

December 3, 2023

The Attributes of God, Part 5

By this time, we have learned that God is by Nature a se, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and immutable.

This morning we will be looking at the attributes of Sovereignty and Righteousness.

5. God is Sovereign

Sovereign has to do with supreme authority and power to rule.

To say that God is Sovereign affirms that Sovereignty is an intrinsic characteristic of His Nature

- God cannot be God if He is not Sovereign
- God possesses in His Being the supreme right and ability to create and govern all of His creation all the time

To say that God is Sovereign means that God's Personal right to rule is completely free from any external constraints or limitations of any kind, at any time whatsoever.

However, we must remember that God exercises His Sovereignty within the context of His other *a se* attributes.

Therefore, God's Sovereignty is:

- an omnipotent Sovereignty
- an omniscient Sovereignty
- an omnipresent Sovereignty
- an immutable Sovereignty

This means that God's Sovereignty is absolute, comprehensive, immediate and without variation.

Here are a few Scriptures that describe God's Sovereignty:

Is. 46:9-10 *I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure...*

Ps. 22:28 *[the Lord] rules over the nations.*

Ps. 66:7 *[God] rules by His might forever...*

Ps. 103:19 *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all...*

Dan. 2:21 *...it is [God] Who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings...*

Rom. 8:28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love [Him] who are called according to His purpose...*

Eph. 1:11 *...we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...*

1 Tim. 6:14-16 *...Lord Jesus Christ...15 Who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords...*

6. God is Holy/Righteous

I have titled this portion as Holy/Righteous because these two attributes are so closely related.

We begin with the essential attribute of God's Holiness.

The Hebrew for Holy is *qodesh*

When God says *...I AM Holy...*

- 1]. He is affirming the absolute uniqueness of His Being
 - He is completely other than anything in His creation
 - He is completely separate from and independent of His creation

- 2]. He is also affirming the absolute uniqueness of His Personal moral excellence and purity
 - He is without any fault, failure, weakness, corruption or sin of any kind whatsoever and forever
 - He Himself is the standard of all moral perfection and purity

And here is the problem with God's holiness:

God has created us to be in intimate fellowship with Himself. But our sin has created an insurmountable barrier between us and God.

Because God is so radically different from us, it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to have any personal fellowship with Him without His equally radical solution:

Mark 10:26-27 *The disciples asked Jesus, who then can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is IMPOSSIBLE, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

Why?

God's holiness means that He is perfect in Himself.

And if we are to be saved here is why it is IMPOSSIBLE for us:

Matt 5:48 *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Jesus is saying that we must be as morally holy as God.

But we also read Jesus' invitation in **Matt. 11:28** *Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

How can an unholy people have fellowship with a holy God?