

SOVEREIGN ONLY ONE  
BASIC BELIEFS ABOUT WHO GOD IS

ALL-POWERFUL  
ATTRIBUTES OF  
GOD

MERCIFUL

LOVING

HOLY

CREATOR

PRESENT  
EVERYWHERE

ETERNAL

WISE

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

JUST

# A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God created humanity for relationships: relationships with each other, with nature, and with God. However, human sin separated us from God, turning what should have been a loving relationship into one filled with hate and disobedience (Rom. 5:10). Yet, God has reached down to us to deliver us from sin and death because he wants to have a relationship with us. In Christ, God has built a bridge that allows us to relate to him.

Deep, meaningful relationships require knowledge of the other person. The more we know God, the more our love can grow and mature. Also, our obedience and service will spring forth from this knowledge and love of God.

Then, how do we get to know God? Our relationship with God begins and ends with Jesus. We get to know God as we know Jesus. His death and resurrection have given us direct access to God. We now know Jesus and God in two ways:

1. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in each believer
2. Through the revealed Word of God

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the LORD.” —Jeremiah 9:23–24

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” —John 17:3

*It is good for us to be near unto God. It is eternity to know him intimately in our daily lives... That's the mark of believers. They know what joy there is in being near unto God, and they want nothing else. —Abraham Kuyper, Near Unto God*

# GOD'S ATTRIBUTES AS A WINDOW

Knowing who God is, his character and his nature, can be discovered through learning about his attributes. One way to think about God's attributes is by distinguishing between the attributes that belong only to God and the attributes that we also share with him—we share these attributes with God because he made us in his image. The first kind of attributes is called *incommunicable*, while the second kind is called *communicable*. In God, no attribute is more important than the others are. All of them, in conjunction, make God who he is.

<b>INCOMMUNICABLE</b> (THE ATTRIBUTES THAT ONLY GOD HAS)	<b>COMMUNICABLE</b> (THE ATTRIBUTES WE SHARE WITH GOD)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TRIUNE</li> <li>2. ONE</li> <li>3. TRANSCENDENT</li> <li>4. INFINITE</li> <li>5. ETERNAL</li> <li>6. CREATOR</li> <li>7. OMNIPRESENT</li> <li>8. IMMUTABLE</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LOVING</li> <li>2. HOLY</li> <li>3. GOOD</li> <li>4. JUST</li> <li>5. JEALOUS</li> <li>6. MERCIFUL</li> <li>7. SOVEREIGN (AUTHORITY)</li> <li>8. OMNIPOTENT (POWERFUL)</li> <li>9. KNOWLEDGEABLE (OMNISCIENT)</li> <li>10. PATIENT</li> <li>11. FAITHFUL</li> <li>12. SPIRIT</li> </ol>

The attributes of God provide us with a window through which we can contemplate who God is. As we contemplate and learn about God's character, we begin to grasp the glorious, loving, awe-inspiring, and holy person that is the only one worthy of our allegiance. Jesus modeled these characteristics in his life and ministry. By learning what they mean and how they apply to our lives, we can grow in our faith by being imitators of God.

# Attributes that Only God Has

## 1-2 TRIUNE AND ONE

While being one, God is triune. It's easy to see that these two attributes exist in tension with each other. We know both are correct, but it's not easy to understand how they exist together.

- God is *one*: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deut. 6:4). God is one in two ways: There is no other being like God. And God is the only real God. Because God is one, he is the only being worthy of praise.
- God is *triune*. God is one being who exists in three persons. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three separate persons, but they all share the same divine being. This unity of persons is called the “Godhead.” God is a person who desires to relate to his creation (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4–6; Titus 3:4–6): “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased’” (Matt. 3:16–17). We have a model for healthy personal relationships in the way the persons of the Trinity relate to each other.

### REFLECTION

- How does knowing that God is in a relationship with the Godhead help you have a personal relationship with him?
- God is one. Does he have any competition for your love and loyalties? Are there other things or beings that are more important to you than God? Should that be the case?