

Slideshow #6

What is greatly emphasized  
about God from the NT?

Consider a combination of books from  
the NT.

# Theology I - GOD

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# God's Essence and Attributes (Neg)

## THE DOCTRINE IN GENERAL

- God's **Essence** in General
- The **Negative Attributes**
  
- **Biblical Doctrine: is the root (message/word) that brings the belief together and put things into action based on the Biblical references.**

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Biblical Theology Question:
- God of...

God is omnipresence regarding His essence. He is **immense** and **infinite**, not only in power and knowledge, but also in essence.

God is present in all creatures, yet He is never a part of them, but always remains the **transmundane, transcendent** God.

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

**2 Peter 1:3-6**

- Transmundane: Divine, immortal, spiritual
- Transcendent: Unparalleled, matchless, pre-eminent, {Beyond and outside the ordinary range of human experience or understanding.}

**Exposition of Truth: (God's Will and Goodness)** His divine will brings men into the goodness of His grace and love; that which works in us for His pleasing and glorification.

The Eternal  
Blessings of  
God's goodness,  
grace, and love

- In God's divine essence and attributes we discover His absolute perfection that places His divine will upon all creation and men are dependent.
- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. **James 1:17-18 (ESV)**

In week three of our study we addressed the word "Essence" and we concluded in many regards as this word **Essence** used of God, signifies the divine nature with all its attributes, which exists but once in the three persons. Our focus is to further explore the means of God. According to the Holy Scripture God is the Supreme Being or as the absolute perfect Essence. God alone is Jehovah.

1. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. **Deuteronomy 10:17 (ESV)**
2. **Which** he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **1 Timothy 6:15 (ESV)**
3. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **Colossians 1:17 (ESV)**
  - a) Scriptures distinguishes between the so-called gods and the one true living God; I Cor. 8:5-6
  - b) From magistrates; Ps. 82:6 which are gods.
  - c) From idols; Deut. 4:28 which are gods.
4. The names which Holy Scripture applies to the true God describes God according to His divine essence, attributes and works. This is true especially of the essential and incommunicable name of God "Jehovah" which He himself explains as "I AM THAT I AM" (Ex. 3:14-15) or as the eternal unchangeable divine Being that is pure. The real pronunciation is "Yahweh". Churches today perhaps use the word Jehovah more so than Yahweh.

## God's Essence in General Cont.

When treating the doctrine of the divine essence and attributes, the question arises or debated: "In what sense are essence and attributes ascribed to God and to creatures?"

- a) The answer is not univocally, so that they belong to God and the creatures in precisely the same meaning,...
  - b) Nor equivocally so that the attributes when used of God have an entirely different meaning than when they are used of creatures...
  - c) But analogical, so that the attributes ascribed to creatures bear an analogy, or resemblance, to the attributes of God that is to say, the attributes belong rightly both to God and men but not in the same manner nor in the same degree.
    1. The take-away; When we say, "God lives and man lives" or "God loves and man loves", we ascribe to God perfect, absolute and independent life and love but to man imperfect, relative and dependent life and love.
    2. "For in him we live and move and have our being"; "For we are indeed his offspring" (Acts 17:28 (ESV)).
- The divine attributes have been divided into negative and positive, or quiescent and operative or absolute and relative or immanent or transient, etc. But no matter how we may classify the divine attributes, we must in every case acquire our knowledge of them only from holy Scripture, never from reason or speculation.

**1. Negative attributes are those by which all imperfections which we observe in creatures are removed from God, since nothing in any way imperfect can be ascribed to Him.**

- a) These negative attributes are also call "quiescent", since they have no specific reference to the actions of God.
- b) These negative attributes are also call immanent attributes, since they describe the divine essence absolutely and in itself.
- c) These attributes are: Divine unity, simplicity, immutability, infinity, immensity, eternity omnipresence.

God is omnipresence regarding His essence. He is **immense** and **infinite**, not only in power and knowledge, but also in essence.

What scripture can we use to affirm this statement? (List scriptures) Ps. 139:8; Matthew 1:23

Divine omnipresence is the attribute of God according to which He is essential, unmistaken everywhere.

- God is omnipresent with regard to His essence, not only with regard to His divine operation, in other words God never operates in abstain, for wherever He works, there He is.
- God is present to all things, not only by virtue and efficacy, nor only by sight and knowledge but also in His entire and individual essence. For He is immense and infinite, not only in power and knowledge but also in essence.
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Immense: Marked by Greatness; Endless, Extensive  
Infinite: Immeasurable; No limitations

God is present in all creatures, yet He is never a part of them, but always remains the **transmundane, transcendent** God.

## **What scripture can we used to affirm this statement? (List scriptures)**

- God is present in all creatures, yet He is never a part of them, but always remains the transmundane, transcendent God.
- The omnipresence of God must therefore not be understood in the sense of pantheistic immanence.
- While it is true that God is so intimately joined to all creatures that in Him they live and move and have their being, nevertheless the differences between God and His creatures always remains as great as that between infinite and finite.

God is omnipresent:

- Without multiplication of His essence
- Without extension
- Without contraction
- Without division
- Without commingling

We must think of God in a corporeal way, as if He, when present, occupied space or were subject to space, (I King 8:27; Is. 66:1) for God's presence is

- a) Unmistakable
- b) Indivisible
- c) Incomprehensible to our reason
- d) Effective
- e) Containing within itself all things.

A number of question may be asked; "Is the universe infinite? Or Is there any space outside this universe?"

- According to scriptures space belongs to creation and all creatures belong to God, (Col. 1:17 Acts 17:28).

Is there in the divine manifestation or wrath or grace any special approach of the divine essence, in view of God's immensity?

- This question is answered in the negative, since the divine essence is never separated from the creatures, but always present, (John 14:23).

- Divine Unity
- Divine Simplicity

## What scripture can we use to affirm this statement? (List scriptures)

1. Divine Unity is the attribute of God by virtue of which the divine essence is absolutely single; not only undivided, but also indivisible. Unity is ascribed to God; a) absolutely, that is the divine essence is neither divided nor divisible, b) besides God there is no God.
2. Divine Simplicity is the divine attribute of God according to which He is truly and really uncompounded (not compounded of matter and form, of integral parts, of substance and accident, of nature and subsistence).
3. God is said to be one in, not in kind, but in number, since He is a being entirely alone, not in Himself undivided, but also indivisible because of the entire simplicity of the divine essence as there is no composition in God.
4. The attribute of spirituality is compromised in that of simplicity.

Divine Immutability

Divine Infinity

## What scripture can we used to affirm this statement? (List scriptures) Heb 6:18

1. Divine immutability is the attribute of God according to which He is liable to no change or altering what-so-ever, neither as to existence, nor by accidents, nor as to will or purpose.
  - a) Scripture speaks of God in a twofold manner: a) as He is in Himself, immutable and incorruptible, forever exalted over space, and time. b) as He accommodates Himself of our conception of space and time.
  - b) Wherever, scripture pictures God anthropomorphically but is is not a mere way of (manner), but a true description of God through after our human mode of perceiving.
2. Divine Infinity is that attributes of God according to which He is contained within no bounds either of time or of space. Scripture ascribe to God infinity; a) as His essence, b) as to His attributes also His knowledge, power, wisdom grace, love, etc.

Divine Immensity  
  
Divine eternity

**What scripture can we used to affirm this statement? (List scriptures)**

Divine immensity is that attribute of God according to which He cannot be measured by or included in, any local confines.

Divine eternity, absolutely so called (in opposition to long time), but is that attribute according to which the divine essence is without beginning or end, without succession or change.

**Exposition of Truth:** God's goodness has been objected to on the grounds that his punishment are frequently sever and destructive. While scripture does not deny this fact, it points out the great truth that even God's dire punishment are motivated by His saving love; for by them He calls sinners to repentance, (Luke 13:1-3).

(Week 4) My Summary on **Negative Attributes:**

# Thank You

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(Facebook Live) Dr. Stewart Biblical Production  
SBP Broadcast – Sunday – 08:30 am PST

