

The Doctrine of Man (as Seen in the Attributes of God)

In Genesis 1:26-31, God creates man in His own image. Thus, man was created sharing many attributes of his Creator. However, Adam sinned. In his sin, Adam gave up (or corrupted) many of his original attributes for the corrupt sin nature. God, in the infinite goodness of His grace had already provided for the restoration of man from his fallen nature to a new nature where man may again share the attributes of God. In the list below, we will compare and contrast the nature of God and man, in his various spiritual states.

| Attribute of God | Newly Created Man | Natural (Fallen) Man | Carnal (Saved) Man | Spiritual Man | Glorified Man |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Eternal, totally above time; life [Ps 90:2] | Alive, in time, uncorrupted but capable of dying [Gen 2:17] | Everlasting Death, in process of dying even in physical life, in time | Eternal Life, but will die physically, in time, thinking of the world in time [2Cor 4:16] | Eternal Life, but will die physically, in time but capable of eternal thought [2Cor 4:16] | Eternal Life, no more death, in eternity beyond time [1 Cor 15:50-58] |
| Almighty (Omnipotent) [Gen 17:1] Totally Sovereign | Given authority to rule the earth--limited by God [Gen 1:28] | Desires to be as God, but can not even rule himself [Gen 9:20-29] | Indwelling Holy Spirit, but is easily deceived [Eph 4:14] | Indwelling Holy Spirit; move in the power of the Spirit some [Rom 15:18-19] | Reigns & rules with Christ, power in proportion to reward [Rev 22:5] |
| All-knowing (Omniscient) & All-understanding [Ps 139:1-6 & Ps 147:5] (This attribute is subservient to omnipotence) | Intelligent, but knowledge is limited <u>in time & space</u> —is innocent, walks with God; limited understanding [Gen 2] | Knows good & evil + some knowledge <u>in time & space & sight</u> ; knows of God, refuses to acknowledge spiritual truth; tiny understanding (knows less than he thinks) [Gen 3:22] | Knows good & evil; knows God personally; other knowledge is limited, largely based on sight; has limited spiritual understanding | Knows good & evil; knows God personally; other knowledge is limited but has some spiritual knowledge & understanding, based on faith | Not omniscient nor all-understanding, but vastly exceeds that of the angels or earthly men [knows as is known 1 Cor 13:12] |
| Omnipresent [Ps 139:7-12] (This attribute is subservient to omnipotence) | Is confined to a single place in physical space & time | Is confined to a single place in physical space & time | Is confined to a single place in physical space & time | Is confined to a single place in physical space & time | Is confined to a single place but no longer in physical space, in eternity |
| Unsearchable & Unchanging [Ps 145:3 & Mal 3:6] | 'Searched' by God; capable of change | 'Searched' by God; capable of change—is being corrupted by sin continually | 'Searched' by God; capable of change – is being transformed by the Spirit [2Cor 4:16] | 'Searched' by God; capable of change – is being transformed by the Spirit [2Cor 4:16] | 'Searched' by God; in unity with God, unchanging |
| Spirit [John 4:24] [no body until Jesus] | Living Soul (a type of spiritual being) & body [Gen 2:7] | Soul being [dead], but focused on fleshly body existence | Living Soul, but largely focused on fleshly body existence | Living Soul, but learning to rise above fleshly existence | Living Soul, in unity with God, glorified body |
| One (whole, indivisible, unique) [Deut 6:4] | One, but not to be alone, needs fellowship with both God & man [Gen 2:18] | Lacks fellowship with God (& man); incomplete in self; covets/values individuality | One in Christ, but often does not reap benefit of fellowship with God; values individuality | One in Christ, but still bears scars from past lack.; values Christian fellowship | One, in & with Christ |

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|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Triune—One (essense) in 3 persons, each willing and acting independently but in total harmony, each with a separate mind (consciousness) | One person, capable of independent actions; one mind | One person, may suffer personality splits (which are considered a disorder), may act out of harmony with self, is slave to sin but values independence (a false freedom); one mind, but often “double minded” | One person, but often acts out of harmony with self when yielding to flesh nature; one mind, often selfish | One person, seeks to act in harmony with the Lord; seeks to conform own mind to the mind of Christ | One person acting independently but in submission & in total harmony with the Lord; one mind |
| Holy (spiritually pure, perfect) [Lev 20:26] | Innocent, able to fellowship with God face to face | Sinner, impure, imperfect, pridefully perfectionistic | Sinner practically, but saint-positionally holy because of Christ | Sinner practically, but saint-positionally holy because of Christ | Holy, in the presence of God face to face |
| Righteous (blameless, upright) [Deut 32:4] | Innocent, morally capable | Evil, wicked, utterly sinful [Gen 6:5]; blames others | Sinner practically, but positionally righteous because of Christ | Sinner practically, but positionally righteous because of Christ; accepts responsibility for own actions | Righteous |
| The Creator [Gen 1:1] | Created, capable of inventiveness | Created, but pridefully ‘self-made’, capable of inventiveness | Created, worships the Creator, capable of inventiveness | Created, worships the Creator, capable of inventiveness | Created, worships the Creator, creativity not required |
| Just [Deut 32:4] | Capable of judgement; unjudged & innocent | Unjust, (or just for corrupt motives); judgemental; judged | Judgemental, but growing in justice; justified | Just; justified | Just, justified |
| Light [1 John 1:5] | Covered with God’s glory | Darkened [Rom 1:21] | Enlightened, but inwardly | Enlightened, glorifies God in deeds [Matt 5:13-16] | Glorified in Christ; gives glory to God continually |
| True [John 3:33] & Faithful | Innocent, but was untrue to the Lord | Unfaithful & untrue | Faithful, but imperfectly | Faithful, mostly | True & faithful |
| Truthful; cannot lie [Titus 1:2] | [unknown, assumed truthful] | Liar, ‘son of lies’ [John 8] | Tries to be truthful | Values truth; seeks to be truthful | Truthful |
| Worthy, praiseworthy, trustworthy [Rev 4:11] | Valued by God | Unworthy, self-esteem more important than esteem of God | Made worthy by Christ, but often does not realize value placed by God | Made worthy by Christ, value of Christ’s life paid seems beyond comprehension | Glorified by God, worthy in Christ |
| Forgiving, Gracious, Merciful, Full of Compassion [Neh 9:17, 31] | [unknown, assumed to be like the Lord] | Unforgiving, unmerciful, ungracious, not compassionate | Learning to be forgiving, merciful, gracious, & compassionate | Learning to be forgiving, merciful, gracious, & compassionate; often succeeds | Forgiving, merciful, gracious, & compassionate |

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| Love (agape-unconditional love) 1 John 4:8, 16 John 3:16 | Capable of agape love; fellowship with God | Primarily self-loving, capable of family love and brotherly love (conditional loves); confuses love with lust; often controlled by fear, especially of judgement by authority [1 John 4:20] | Primarily capable of conditional love, capable of unconditional love in Christ; is often controlled by worldly fears | Shows unconditional love as well as conditional loves; worships & reverentially fears God; mostly does not fear | Unconditionally loving; worships & fellowships with God |
| Joy John 15:11; Neh 8:10; Ps 118:14; Is 12:2 | (unknown, assumed to be joyful—no known griefs) | May be happy without joy, seeks ‘highs’ in the world, full of grief—tries to forget | Can be joyful, but still seeks ‘highs’ apart from God, learning how to grieve | Joyful, sometimes tempered by griefs of this world | Unhindered joy—no more sorrows |
| Peace Jud 6:24; Is 9:6, 7; Rom 15:33, 16:20 | (unknown, assumed to be at peace) | No peace in self, often in strife with the world | At peace with God, knows peace of God but is not at peace when sinning | Has peace with God and the peace of God, and in spite of being at odds with the world | Has peace with God and the peace of God |
| Patient (slow to anger, longsuffering, enduring) Ex 34:6 2 Pet 3:9 | (unknown, assumed to be patient) | Impatient, unable to suffer or endure much | Shows some patience | Patient | Patient |
| Kind Ps 86:5, 15; Ps 59:17; Jonah 4:2; Ps 148:8,17 | (assumed to be kind) | Capable of showing kindness when perceived to be in personal best interest—otherwise, why bother? | Capable of kindness and selflessness | Shows kindness to others | Kind |
| Good (God alone is good) Ps 118:1, 29 Luke 18:18-19 | (declared good) & moral | Inherently bad, does good only by ‘accident’ by the unacknowledged influence of the Holy Spirit; immoral | Sometimes depends upon the Lord to do good, wants to do good sometimes; has moral conscience | Wants to do good, depends upon the Lord in order to do good & has moral conscience; upright | Good & morally upright |
| Gentle Matt 11:29 Zech 9:9 | (assumed gentle) | Prideful, opposed to meekness | Capable of being gentle, meek, humble | Gentle, meek, humble | Gentle, meek, humble |
| Full of Self-control | Capable of self-control | Incapable of self-control; slave of sin nature, often controlled by circumstances | Capable of self-control, but often controlled by circumstances | Obtains self-control through power of the Holy Spirit; not controlled by circumstances | Self-controlled & wholly dedicated to serving the Lord |

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| Wise [1 Cor 1:30] | Neither wise nor foolish | Claims & worships wisdom, but is unwise/foolish | Sometimes manifests the wisdom of Christ | Manifests the wisdom of Christ | Wise |
| Emotional; never lets emotions rule self [see 1 Sam 15; Isa 30:18; Isa 64:8; Zec 1:2] | Emotional | Emotional, often lets feelings rule self | Emotional, often lets emotions rule self | Emotional, but ruled by faith in the Lord | Emotional but in submission to the Lord |
| Self-aware & self-existent | Self-aware | Self-aware & self-absorbed | Self-aware & often self-absorbed | Self-aware | Self-aware |
| Communicates | Communicates | Communicates dysfunctionally and corruptly, seeks to avoid unneeded communication, does not seek to talk to the Lord | Communicates poorly, still learning to talk with God | Communicates some, prayer important, learning to depend upon the Lord in talking with others | Communicates continually praises and worship of the Lord |
| Teaches | (unknown) | Seeks esteem & power of teaching, doesn't need to be taught unless there is some perceived immediate benefit | Seeks to be taught of the Lord | Seeks to be taught of the Lord, instructs by example, may be gifted as teacher | No needs for teaching |
| Forms functional relationships | Forms relationships | Forms relationships, but not in relationship with God, relationships are often unhealthy or dysfunctional | Forms relationships, in relationship with God, often holds to dysfunctional relationships in the world. | Forms functional relationships, in relationship with God | In fully functional relationship with the Lord & all other Glorified people |
| Rational [see Isa 1:18] | Rational {a general gift of God} | Rational, but can be emotionally irrational | Rational, but can lose control | Rational, seldom loses control | Rational |
| Giving, as in JAS 1:5 | Giving | Gives with corrupt motives or out of duty | Gives, but often sparingly | Gives cheerfully when able and when need is perceived | All needs of everyone met |
| King of kings, Lord of lords, God of gods [DT 10:17; PS 136:2,3; 1TM 6:15; RV 17:14, 19:16] | Assumes this of God, but apparently does not recognize the consequences | Attempts to deny this of God; tries to be a god himself | Knows this to be true of God, but often does not recognize practical implications | Know this to be true of God, trusts in the Lord [see also application of 'King of kings' EZR 7:12; EZE 26:7; DAN 2:38] | Worships the King of kings & Lord of lords totally |