

1. Knowledge (or Omniscience)

- Definition: *God fully knows Himself and all things actual... in one simple and eternal act.*¹

Job 37:16 ~ “Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,”

Psalms 147:5 ~ Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

a. God knows Himself perfectly

1 Corinthians 2:10–11 ~ For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

- God knows Himself in His infinitude. This is an amazing fact – that God knows Himself perfectly – since He is an infinite being. He is the only being who has complete self-knowledge.

b. God knows all things actual

Hebrews 4:13 ~ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

- God knows everything that exists and everything that happens in His creation, from the movements of tectonic plates to the subatomic particle.

Isaiah 46:9–10 ~ Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

- He also knows the future because He has sovereignly ordained all events in the future. God even knows our thoughts and words before we think or speak them (cf. Matt 6:8; Ps 139:4).
- The details and specifics of His knowledge are down to the smallest degree; He even knows the number of hairs on a person’s head (cf. Matt 10:3).

c. God knows all things in one simple and eternal act

- God knows all things instantly and simultaneously. He does not need to ponder the answer to any question. He never counts. He knows all things in His mind at all times.
 - Thus, His knowledge is such that He never learns and He never forgets (cf. Ps 90:4; 2 Pet 3:8).

¹ Truncated from Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 190.

- His knowledge exists outside of time. God’s full knowledge has been His from eternity past. He has not learned anything as time progressed in His creation but has had infinite knowledge all the time.
- God's eternality precludes any possibility that His divine nature could grow or gain knowledge.

d. Distinctions between our knowledge and God’s knowledge

- A priori vs. a posteriori (independent vs. dependent knowledge).
- God’s knowledge is not received
 - God has an active knowledge, which accomplishes, not a passive knowledge which is received.²
 - “It is true of all his creatures, both spiritual and corporeal, that he does not know them because they are, but that they are because he knows them. He was not ignorant of what he was going to create. So he created because he knew, he did not know because he had created.”³
 - “He is omnisciently omnipotent and omnipotently omniscient, so that when he “thinks,” things happen. His knowledge is causal, not merely contemplative, like ours. He is no spectator. He is the Creator, the one who determines all things. His knowledge is not a posteriori, like the creature’s, as if he knew by observing, but his knowledge is a priori, meaning he observes what he already knows and has decreed eternally.”⁴
- Our knowledge is only received.

e. Application

- Confidence
- Humility
- Comfort

2. Wisdom

► **Definition:** *“God’s wisdom is his perfect knowledge of how to act skillfully so that he will accomplish all his good pleasure—to glorify himself.”⁵*

Romans 16:27 ~ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

² Matthew Barrett, *None Greater*, Ebook ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2019), 193.

³ Augustine, *Trinity*, n.d., chap. 15.4.22 p 414.

⁴ Barrett, *None Greater*, 192.

⁵ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 180.

Job 12:13 ~ With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding.

Daniel 2:20 ~ Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

- God knows all things because He has ordained all things (Gen 50:20), and all that He has ordained is according to His perfect and infinite wisdom.

a. The distinction between knowledge and wisdom

- Wisdom is often shown as skill (cf. Ex. 28:3, 31:3).

Exodus 31:3–6 ~ "I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship. ⁶ "And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you

- "...wisdom involves "knowing how," not just "knowing that."⁶

b. Expressions of God's Wisdom

- God acts/chooses according to His perfection. God always brings about that which is truly and absolutely best. He of course knows what is truly good, because He knows Himself perfectly.
- Since God is wise/has all wisdom, all that He does demonstrates His wisdom.

1. Providence

- God's wisdom directs His will to do always what is best through the best means.
- Oftentimes from our limited human perspective, we cannot see what God sees and we can easily doubt whether He has the best goals and means in mind for us.

Romans 8:28 ~ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

- ✓ Yet the believer can take great encouragement of heart knowing that every circumstance and situation is sovereignly and wisely brought about for our "good", which is not our *comfort*, but our *conformity* to the likeness of Jesus Christ (cf. Rom 8:29).
- ✓ We can also take comfort from the promise God has given us, that He will grant us wisdom for our every need (cf. Jam 1:5).

⁶ John M. Frame, *The Doctrine of God: A Theology of Lordship* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, 2002), 506.

2. The Law

Deuteronomy 4:6 ~ “So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”

3. Redemption

- The wisdom of God is seen at its zenith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:21, 27, 29 ~ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe... but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong... so that no man may boast before God.

- The world sees the message of the Gospel as foolishness, yet the Gospel reflects God’s amazing plan of salvation that only He could come up with.
- “Paul knows that what we now think of as the “simple” gospel message, understandable even to the very young, reflects an amazing plan of God, which in its depths of wisdom surpasses anything man could ever have imagined. At the end of eleven chapters of reflection on the wisdom of God’s plan of redemption, Paul bursts forth into spontaneous praise: “O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” (Rom. 11:33).”⁷

c. Application

- Ask
- Fear
- Trust

3. Truthfulness (and Faithfulness)

- **Definition:** *God’s truthfulness means that He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.*⁸

a. God alone is the only true God

John 17:3 ~ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

⁷ Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 193.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 195.

- Only God Himself has the idea of what the true God should be like since He alone is the true God and conforms perfectly in His being and character to His own idea of the true God. All that He is, makes Him God, and none other can claim that. He defines it and fills it.

Jeremiah 10:10–16 ~ But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them, “The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.” It is He who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom; and by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens. When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain, and brings out the wind from His storehouses. Every man is stupid, devoid of knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols; For his molten images are deceitful, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of mockery; In the time of their punishment they will perish. The portion of Jacob is not like these; For the Maker of all is He, and Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The Lord of hosts is His name.

- God has no competition. In contrast to other so-called gods, He alone is God.

b. God’s knowledge is true and is the final standard

- God’s knowledge is never errant, but always true and always accurate to the reality of all things.
 - "He is never mistaken in his perception or understanding of the world: all that he knows and thinks is true and is a correct understanding of the nature of reality."⁹
 - ☑ This means that as the believer conforms his thoughts to the mind of God through the Word, he is thinking truthfully.

Philippians 4:8 ~ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

- ☑ When a person thinks thoughts absent from the truth of God’s Word, he is in great danger of believing that which is utterly false and completely outside the mind of God.

- God is also completely reliable and faithful to His Word. All of His promises are true and His people can depend on Him for every relevant promise.

► **Definition of *Faithfulness*:** *God’s faithfulness means that God will always do what He has said and fulfill what He has promised.*¹⁰

Deuteronomy 32:4 ~ The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

⁹ Ibid., 196.

¹⁰ Ibid., 195.

2 Corinthians 1:20 ~ For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

- “He can be relied upon, and he will never prove unfaithful to those who trust what he has said. Indeed, *the essence of true faith is taking God at his word and relying on him to do as he has promised.*”¹¹
- Because God’s character is truth, everything He says is truth and the standard for all truth.
John 17:17 ~ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
Psalms 12:6 ~ The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.
2 Samuel 7:28 ~ “Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.
- God cannot lie.
Numbers 23:19 ~ “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
Titus 1:1–2 ~ Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
Hebrews 6:18 ~ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.
- God's words are an expression of who He is. Therefore, all He says will be true.

Application

- Certainty
- Don’t Lie
- Read
- Speaking against Gnostic heresies, Packer says, “By contrast, Scripture speaks of “knowing” God as the spiritual person’s ideal: namely, the fullness of a faith-relationship that brings salvation and eternal life and generates love, hope, obedience, and joy. (See, for example, Exod. 33:13; Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:8–12; Dan. 11:32; John 17:3; Gal. 4:8–9; Eph. 1:17–19; 3:19; Phil. 3:8–11; 2 Tim. 1:12.) The dimensions of this knowledge are intellectual (knowing the truth about God: Deut. 7:9; Ps. 100:3); volitional (trusting, obeying, and worshiping God in terms of that truth); and moral (practicing justice and love: Jer. 22:16; 1 John 4:7–8). Faith-knowledge focuses on God incarnate, the man Christ Jesus, the mediator between God and us sinners, through whom we come to know his Father as our Father (John 14:6). Faith seeks to know Christ and his power specifically (Phil. 3:8–14). Faith’s knowledge is the fruit of regeneration, the bestowal of

¹¹ Ibid., 201.

a new heart (Jer. 24:7; 1 John 5:20), and of illumination by the Spirit (2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:17). The knowledge-relationship is reciprocal, implying covenantal affection on both sides: we know God as ours because he knows us as his (John 10:14; Gal. 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:19). All Scripture has been given to help us know God in this way. Let us labor to use it for its proper purpose.¹²

9. Holiness

► **Definition:** God's holiness is his inherent and absolute greatness, in which he is perfectly distinct above everything outside himself and is absolutely morally separate from sin.¹³

Isaiah 6:3 ~ And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

Psalms 99:9 ~ Exalt the Lord our God And worship at His holy hill, for holy is the Lord our God.

1 Samuel 2:2 ~ There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.

- "The holiness of God is the perfect rectitude of his will. The divine will is in absolute harmony with divine nature: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts" (Isa. 6:3; 57:15; Exod. 15:11; Ps. 89:35; 145:17; Amos 4:2; Rev. 4:8; 15:4). God's word is holy (Rom. 1:2). His promise is holy (Ps. 105:42). His Sabbath is holy (Isa. 58:13). His people are holy (62:12). His residence is holy (57:15). His angels are holy (Rev. 14:10). Holiness in God cannot be defined in the same terms in which holiness in man or angel is defined, namely, as conformity to the moral law. The moral law supposes a superior being whose love and service are obligatory upon the inferior. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself" is no law for God."¹⁴

a. Transcendent Holiness

- The word "holy" (*kadosh* in Heb.) means "to be separate." God is completely separate from His creation, which refers to His *transcendent* holiness.

1 Kings 8:27 ~ But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!

Exodus 15:11 ~ Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?

- "He is absolutely distinct from all His creatures and is exalted above them in infinite majesty."¹⁵

¹² Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*, 20.

¹³ MacArthur and Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, 183.

¹⁴ William G.T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, ed. Alan W. Gomes, 3rd ed. (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, 2003), 291.

¹⁵ Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, Reprint ed. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1976), 73.

- All definitions of holiness must come from him, because He alone is intrinsically holy. If anything else can be referred to as holy, it is because God has made it to be so.
- “When Scripture calls God, or individual persons of the Godhead, “holy” (as it often does: Lev. 11:44–45; Josh. 24:19; Isa. 2:2; Ps. 99:9; Isa. 1:4; 6:3; 41:14, 16, 20; 57:15; Ezek. 39:7; Amos 4:2; John 17:11; Acts 5:3–4, 32; Rev. 15:4), the word signifies everything about God that sets him apart from us and makes him an object of awe, adoration, and dread to us. It covers all aspects of his transcendent greatness and moral perfection and thus is an attribute of all his attributes, pointing to the “Godness” of God at every point. Every facet of God’s nature and every aspect of his character may properly be spoken of as holy, just because it is his.”¹⁶

b. Ethical Holiness

- He is also morally separate from sin and evil. This is His *ethical* holiness.

Leviticus 11:44–45 ~ ‘For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. ‘For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.’
- “God does what is right. He never does what is wrong. God always *acts* in a righteous manner because His *nature* is holy. Thus, we can distinguish between the *internal* righteousness of God (His holy nature) and the *external* righteousness of God (His actions).”¹⁷

c. God’s desire for holiness in Scripture

- Holiness flows forth from God. Since he is Holy, all that relates to him must also be holy.¹⁸
- God’s holiness demands perfection and He will vindicate His holiness in judgment.

Leviticus 10:1–3 ~ Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, “It is what the Lord spoke, saying, ‘By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.’” So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.

Isaiah 5:16 ~ But the Lord of Hosts will be exalted in judgment, And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.
- God’s holiness also is integral to His faithfulness and goodness in remaining true to His promises and plan for salvation.

¹⁶ Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*, 43.

¹⁷ R.C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1992), 51.

¹⁸ Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: God and Creation*, ed. John Bolt, trans. John Vriend, vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009), 219.

Hosea 11:9 ~ I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Psalms 89:35–37 ~ Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. “His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me. “It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful.” Selah.

d. Application

- We have a problem
- God has given a solution
- We must worship

10. Peace (or Order)

- **Definition:** *God’s peace means that in God’s being and in His actions, He is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet He is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.*¹⁹

Judges 6:24 ~ Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Philippians 4:9 ~ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- We need to not just think about the results of peace, but what peace itself is.
- It is well-being, wholeness, completeness, and perfectly ordered. God never lacks or wants. God remains perfectly complete at all times. He doesn’t get moody.
- Conflict is mutually exclusive with peace. In God there is never strife nor discord, but rather perfect harmony.
 - “We often experience struggles between contradictory impulses within us. God, on the contrary, is completely in harmony with himself. His three persons glorify and serve one another willingly and cheerfully. He is whole, well, and prosperous—blessed and happy.”²⁰

1 Thessalonians 5:23 ~ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Outworking of Peace

- God is always working and His activity is always under control and orderly.
 - There are trillions upon trillions of actions in the universe every second.

¹⁹ Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 203.

²⁰ Frame, *The Doctrine of God: A Theology of Lordship*, 444.

God controls them all in perfect peace and in perfect order.

1 Corinthians 14:33 ~ for God is not *a God* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

- His infinite knowledge, wisdom, and power keep perfect peace in God and in His universe. There is never a moment when God is anxious or worried about an event or circumstance in His creation since He ordained all things for His own glory.

Application

- Rest in God
 - With reference to peace, Frame says, “Theologically, it represents the fullness of the blessings of salvation” Peace as opposed to war, but also completeness, wholeness, and prosperity. The Lord promises peace to His redeemed people (Pss. 4:8; 21:11; 37:11; 119:165; Isa. 26:3; Luke 2:14; John 14:27; Rom 5:1). The gospel is a message of peace.”²¹

²¹ Ibid.