

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES THAT HE SHARES WITH US (1) – 1 JOHN 3:1-3

INTRODUCTION

1. We want to come to know God better and grow in our connection with Him (**John 17:3**).
2. Studying and meditating about God and His nature is challenging since He is infinite and beyond our experience (**Isa. 55:8-9**).
3. But there are aspects of God's nature and character that He demonstrates in His actions toward His creation and that He shares with mankind.
4. Let's consider some of God's attributes that He shares with us.

DISCUSSION

I. GOD'S GOODNESS

- A. Goodness conveys the idea of something that should be desired, approved of, or is beneficial.
- B. God's goodness is the concept that "all God's perfect qualities are made freely available to all for the benefit of the whole world" (**Ps. 145:8-9**).¹
- C. Scripture tells us that God alone, because He is infinite, is wholly and perfectly good (**Mark 10:18**).
- D. He shows us His goodness:
 - i. In His actions toward man (**Ps. 119:68**).
 - ii. In His work of Creation (**1 Tim. 4:4**).
 - iii. In His love, gifts, promises, and even His commands (**Ps. 86:5; Jas. 1:17; Josh. 23:14-15; Ps. 119:39**).
- E. Because God is good and we are made in His image, He has made us to be good and to do good to all (**Luke 6:32-36; 3 John 11**).
- F. If we want to experience eternal life with God, then we must strive to be good like God (**Rom. 2:6-7**).

II. GOD'S LOVE

- A. Love from the standpoint of the New Testament is a choice to act in the best interest of others.
- B. God's love "is his divine disposition to be for his creatures and to act on behalf of their good, even at great cost to himself."²
- C. God doesn't love His creation, including humanity, because we are worthy of it or have earned it (**Deut. 7:7-8**).
- D. His love toward us is shown most vividly and passionately in the sacrifice of Jesus (**Phil. 2:1-11; Rom. 5:6-10**).

¹ Manser, M. H. (2009). [*Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*](#). London: Martin Manser.

² Calhoun, S. (2018). [*God's Love*](#). In M. Ward, J. Parks, B. Ellis, & T. Hains (Eds.), *Lexham Survey of Theology*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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- E. God loves everyone and because He does, we should too (**Matt. 5:43-48; 22:34-40; 1 John 4:7-12**).
- F. If God so loves us, we should and we must choose to love Him and others in word, in deed, and in truth if we want to have eternal life (**1 Cor. 13:1-8; 1 John 3:16-18**).

III. GOD'S MERCY

- A. Mercy is "compassion or forgiveness shown towards an enemy or person in one's power."³
- B. God is merciful in His disposition but also in His actions toward man (**Deut. 4:31**).
- C. This is most evident when we see Him delay punishment and judgment against people who are rebellious in sin (**Exod. 34:6-7; Ezek. 33:10-11; 2 Pet. 3:9-11**).
- D. His mercy, like His love, is most powerfully demonstrated in Jesus (**Eph. 2:1-10**).
- E. Time after time, God's mercy comes shining through as He moves to redeem and restore His people.
- F. Jesus impresses us with the need to imitate God in this way (**Matt. 23:23-24**).
- G. We must be merciful as He is merciful (**Matt. 5:7; Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 18:21-35**).

IV. GOD'S GRACE

- A. When we talk about grace, we typically think of unmerited favor.
- B. God's grace is synonymous with His mercy (**Exod. 34:6**).
- C. Truly, all that we are and all that we have – existence, life, etc. are the fruits of God's grace.
- D. As with His goodness, love, and mercy, the epitome of God's grace is expressed in His gift of salvation in Jesus which He freely offers to all (**Rom. 3:21-25; Eph. 1:6**).
- E. All of us are saved, not by anything we can earn or merit, but by His grace (**Eph. 2:8-9**).
- F. God has shown us grace and we should respond by being gracious in our lives.
 - i. We should be forgiving (**Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:32**).
 - ii. We should be gracious in our speech (**Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6**).
 - iii. We should be gracious in serving others (**Matt. 25:34-40**).
- G. We should be grateful for God's grace and may He help us to be gracious as He is.

CONCLUSION

1. God is truly awesome, amazing, good, loving, merciful and gracious.
2. We should praise and honor Him for all He is and all He shares with us (**Ps. 86:15**).
3. God wants us to be good, loving, merciful and gracious too.
4. If we look to Jesus and follow Him, we can both experience these attributes of God and share them with others.

³ Soanes, C., & Stevenson, A. (Eds.). (2004). [*Concise Oxford English dictionary*](#) (11th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.