

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES THAT HE SHARES WITH US (2) – 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 such as His goodness, love, mercy, and grace.
4. Let's consider a few more of God's attributes that He shares with us.

DISCUSSION

I. GOD'S HOLINESS

- A. Holiness is a word that is difficult to define.
 - i. In one sense, holiness is about God being distinct and unique in such a way that He is separated from all others.
 - ii. In another sense, especially in the Old Testament, the idea is to be separated from the ordinary or the profane – set apart, dedicated to God.
- B. God is holy much in the same way He is love (**Lev. 11:44-45; cp. 1 John 4:8, 16**).
- C. Holiness is innate in His nature, character, and actions (**Isa. 6:1-3; Rev. 4:8**).
- D. His holiness "sets him utterly apart from his world, especially in terms of his purity and sanctity."¹
- E. Because of His unique nature, He is holy in a way we can never be (**Hos. 11:9**).
- F. However, God wants us to be holy like Him (**1 Pet. 1:14-16**).
 - i. Thus, when we put on Christ in baptism, He makes us holy (**1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26**).
 - ii. After that, God continues to look on us as being holy and consecrated to Him (**1 Cor. 1:2**).
- G. If we want to be holy, we must continue pursuing it, choosing God's will over ours so we can live holy, godly lives (**1 Thess. 4:1-8; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1**).

II. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Righteousness is the "quality, state, and characteristic of being in the right."²
- B. In the Bible, God's righteousness is often connected with His rule over all creation (**Ps. 97:2; Acts 17:31**).
- C. God, as the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator, always does what is right (**Jer. 9:24**).
- D. His will is the true and highest standard for what is right (**Gen. 18:25; Deut. 32:4**).

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

² Bird, M. F. (2016). [Righteousness](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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- E. But how can we, who have fallen into sin, share in God's righteousness?
- F. In Scripture, God reveals to us His righteousness (**Rom. 1:16-17; cp. Deut. 4:7-8**).
 - i. There, we see God demonstrate His righteous nature and actions.
 - ii. There, we learn His ways that will guide us in doing what is right.
- G. If we will only seek His will, trust His word, and cease practicing sin, we can be righteous people (**Matt. 6:33; 1 John 3:7**).

III. GOD'S TRUTHFULNESS

- A. Truthfulness deals with "factuality and validity as well as faithfulness, firmness and reliability."³
- B. When the Bible speaks of God's truthfulness, it insists that He cannot lie (**Titus 1:2; Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29**).
- C. He is not only one who tells the truth, but He is the source of truth (**John 14:6**).
- D. This attribute of God contributes to Him being trustworthy in His word and His promises.
- E. This also bears on the truthfulness of the Bible as well (**John 15:26; 16:13**).
- F. As with so many other qualities of God, when we choose to believe God's word and follow Jesus we share in God's truthfulness (**John 14:6; 17:17**).
- G. May God help us to always be those who love, obey, and seek the truth in Him (**Rom. 2:7-8; Gal. 5:7; 2 Thess. 2:10**).

IV. GOD'S WISDOM

- A. God, who is the infinite and eternal Creator, has all knowledge and all understanding and is thus omni sapient – all wise (**Col. 2:3**).
- B. His wisdom is unknowable and immeasurable by any human being (**Rom. 11:33-36**).
- C. He has perfect insight and judgment in all that He does.
- D. Thus, being made in God's image, we can perceive, think, and reason things out in the right way, but we must first fear God and seek His wisdom (**Prov. 9:10; Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10**).
- E. When we seek to please God and pray, He will share the wisdom we need to do His will (**Jas. 1:5; Eccl. 2:26**).

CONCLUSION

1. We want to come to know God better and grow in our connection with Him (**John 17:3**).
2. God is holy, righteous, true, and wise.
3. He wants you to be too (**1 John 3:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:14-16**).
4. May our consideration of these qualities that God shares with us draw us closer to Him.

³ Ritzema, E. (2016). [Truth](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.