

Christology **The Study of the Person of Christ**

Lesson 3 **The Attributes of Christ**

Last week we discussed the Eternality of Jesus Christ. The fact that the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah clearly stated that He was the eternal God coming in the flesh. The New Testament is also clear in its statements about the eternal nature of Jesus Christ. This alone is proof of His deity, since only God is eternal, and since He is eternal, He must also be self-existent. He is the “uncaused Cause.”

This week we want to investigate some of the other Divine Attributes that Jesus shares with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. These are further proof of His deity. They also offer great insight into His true nature.

What is Jesus really like? How can we describe Him? Does the Bible describe Him in terms that are synonymous with God?

We cannot cover all of the attributes of God in this lesson. Volumes have been written trying to describe the perfections of the infinite God. However, we will focus on some attributes related to His being and His character. Consider first the implication of Jesus Christ being credited with these attributes in Scripture. Consider second how Jesus Christ having these attributes affects believers and unbelievers.

One quality of God is His infinity. God is free from all limitations of time, space, or power. He is bound only to His own nature. This is especially evident in the “omni’s.”

Omnipresence

“The fact that God in His infinity is everywhere present in the total of His deity.” (Walvoord, 28) God is present everywhere at the same time. All of God is present everywhere at the same time.

Psalm 139:7-10. ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Examine Jesus’ promises to His disciples.
He would abide with them. Matthew 18:20 / 28:20
He would indwell them. John 14:18, 20, 23

Examine Jesus interaction with Nathaniel. John 1:48
Christ is now at the right hand of God the Father. 1 Peter 3:22

Since the Bible credits Jesus with omnipresence, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus' omnipresence bring to believers?
What cautions does Jesus' omnipresence bring to believers and unbelievers?

Omniscience

"He comprehends all things—past, present, and future, things actual and possible. God has universal and complete knowledge." (Robert Lightner, *The God of the Bible*, 96)

Illustration: A man watching a parade from the street versus someone watching from a helicopter.

Christ "knew all men." John 2:25
"He..knew what was in man." John 16:30
The disciples recognized His omniscience. John 21:17
Jesus foreknew who would betray Him. John 6:64
How is Jesus described in 1 Corinthians 1:30?
Read that chapter? How are the wisest of men described there?

Since the Bible credits Jesus with omniscience, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus' omniscience bring to believers?
What cautions does Jesus' omniscience bring to believers and unbelievers?

Omnipotence

"God has unlimited power to do anything which does not contradict His nature." (Robert Lightner, *The God of the Bible*, 103)

Matthew 19:26 ²⁶ And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
Revelation 19:6 ⁶ Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."

The Old Philosophy Question: Can God make a stone so large He cannot move it?

The best synonym for omnipotence is almighty or all powerful.

“The word ‘almighty’ is a synonym for omnipotence. It is used fifty-six times in our English Bibles and never of anyone but God.” (Robert Lightner, 103)

God has all power both actual and potential.

Christ has power to forgive sins. Matthew 9:6

Christ has all power in Heaven and Earth. 28:18

Christ has power over nature. Luke 8:25

Christ has power over His own life. John 10:18

Christ has the power to give eternal life to others. John 17:2

Christ has the power to heal.

Christ has power over demons. Mark 1:29-34

Consider the word, “able” in connection with Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:25

2 Timothy 1:12

Jude 24

Ephesians 5:27

Since the Bible credits Jesus with omnipotence, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus’ omnipotence bring to believers?

What cautions does Jesus’ omnipotence bring to believers and unbelievers?

Immutability

Christ is unchanging in His nature. If God were mutable then His character would be subject to change. “God never changes either in His being or essence or in His character and nature.” (Lightner, 93) Exodus 3:14, Psalm 102:26-28, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17

Hebrews 13:8 ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 1:10-12 cf. Psalm 102:25-27

Since the Bible credits Jesus with immutability, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus’ immutability bring to believers?

What cautions does Jesus’ immutability bring to believers and unbelievers?

Sovereignty

This means authority or the right to rule and reign. It is in keeping with His omnipotence. Hebrews 1:8

Revelation 19:16 ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

He will judge all people. John 5:22, 27

Since the Bible credits Jesus with Sovereignty, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus' Sovereignty bring to believers?

What cautions does Jesus' Sovereignty bring to believers and unbelievers?

Righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Peter 1:1 ¹ Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Since the Bible credits Jesus with Righteousness, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus' Righteousness bring to believers?

What cautions does Jesus' Righteousness bring to believers and unbelievers?

Love

Romans 8:35 ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Since the Bible credits Jesus with Love, what does that indicate about His status in the universe?

What benefits does Jesus' Love bring to believers?

What cautions does Jesus' Love bring to believers and unbelievers?

The attributes of God are also the ideals of man. The creation aspires to become like the Creator. When we look at the religions of the world, we observe that their followers tend to reflect the attributes of their gods. A consistent, righteous, loving, wise, powerful God is a blessing to mankind. A capricious, inconsistent, evil, cruel, weak god is a curse to mankind. Wherever Christianity goes, with the teachings concerning the true nature of God and Jesus Christ, people experience positive upward change. Jesus Christ and His church are the only hope of the world.

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