 - a. God allows Himself to be described by human words to reveal His activities actions but they are not to be interpreted as they would apply to us, for He is unchanging by being perfect in knowledge and wisdom and to repent as we, would be to admit fallibility in His foreknowledge, making Him less than God.
 - a. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth. Gen. 6:6
 - 1) We have to read it in its context, read versus 5, 7-8 which tell of the

wickedness of man that had filled the earth after the fall.

* The word repent means to sigh or breathe strongly, to grieve.

- 2) God's change was due to man's change towards God, because of who He is, holy and righteous and must judge sin if there is not turning from it by man.

* God's change is not based on new knowledge that He did not know, for He knows all things, the end from the beginning.

- b. Second Samuel is no different, telling us that God relented and told the angel of the Lord to put away his sword and not destroy Jerusalem. 2Sam. 24:16

- 1) Because David's attitude changed and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, dedication and consecration that leads to fellowship with God.
- 2) Jonah's book tells us that God relented of the evil that he thought to do to the Ninevites because He saw their works, that they turned from their evil way. Jonah 3:10
- 3) God will always act in accordance to his attributes, He has to be just, holy, righteous, etc.
 - a) Omniscience.
 - b) Goodness.

c) Grace.

d) Love.

e) Patience, etc.

- D. The Immutability of god is expressed of both God the Father as we have seen, and Christ the Son.

1. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was I am." Jn. 8:58
2. The author of Hebrews is ascribed to Christ quoting where the heavens and earth are said to be waxing old, but thou art the same and thy years shall not fail. Ps. 102:26-27, Heb. 1:11-12
3. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Heb. 13:8
4. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Rev. 1:8

God, alone is Immutable!

IV. Sovereign.

- A. The attribute of Sovereignty is the right to do as God pleases with his creation.
1. Now we hear this all the time, people want their freedom to do what they want, when they want, to who they want, where they want.
 - 2 But that is not freedom, that is sovereignty and only God is sovereign because He is perfect and He can:

- a. Make the right decisions without error.
 - b. Knows what is best for each of us.
 - c. Has not Himself in mind.
3. Arthur Pink defines it as follows: “God does as he pleases, only as he pleases, always as he pleases.”
- * And let me add when, where and to whom he pleases, as often as He pleases!
- B.** The sovereignty of God is evident throughout the Scriptures.
- 1. The prophet Habakkuk had a problem with the sovereignty of God as he was going to use the Chaldeans to discipline Israel. Hab. 1:6
* “For I will work a work in your days, which you will not believe, though it be told you.”
 - 2. Jonah had the same problem with God forgiving the Assyrians sovereignly, if they repented.
 - 3. I think Nebuchadnezzar gives to us a beautiful definition of God’s sovereignty. Dan. 4:35
* “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

- 4. Isaiah exemplified God’s sovereignty as God calls Cyrus, “Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held--To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut.” Is. 45:1
* Cyrus was chosen to destroy Babylon that was used by God to take Israel into captivity as He showed Habakkuk.
- 5. It is illustrated by Jesus in the parable of the laborers. Matt. 20
 - a. As they each received their wages from the last unto the first, they murmured about the unfairness.
 - b. In verse fifteen the householder said, “Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with mine own things?”
 - c. In verse fourteen He said , “Take what is your and go away”.
- 6. Whatever God does is always right and perfect.
* In Romans it is the major theme in his dealing with Israel and the Gentiles. Rom. 9
 - a. In regards to Esau and Jacob. Rom. 8:11-16
 - b. In regards to Pharoah. Rom. 8:17-18
 - c. Illustrated by the potter and clay. Rom. 8:19-24
 - 1) As Creator.

- 2) As Savior.
- 3) As Father.
- 7. God is sovereign in the benefit of His attributes.
 - a. Righteousness.
 - b. Faithful.
 - c. Mercy.
 - d. Grace.
 - e. Goodness.
 - f. Kindness.
 - g. Love.
 - h. Patience.
- 8. Seeing that God is all powerful, all present, all knowing, possessing foreknowledge, the epitome of perfect wisdom. The fact that He is eternal, infinite, immutable, should His sovereignty worry us in regards to whether it will be fair and just?
 - a. Oh, that we would commit ourselves to Him as a faithful Creator. 1Pet. 4:19
 - b. Remember that the sovereignty of God like foreknowledge never violated the free will of man!
 - c. Woe to him who strives with his maker! Is. 45:9

- 2. God is Infinite!
- 3. God is Immutable!
- 4. God is Sovereign!

God, alone is Sovereign!

Conclusion

These are four more natural attributes of God.

- 1. God is Eternal!