

## 1. Who is God?

### a. God is the Creator of the universe

God created the heavens and the earth and all things in them from nothing. A number of Bible verses declare such work of God's creation:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [Genesis 1:1]*

*Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. [Psalm 100: 3]*

*Thus, says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: [Isaiah 42:5]*

*"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things,*

*And by Your will they exist and were created." [Revelation 4:11] – praise of 24 elders in heaven around the throne of God*

Each day we see the sun rising from the east, giving its radiant light and warmth to give all living things sustenance and growth. All things in the natural environment were created to live in harmony in honor and praise of God. Although many people believe in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, it is only a theory without any solid foundation or proofs. It is very sad that the intellectual world of today has embraced this false doctrine and discarded the Scripture's teaching on God's work of creation. We are glad and thankful, however, that there are sufficient evidences of divine creation that help our beliefs. We can discuss later in a dedicated session on this important topic.

### b. God is a divine person

You and I are persons. We meet and intermingle with people as persons. You are one persons and I am a person. And each of us have personality. President Trump, with all of the vested authority and powers as the president of the world's greatest nation, is a person and he has a personality. If I get to meet him some day, I may show some respect and deference to him on account of his being the president of this country, but still he will be a person to meet. Likewise, God is a person, although it might be very hard for you to believe. And believe it or not, He wants to establish a long-lasting personal relationship with each of you.

Jesus Christ went visiting most all villages and towns of Israel during His time here on the earth. Through His Spirit, Lord Jesus is still knocking at our heart's door and wants to come into our life:

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. [Revelation 3: 20]*

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us into the fellowship with Him and His people:

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. [1 Corinthians 1:9]*

God as the husband wanting to marry a holy bride, the church of true believers:

*And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. [Revelation 22: 17]*

Thus, the gospel of Jesus Christ sends invitation to men and women to come and establish personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ so that He becomes our Father and the church becomes the bride of the Lamb of God.

## **2. Divine attributes of God**

There are numerous attributes of God that we should be familiar with so that we come to know him well. These attributes altogether characterize our God and one or a few of them do not wholly represent His divine character. And it is wrong to emphasize one or a few attributes of God and neglect to teach the others. For example, many preachers emphasize the love of God and yet neglect to teach God's holiness, jealousy, justness and wrath.

### **a. God exists by Himself [Aseity]**

God does not depend on others for His existence. He called Himself as "I AM."  
*And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* [Exodus 3: 14]

Apostle Paul explained God's aseity to the Greeks as follows:

*Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. [Acts 17:25]*

Many people believe God needs our works to get His work done. Solomon built the temple patterned after the Holy Tabernacle and prayed that God's presence would be at the temple. God granted and promised that He would be there to meet with His people. Even during Jesus' earthly ministry, God's presence was at the temple so that Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, met the archangel Gabriel as he served in the temple.

But, upon the death of Lord Jesus on the cross, the curtain that divided the sanctuary from the most holy sanctuary of the temple was torn into two, symbolizing the access to God's holy presence came to be open to all believers. God does not need our works, but we need God who is "I AM."

### **b. God is eternal**

God is from eternity to eternity. He is the Alpha and the Omega, which are the beginning and the ending letters of the Greek alphabet, thus signifying that He is the beginning and the end of all things of the universe.

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." [Revelation 1: 8; 1: 11; 21:6; 22:13]*

Wayne Grudem states that, "God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time."

Big Bang theorists believe that the whole universe came into being out of nothing with a big bang in a short time span. And they cannot fathom that eternity existed before this big bang

event and that God has existed from eternity ago without beginning and that His being, power and dominion continue to eternity beyond the end of this world. Simply put, with our limited mental capacity we humans find it difficult to comprehend the eternity of God's being.

### c. God is good

God is the ultimate standard of what is good and is worthy of approval. He defines what is right and good. All good things come from God. Louis Berkoff sees God's goodness as including kindness, love, grace, mercy and longsuffering. The idea that God is "all good" is called his omnibenevolence.

*So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. [Luke 18: 19]*

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. [Psalm 118:1; 136:1]*

*Therefore, consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. [Romans 11:22]*

People of this world have different standards of what is good and acceptable. These standards are different from nation to nation, from culture to culture, from one era to another era. We watch movies of bygone years that depict what happened in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when people smoked in all places in most of the scenes. Today smoking indoors is prohibited and is considered bad, at least in this country. If you go to France, it is a different story, though. Thus, standards of the human society are variable and there really is no definite single standard that is true and acceptable.

God's principles of truth, however, are always the same and hold true throughout all ages. He is not only the true standard of what is true but is the true source of all good things.

Christians receive God's goodness and share it with unbelieving peoples of the world. When I served in Afghanistan, I told the people of this poor country that over 70 percent of all charitable gifts to the Afghan people and society came from Christian churches and charitable organizations. Some of them were aware of this fact. Why is it that Christians love to give to the poor? It is because Jesus Christ taught His disciples to love their neighbor as themselves. We receive so much from God who is good. And we want to share God's goodness with the world who do not have much. God is good.

### d. God is gracious

The grace of God is that He gives His forgiveness and salvation to the humanity when we do not merit them.

*Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth. [Exodus 34: 5-6]*

The word "grace" appears more than 100 times in NT.

*But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. [Romans 5: 15]*

Grace of God was apparent when God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skin, which symbolized the redeeming blood of the Savior, and they were given the privilege of seeking God's help and grace all throughout their life.

The covenant of God given to Abraham was also a covenant of grace in that when Abraham offered his son Isaac in faith that God would make him live, he saw the sacrifice of the Messiah who would come much later and become the lamb for God's grace to the humanity. Abraham shared the vision of human salvation with God and God called him 'my friend.'

The covenant of God given to the people of Israel through Moses was a covenant of grace, which was implemented through animal sacrifice, which again symbolized the shed blood of the Lamb of God, through which God would forgive their sins when they come to Him in repentance and offer an animal as a ransom.

Jesus Christ died for our sins and became our ransom forever. When we come to God through the blood of the Savior, His blood washes our past from sin and brings us into the marvelous covenantal relationship with God as His children.

#### **e. God is holy**

God is holy in that He is totally separated from sin and corruption. The holiness of God is His most exalted attribute that shows His absolute purity, perfection and integrity. God is not only holy in His being but in all acts that He performs.

*Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the Lord our God is holy. [Psalm 99:9]*

In Isaiah 6:3, we read as follows:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"*

God's holiness is thus emphasized three times. It means His holiness is so much higher than the holiness of angels or humans. Christians sometimes forget or slight this attribute of God. That is why the contemporary mode of worship has strayed away from 'holy' worship as was required in OT worship. When God instituted worship for the people of Israel through Moses, the worship had to be 'holy' worship because He is holy. Somehow this holiness has been deemphasized in Christian worship and Christian lives. We need to get back to the holiness of God.

When the Mosaic worship of God was first established during the wilderness journey, two sons of Aaron offended God by offering a fire of their own volition without being told by God. This brought wrath of God and they were killed. Moses told Aaron why this offence occurred:

*"This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" [Leviticus 10:3]*

From this example we should learn that our creative ways of worshipping the Lord God will not please God but rather bring God's anger. Our way and spirit of worship must be holy because God is worship.

Apostles of the first century never slighted this aspect of the Christian life. Peter exhorted the Christians to live in an holy manner after God whom they serve:

*as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." [1 Peter 1: 14-16]*

**f. God is immanent [present] in all creation**

God of the Jewish and Christian faiths is one divine being who is above all things, is present in all things that He created and is manifest through all created beings. That is why some people misunderstand that there is a god in each of God's creation. But the Scripture says that God is in all His creation.

Paul also made clear that God reveals Himself through His creation in Romans 1: 20:

*"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."*

*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. [Psalm 19:1]*

When I was young as a teenager, I used to climb up the hill behind our village in my home town in South Korea. In those years electricity was scarce and the whole city looked rather dark at night. In contrast the darkness below helped me see the splendor of the beautiful array of stars and the moon across the whole span of night sky. I could not help but see and marvel at the magnificence of the whole universe. And I used to cry out, "Oh, the Creator of the universe! If you are out there, I wish to get to know you. I am but a small young boy, but I certainly wish to get to know you." I believed that if there was a God, He would hear my cries and respond to me.

A few years later, during my high school years, I had opportunities to attend a series of gospel meetings. Through these meetings I welcomed Jesus into my heart and here I am. With God's grace I have walked with God for all my life since then. And God called me as a messenger to bring His gospel message to you friends here in Alexandria, VA in 2018.

**g. God does not change [immutability]**

God does not change in His truth, will and principles. Although He has allowed variation in the rules and laws that govern the people of God, the principles that are underneath such rules have remained the same and will be forever because they come from His constant attributes.

*Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. [James 1: 16-17]*

Since its creation the sun has not stopped rising from the east, sending off its radiant light and warmth to all directions and reaching even to all living and dead as well here on the earth. This is symbolic of God's unchanging nature. Some people point to the difference between the OT ways of worship and the NT worship and say God has changed His ways. The Mosaic laws were given to the people of Israel as a nation of people to teach them the attributes of God, His truth of human salvation and His priesthood.

Through practice of the Mosaic laws of worship the people of Israel could learn the holy, almighty God in the holy manner that is fitting to Him. The NT worship brings Christ, the Lamb of God, in a symbolic way into the worship, through which the Christians can now worship in a holy

environment of communion with God, His Son, the Holy Spirit and with those who have been saved from the darkness of sin and death and brought into His marvelous salvation and truth.

There no longer is the need for the physical tabernacle and the killing of ransom animals because Jesus Christ has become our temple, the sacrificial lamb who shed blood and died on the cross of Calvary to save us. God's truth has not changed one bit since the day He created the universe. That is why when we read the Scriptures there is total consistency and no contradictions. The truth of God in OT is the same truth in NT. The revelation of truth was shown in varying degrees through the ages in different modes. Now the mysteries of God's truth have been shown fully to those who seek His truth.

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith [Romans 16: 25-26]*

Nevertheless, God revealed His truth to the chosen few in every age of human history sufficiently so that they could come to know Him and His truth, which they embraced and served Him as their God in faith. Abraham certainly did not see his descendants multiply as the sand on the seashore, but only one son Isaac. Yet, in faith He offered Isaac as a sacrifice in obedience to God's command. He saw the Lamb of God being offered as the sacrificial lamb some thousands of years later and rejoiced to see God's truth.

*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. [John 8: 56]*

Let us believe that God's principles do not change. Let us not compromise the principles of worship and church that Jesus laid down during His ministry here on the earth on the pretext that 2,000 years have passed since His days. Days and years may pass on but God's truths do not.

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. [Hebrews 13: 8]*

#### **h. God is unable to sin [impeccable]**

God cannot sin because He is the truth and He hates sin. This is a stronger statement than "God does not sin." Whereas the Greeks assumed the gods were 'free' to become demons if they so choose, the God of the Bible is 'free' to act only in conformity to His nature.

*Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. [Hebrews 6: 18]*

Some people say that God makes mistakes and regrets such errors and makes remediations. God's plan for the universe and for the humanity, however, was made in the beginning and God has never wavered from the plan as the above verse says about "the immutability of His counsel."

*O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. [Isaiah 25:1]*

God has been faithful and true to His counsels [plans] of old, meaning His plans made at the beginning of all things.

**i. God is not fully comprehensible**

Although God has revealed some of His being and His counsels to the humans, we cannot know God fully because we are only His creation with many limitations.

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. [Isaiah 40: 28]*

Therefore, it is presumptuous that we can know all things of the universe with our reasoning and intelligence. That is the arrogance of some of the scientists who negate God based on the little imperfect knowledge they have gained from their pursuit of science, which is based on limitations of measurements and fundamental assumptions built into their field of expertise. They do not want to discuss what becomes of their achievements if the assumptions are proven to be different from the truth.

**j. God is Spirit**

Although God is the most supreme being in the universe, He is a spirit who is not seen through human eyes.

*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. [John 4: 24]*

Men have sought to see God and said to Jesus, "Show us the Father, and it will suffice us." Jesus replied, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father." [John 14:9]

Lord Jesus is God Himself as we will present later. He is God the Son of the triune God. Yet, he came to this world as a human so that people could see Him and experience Him as a person and come to know God. That is such a wonderful thing about the Christian God that He does not live afar off from the humanity but came to this world to live and to die for us as a ransom to save us from our sins and death. We will talk about the work of Lord Jesus' salvation later. But the point is, although God is a spirit, He has been manifested as a human through Jesus Christ.

*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. [Hebrews 2:14-15]*

God is searching for those who would worship Him in spirit [Holy Spirit] and in truth [Truth of Jesus Christ].

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [John 4: 23]*

**k. God is infinite**

The infinity of God contains both eternity and immensity. Abraham understood God as the Everlasting God and planted a tree when he called upon God:

*Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. [Genesis 21: 33]*

Solomon acknowledged that "heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain God."

*"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! [1 Kings 8: 28]*

God is from everlasting to everlasting. Each of us has a beginning when we were born of our mother. And our earthly life has an ending when our soul departs our body, which is called death. God subjected the human to a finite life that ends in physical death. But, He has given us, at the same time, a hope for living eternally with Him through Jesus Christ, who is from everlasting to everlasting. When Jesus Christ becomes our Savior and Lord, we get to have the privilege of crossing over the death that marks our finite life on the earth to the realm of eternity in Heaven to be with Him forever. Therefore, we get to take part in God's infinity.

#### **I. God is jealous at our idol worship**

Because God is our creator and owner of our life, God becomes jealous when we worship other gods or idols of other gods. He made this clear to the people of Israel because they came out of Egypt where idol worship has been the main characteristic of the people's culture and religion.

*I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. [Exodus 20: 2-6]*

To the people of Israel this lesson that God becomes very jealous and mad at them when they worship other gods besides Yahweh took many centuries of hard experiences to finally learn firmly. When Jesus came to them in the first century, they had finally learned this lesson of not worshipping idols through the 70-years of captivity, followed by invasion and occupation by the Greek military who brought in the polytheistic culture into the land.

#### **m. God is love**

Bible declares, "God is love." [John 4: 8, 16] This does not mean that love is God. God's love is different from human love or passion. Parents' love is in pattern after the love of God. God's love for humanity has been exhibited through His sacrifice of His Son as the sacrificial Lamb so that our sins can be forgiven.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [John 3: 16]*

*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [1 John 4: 9-10]*

Christianity is the only religion which declares that God is love, whereas heathen gods are often angry, hateful beings and are in constant demand to be appeased. But not our God. His love like a bridge takes us over the gulf that lies between the hopeless condemnation of death because of sin, and the living hope of eternity with God through Jesus Christ. God extends His hand toward us in this agape love.

In fact, the two greatest commandments of Christianity are to love God and to love our neighbors:

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. [Luke 10: 27]*



God has loved His Son with eternal affection, particularly because the Son obeyed the Father in true love. Lord Jesus spoke of this love between the Father and the Son and taught his disciples so that this love binds them and that they show forth the same love to others.

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. [1 John 3:1]*

*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? [1 John 3: 16-17]*

#### **n. God is omnipotent**

God declared Himself as the Almighty God to Abraham:

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. [Genesis 17:1]*

God appeared to the forefathers of Israel as the Almighty God:

*I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I was not known to them. [Exodus 6: 3]*

Because God is omnipotent, nothing is impossible. When the archangel Gabriel visited the virgin girl Mary in Nazareth of Galilee and told her the news of the coming birth of the Son of God through her body, she found it hard to believe. The angel told Mary,

*"For with God nothing will be impossible." [Luke 2: 37]*

Lord Jesus taught His disciples the omnipotence of God:

*But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." [Matt 19: 26]*

Because they learned this lesson, they could later go forth with their mission work in courage, not being afraid of the persecutions because they knew that nothing was impossible with God and that His will and plan would be accomplished in spite of the oppositions.

#### **o. God is omniscient – He knows all things of all times**

God is the ultimate Lord of all wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge is accumulative, inductive and deductive with the humans, but it is inherent, infinite with God. Psalms declare that His understanding is infinite/ unlimited and that He looks on all people from above:

*Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. [Psalm 147:5]*

*The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. [Psalm 33: 13-15]*

*For His eyes are on the ways of man, And He sees all his steps. There is no darkness nor shadow of death Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. [Job 34: 21-22]*

*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. [Proverbs 15:3]*

In other words, He looks on everyone and considers all of our activities. God is fully aware of all thoughts, plans and doings of both the good and the evil in every land of the world. Moreover, He seeks to transform our hearts individually to His good purpose and design, that is, after the image of God as He created. Have you felt the hand of God that works in us so knowingly? He knows all of our thoughts, desires and feelings. How can we ignore such a God?

James encourages Christians to seek God for wisdom:

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. [James 1:5]*

Scientists have expanded the boundaries of human knowledge during the past few centuries, much faster than in previous centuries. However, these so-called 'discoveries' and 'theories' have only scratched the surface of the knowledge and wisdom of God. Even in doing scientific work one should seek God's help because He is the ultimate author and owner of all true knowledge and wisdom.

#### **p. God is One God**

The Bible declares that there is one true God. In some countries people worship many gods. They believe a rock has a god in it and so does a large tree. A mountain has a god and a lake has a god in it. This is a misunderstanding that arises from their desire to worship some being who is higher than they. When people have the desire to know God, God takes pleasure to reveal Himself. In Ephesians 4: 6, Apostle Paul wrote:

*"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

Lord Jesus taught the most important commandment to the religious leaders of Israel as follows:

*Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. [Mark 12: 29-30]*

Here, Lord Jesus quoted the saying of Moses in the OT who led the people of Israel out of Egypt:

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." [Deuteronomy 6:4-5]*

Malachi, one of the OT prophets of Israel, cried out as follows:

*Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? [Malachi 2:10]*

From these Bible verses you can see clearly that both the people of Israel in the OT era and the Christians in the NT era knew and served God as one supreme being. And here we are in 2018, after many centuries, we can have the privilege of knowing and serving the same God of heaven and earth just as the Jews did and the early Christians did in the early years of Christianity. It is because God never changes and Jesus is the same today as He was 2,000 years ago as it says:

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. [Hebrews 13:8]*

#### **q. God's providence**

While the providence of God usually refers to his activity in the world, it also implies his care for the universe, and is thus an attribute. Although the word is not used in the Bible to refer to God, the concept is found in verses such as Acts 17:25;

*Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*

A distinction is usually made between "general providence," which refers to God's continuous upholding the existence and natural order of the universe, and "special providence," which refers to God's extraordinary intervention in the life of people.

*that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [Matt 5: 45]*

This trait of God refers to the general providence, through which God chose to shed His blessings to all of His creation as set forth through the laws of nature, which He has built into His creation. Even the evil disciples of Satan enjoy breathing the air, drinking clean water and eating the produce of the land. These general blessings of God continue until He intervenes and decides to end them. Through the ten plagues brought upon the Egyptian people through Moses and Aaron, God turned His blessings into curses because Pharaoh refused to obey God's command to let the people of Israel go out of Egypt. This story shows that God's blessings are of no guarantee to the unbelievers. When the curse of death comes upon them if not before, all of the blessings they have been enjoying in life will be taken away from them. But it is not so with God's chosen people. Death is only a step into God's bigger blessings throughout eternity, which cannot be compared to the blessings of life here on the earth.

God gives special blessings to His chosen people here on the earth.

*Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! [Psalm 105: 5-6]*

*Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? [Luke 12: 24, 28]*

God wants us to see that His marvelous works are for the benefit of His people and His kingdom. People of this world benefit from them because God's love is still extended to them. So, God's works and provisions are particularly meaningful to His people because God loves them more than those who do not know God. As parents of your own children, you love and care for your children while being kind to children of other families. Likewise, God bestows particular care and blessings to His children.

#### **r. God is righteous**

The righteousness of God may refer to His holiness, to His justice, or to the faithfulness of His saving activity. He is God of all creation. Therefore, His plan and activities are perfectly righteous to Him. He owes no obligation to anyone to prove His righteousness. However, He proclaims His righteousness, faithfulness and truthfulness in His covenantal activities towards His

chosen people and to His creation in general. And Jesus taught His disciples to pattern their lives after the righteousness of God because they are now His children through the New Testament.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.  
[Matt 6: 33]*

*But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all[a] who believe. For there is no difference. [Romans 3: 21-22]*

God's righteousness in His covenant with the chosen people is established because He initiated the covenant when the people of Israel were unworthy and showed no willingness to do their part of the covenant. God alone established the covenant and pledged to be faithful in doing His part of the covenant. And He has shown truthfulness and faithfulness towards His people. He did the suffering in sending His own Son to the world as a human and to have Him crucified as the sacrificial lamb for our sins. He alone extends His promise of eternal life to anyone who comes to Him through Jesus Christ. God alone is righteous! We are made righteous in spite of the dirty rags we wear because He removes them from us and clothes us with the garment of righteousness because of the precious blood of Christ paid for it on our behalf while we pay nothing nor are we worthy to make any such atonement. Let us praise God's righteousness and shout, "God alone is righteous!"

#### **s. God's simplicity**

The simplicity of God means he is not partly this and partly that, but that whatever he is, he is so entirely. It is thus related to the unity of God. Grudem notes that this is a less common use of the word "simple" - that is, "not composed of parts". Grudem distinguishes between God's "unity of singularity" (in that God is one God) and his "unity of simplicity."

People sometimes refer to a 'simple' person as not being sophisticated and therefore somewhat less intelligent or knowing of what others know. That is not the way we mean when we say "God is simple." People also tend to regard 'sophistication' as a desirable quality in an educated person.

But what is a sophisticated person like? She may set a goal but it is contingent on a number of conditions and situational plan B's. God's plan and purpose towards the humanity have been pure and simple. They did not vary or change. They are whole and simple in that there are no contingency plans for being different over the ages. Because of this simplicity God's will and plan are true and faithful throughout all ages. His love has been the same, in OT times and in NT times and forever. His wrath toward sin and evil has always been the same. His righteousness has been the same –that is the simplicity of God's truth.

#### **t. God is the utmost sovereign God over all creation**

The sovereignty of God is related to his omnipotence, providence, and kingship, yet it also encompasses his freedom, and is in keeping with his goodness, righteousness, holiness, and impeccability. It refers to God being in complete control as he directs all things — no person, organization, government or any other force can stop God from executing his purpose.

God has made His Son the King of kings and the Lord of lords. In other words Jesus Christ is the sovereign ruler in the Kingdom of God, established in heaven and earth. His royal dominion will be fully exhibited and established when He comes back to rule on the earth.

*which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. [1 Timothy 6: 15-16]*

*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. [Revelation 17: 14]*

*And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. [Revelation 19: 16]*

#### **u. God is transcendent**

We humans are constrained by time, space and physical abilities. Although scientific advances have allowed us to overcome some of these limitations, we are inherently bound by the limits imposed on us from the creation act of God. However, God is not bound by any such limits. And we call this attribute as His transcendence.

God's transcendence means that he is outside space and time, and therefore eternal and unable to be changed by forces within the universe. It is thus closely related to God's immutability, and is contrasted with his immanence. God's throne is in the heaven above, beyond the realms of human reach. Yet He chooses to reach to the humans through His Son and the Holy Spirit. His being, power, and authority are beyond time and space and He alone dominates all dimensions of the universe of His own volition.

*For thus says the High and Lofty One, Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. [Isaiah 57:15]*

*O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! [Psalm 8:1]*

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. [Psalm 57: 5]*

*It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. [Isaiah 40: 22]*

#### **v. God is One God with Three Persons [=Trinity]**

God is one God with three persons of God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. Although the word, Trinity, is not in the Bible, this truth is recorded in NT as follows:

*And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My Beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." [Luke 3: 22] – All three God-persons present.*

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. [Matthew 28: 19]*

- 1) God the Father: The source of all power, knowledge, wisdom and divine will
- 2) God the Son: Jesus Christ – Messiah, word of God, the Lamb of God, the High Priest
- 3) Holy Spirit: emanates from God the Father and God the Son; executing agency of God's will, keeper/nourisher/teacher of the church

These three persons of Godhead work in complete harmony but as individual persons. The concept of trinity may be likened to the three phases of H<sub>2</sub>O, which takes the form of ice, water or vapor depending on the temperature. They are all of the same essence and yet each has a different form, character and function.

#### **w. God is true [veracity]**

When we say that God is true, we mean that God does not lie. He is true to His word, promises and dealings with the humanity. Apostle Paul wrote to Titus [Titus 1:2] that God does not lie. God's veracity is often associated with the inerrancy of the Bible. Greg Bahnsen says,

*Only with an inerrant autograph can we avoid attributing error to the God of truth. An error in the original would be attributable to God Himself, because He, in the pages of Scripture, takes responsibility for the very words of the biblical authors. Errors in copies, however, are the sole responsibility of the scribes involved, in which case God's veracity is not impugned.<sup>1</sup>*

Another aspect of God's veracity is that all of His words spoken through the prophets were fulfilled and will be fulfilled as Lord Jesus spoke on this clearly:

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. [Matt 24: 35]*

*For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations. [Psalm 100: 5]*

#### **x. God is just**

When people look up to God in their perilous life experiences, they want God's mercy and justice be applied to their situation. Justice is somehow associated with God. We think God should be fair and just to all, particularly to the weak and the poor. And that is so true. If we think the history of the human societies has lacked justice, it is largely due to the depravity in us humans and in the leaders of the nations, individually as well as collectively. Jesus taught the Jewish leaders of the time to do justice rather than seeking their personal honor and glory. God's justice will, however, be established fully when the Lamb returns as the King of kings, the Lord of lords, to establish His reign on the earth. In the meantime, we need to pray for God's justice and mercy for those in need.

*He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. [Deut. 32:4]*

*For the Lord loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off. [Psalm 37: 28]*

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. [Psalm 89:14]*

*The works of His hands are verity and justice; All His precepts are sure. [Psalm 111:7]*

#### **y. God is angry toward sin**

Moses praises the wrath of God displayed against the Egyptians who pursued after the people of Israel through the Sinai Peninsula and through the Red Sea:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cmfnw.com/articles/pt042.htm>

*And in the greatness of Your excellence. You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble. [Exodus 15: 7]*

Later in Deuteronomy 9, after the incident of The Golden Calf, Moses describes God's anger toward the people Israel who made and worshipped the idol:

*For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the Lord was angry with you, to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at that time also. [Deuteronomy 9:19]*

In Psalm 69 the psalmist begs God to "consume" his enemies with His wrathful anger:

*Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. [Psalm 69:24]*

In the New Testament, Jesus speaks of God's wrath:

*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. [John 3: 36]*

Wayne Grudem suggests that "if God loves all that is right and good, and all that conforms to his moral character, then it should not be surprising that he would hate everything that is opposed to his moral character." Apostle Paul describes the nature of God's wrath in Romans:

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness [Romans 1: 18]*

In the end times God's wrath will be poured on those who opposed God and refused His sovereignty. The fierceness of God's anger to be displayed in the end times is difficult to imagine:

*Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [Revelation 19: 15]*

We now have the opportunity to accept God's invitation to His salvation and to become His children. How wonderful is the place of God's favor and blessings, but how woeful will be those on whom God will execute His wrath and judgment! Let us be careful how we worship God so that we do not incur His displeasure. Remember idol worship is one of the sins God hates.