

Theology and the Church: Attributes (Part 2)

Our thoughts of God will lead to _____ for God and then to actions (attitudes).

Not all of our affection for God is based solely on His glory.

Psalm 86:1-13

Do we love God for who He is ... or for what He does for us?

This has a connection with our view of the gospel:

1. Who is Christ?
2. What has he _____?
3. What are the _____ to those who trust Him?

1. The attribute of _____ Psalm 90:1-4

“A se” : from himself or of himself. He _____ in and of himself.

He is _____. We are contingent. Some have called God the “first _____ of all things”.

John 5:25-26

Joseph Lanier, “Doctrine in the Local Church: Aseity”

“This is the beautiful mystery of the one true and living God. In His absolute self-existence, He is incomprehensible yet knowable, inaccessible yet immanent, indescribable yet self-revealing. In His pure, self-existent activity, there is no shadow of change. There is no beginning nor end. He is timeless and immutable. This is the thrust of divine aseity: His fullness of being, His plentitude of life, His absolute self-existence.”

We must guard against _____. **Acts 17:22-31**

2. Typically coupled with Aseity is The _____ of God.

God doesn't have existence, essence and attributes as part of His _____.

God is truly _____, while mankind is truly _____.

James Dolezal, Aseity and Simplicity, Tabletalk, May 2022, pages 5-7.

“Divine simplicity does not merely assert a harmony among God's attributes - that could be said about the attributes of holy angels - but rather claims that each attribute, though variously disclosed and understood by us, is really nothing but the simple God himself. God is love. The wisdom by which he is wise, the power by which He is powerful.”

3. _____ and the effect on God's attributes

1 John 4:7-12

This type of love: Agape (selfless, sacrificial and unconditional)

Our love towards God is the effect, not the cause. God's love to us is the cause of our love towards Him.

Matthew Meade in his work, *A Name in Heaven*:

“Love is the only attribute that God has acted out to the utmost. We have never seen the utmost of His power, but we have seen the utmost of His love.”

William Cooper reminds us how to grow in love for God:

- 1) the _____ of God’s love (_____ is the effect of His love)
- 2) the **freeness** of God’s love (not of _____ but of grace)
- 3) the _____ of God’s love (no limits)
- 4) the **unchangeableness** of God’s love (an anchor and _____ to a believer in the storms of life)

We are regenerated, given the gift of faith, to express faith in Christ, all because of his abundant grace alone. But all of this began in God’s love for his people from eternity past.

Romans 9:10-11

Thomas Watson, *The Ten Commandments*:

“The nature of love consists in delighting in its object.”

Both faith and love always have an object – _____!

4. Here are ways we see evidence of love in Ephesians:

1. God’s gracious choice of predestination was in _____ (1:4)
2. Our _____ in Christ overflows in love for His people (1:15)
3. God’s abundant mercy leads to _____ in love (2:4)
4. Faith in Christ brings about a profound love in our hearts (3:17)
5. A growing love for Christ brings completeness to His people (3:19)
6. Love feeds growth in _____, gentleness and patience (4:2)
7. Love informs our _____ in truth and Christlikeness (4:15)
8. Love is the way we grow best individually and as a local body (4:16)
9. Choose to live like Christ as His love _____ his work (5:2)
10. Love, faith and _____ are always found in Christ alone (6:23)

To grow in love rightly, we ought to _____ more what God loves and _____ more what God hates.

We must choose:

- 1) Praise and _____ towards God
- 2) Growth in love towards God (_____) and others (outward)
- 3) Hope and confidence in God’s word

Jonathan Edwards, from a selection of unpublished writings:

“Love for God is the enjoyment of the loveliness and sweetness of his divine nature as one’s chief good. When once the soul is brought to relish the Excellency of the divine nature, it (the soul) will naturally incline to God in every way. We will seek to be with him and enjoy him. It will be glad that he is happy. It will desire his glory and desire to do his will in all things.”