

2. God, People, and Sin (Theology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology)

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Outline

- God: The Attributes of God
 - Uncreated Creator:
 - Genesis 1:1–2
 - Eternal Spirit: Briefly touch on this to distance us from him.
 - Yet, he works, is sovereign, and is free
 - Holy:
 - Lev 22:32 Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who makes you holy
 - John 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.
 - 1 Pet 1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
 - Isa 6:3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”
 - Rev 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”
 - Transcendent: He’s different, other, and independent of the world
 - Job 36:29 Who can understand how he spreads out the clouds, how he thunders from his pavilion?
 - Immanent (different than imminent): God is present, existing in our world, knowable, graspable.
 - John 14:8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” John 14:9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
 - Jer 23:23 “Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away?”

- Acts 17:24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’
- Psalm 139: 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- Immutable: He doesn’t change.
 - Apophatic theology
 - Pantheism vs. panentheism vs. theism
- Trilemma: How can God be all powerful, all loving, and evil still exist?
 - But why not a quadrilemma or a quintillema? God is also all-knowing and all-present. He knows all and is present at each moment in eternity, so our explanations don’t all come at once because God knows all and has a plan.
 - So he’s not just omnipotent; he’s also omniscient and omnipresent / eternal)
- Unified: See previous video. Trinity coming later.
- People
 - Nature of man: spirit enfleshed: Genesis 1–2
 - Spirit *Imago Dei*: Genesis 1:26–27: “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created man in his own image, // in the image of God he created him; // male and female he created them.”
 - This means we have a spirit (created); and we work, reign, and are free.
 - Free: Genesis 2:16–17: "And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”
 - We’re also enfleshed.
 - Enfleshed

- Created with flesh “Genesis 2:7: The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”
- Flesh in NT: Our nature is not sinful; our nature is enfleshed.
 - Genesis 4: “desires to have you, you must master it”
 - James 1: “desires wage war”
 - Flesh in Paul
- Nature of sin: Genesis 3 with Ephesians 2:1-2
 - Separated from God
 - Separated from self
 - Separated from others
 - Separated from creation
- Covenants between God and man:
 - Covenantal theology: the covenants
 - R. C. Sproul talks about about the “covenant of redemption” as the first covenant. This was a covenant between the Father, Son, and Spirit to effect salvation. Sproul says that the Father *initiated* salvation, the Son *accomplished*, and the Spirit *applied* our salvation (*Everyone’s a Theologian*, 122).
 - Covenants: Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic (extended to Isaac and Jacob), Mosaic, Davidic, Messianic
 - Broken covenants
 - Abrahamic (Genesis 15)
 - The problem of heart: Jeremiah 4:14: “O Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved. // How long will you harbor wicked thoughts?”
 - The fallen heart: “Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things // and beyond cure. // Who can understand it?”
 - The new covenant: Hope for man: the heart and Jeremiah
 - The heart redeemed
 - Jer 24:7 I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.
 - Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
 - Jer 31:31-32 “The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. // “This is the covenant I will make with the

house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

- Jer 32:39 I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them.
 - Jer 32:41 I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.
 - Ezek 11:19 I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.
- Salvation as relationship restored: Moses and God takes a man (out of Egypt/water), to break a man (his own Exodus and desert years), to make a man (desert years and collective Exodus), to give a man (Exodus leadership)

A. W. Tozer

The Attributes of God (vol. 1)

- God’s Infinitude
- God’s Immensity
- God’s Goodness
- God’s Justice
- God’s Mercy
- God’s Grace
- God’s Omnipresence
- God’s Immanence
- God’s Holiness
- God’s Perfection

The Attributes of God (vol. 2)

- God’s Self-Existence
- God’s Transcendence
- God’s Eternalness
- God’s Omnipotence
- God’s Immutability
- God’s Omniscience
- God’s Wisdom
- God’s Sovereignty
- God’s Faithfulness
- God’s Love