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KNOWING GOD LSN 2

ATTRIBUTE OVERVIEW

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ATTRIBUTES OVERVIEW

Attributes of God	
Incommunicable	Communicable
Sovereignty	Holiness
Self-Sufficiency	Love
Omnipresence	Grace
Omniscience	Justice
Omnipotence	Patience
Immutability	Veracity
Eternality	

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FACETS NOT COMPARTMENTS

The attributes of God are facets but not compartments to God's character.

- God is a unity: Each attribute is descriptive of the whole.
- None operates at the expense of another.
- None is more important than another.
- God is never conflicted.

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FACETS NOT COMPARTMENTS

Sometimes it may appear to us that God expresses one attribute at the expense of another.

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction (Rom. 9:22)?

We experience God in time though He dwells outside of time.

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GOD'S SELF-DISCLOSURE

All understanding of God is dependent on God's revelation of Himself

- It is not possible to know God unless God chooses to make Himself known.
- Unlike the rich and famous who value their privacy, God wants us to know Him.
- He makes Himself known by different means.

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SELF-DISCLOSURE IN INTERNAL WITNESS AND CREATION

Because that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse (Rom. 1:19-20).

God reveals Himself through creation and "internal witness."

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SELF-DISCLOSURE IN HISTORY

God reveals Himself through “interventions” in history.

Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him (Deut. 4:34–35).

11

SELF-DESIGNATIONS

God has revealed Himself to us in self-declarations and self-designations.

God spoke further to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord; and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, Lord, I did not make Myself known to them” (Ex. 6:2–3).

11

SELF-DECLARATIONS

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations (Ex. 34:6–7).

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SELF-DISCLOSURE IN THE SON

God has revealed Himself in His Son.

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:1–3).

11

SELF-DISCLOSURE IN THE SON

*No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has explained Him** (John 1:18).*

*Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” (John 14:9)?*

11

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

God intends for us to demonstrate a family resemblance with Father!

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 4:32–5:1).

So what? What impression of God would people around you form based on what they see in you?

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GOD'S SELF-DISCLOSURE

Some biblical statements about or by God are hard to understand.

"I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands" (1 Sam. 15:11).

*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous
And His ears are open to their cry" (Psa. 34:15).*

12

ACCURATE BUT LIMITED

There is more to God than He has chosen to reveal to us. We will never know God completely, but we can know Him truly. Eternal life is an experience of knowing God that never exhausts its subject!

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways (Rom. 11:33)!