

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Week 5

Putting Things In Perspective

The Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power **has granted** to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with Godliness, 7 and Godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is the divine _____ of God?

Where do we find what the divine _____ of God is?

Romans 1: 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 **For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature**, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

This goes back to the “_____ of God”.

What is the nature of God? or; What is God like?

The difference between the _____ and _____ of God, and what difference it makes:

- ❖ To know his nature without his character is to know a machine that is capable of anything but without a purpose or design.
- ❖ To know his character without his nature is to know a person capable of thinking and acting with purpose and design, but unable to do anything.

What is nature?

essence, _____ --- physical or mental --- it is involuntary —

- ❖ What is an attribute? The permanent quality of something.
- ❖ What is a natural attribute? The permanent quality of a person's nature.

The nature of God: What God is.

1. _____: eternal: self-existence--unchangeable nature-- the unconditioned/the absolute

- ❖ no cause for his existence: uncaused: uncreated: always existing: no beginning:
- ❖ not self-caused/ not self-created endless duration of Time. —(not Timeless)---issue of Time!!!

1 Timothy 1: 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*1 Timothy 6: 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his test before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ... 15 ... —he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 **who alone has immortality**, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and **eternal dominion**. Amen.*

- ❖ _____ -existent nature,
- ❖ A necessary existence---the first cause
- ❖ No one is the "mother of God"
- ❖ _____

2. _____: God is spirit [he has spiritual essence]

- ❖ *1 Timothy 6:16...and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see.*
- ❖ *John 1:18 no man has seen God at any time.*
- ❖ *John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

3. _____: immutable, cannot be different by nature.

- ❖ God's self-existent nature cannot be changed or change itself.
- ❖ *James 1:17 every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.*

4. Perfect _____ --- He remembers all things

- ❖ *Hebrews 6:10 for God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward his name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.*
- ❖ *Hebrews 8: "I will remember their sins no more" = not take "into account"*

5. Perfect _____ --he can conceive of all possibilities.

6. All-able: all-powerful: _____ - all means unlimited

- ❖ able to do anything and everything necessary to accomplish his wise and benevolent purpose.
- ❖ power to create something when there is nothing.
- ❖ all power to keep his promises,
- ❖ all power to enforce his law and
- ❖ all power to sustain his government.

7. Everywhere present: he is everywhere: _____

- ❖ in every place---unlimited presence.]
- ❖ he is in every place that exists—he is here now. He is wherever you are. —
- ❖ "---in him we live and move and exist"-acts 17:28
- ❖ before creation: God is all that is

8. All-knowing: ignorant of nothing— _____ —perfect knowledge of all that exists

- ❖ This is because and a result of God being everywhere present:
- ❖ All ideas and objects and events are known to him as they exist or happen: he knows all of your thoughts, intents, actions, words—all of them.
- ❖ He knows when each sparrow falls.
- ❖ He numbers each hair on your head.
- ❖ He knows all justice and injustice/all suffering and evil.

9. Infinite (unlimited)(perfect) reason/ _____ — "natural" divine reason

- ❖ All intelligent reasoning, concepts, precepts, possibilities, theories, logical thinking, etc.— are his in perfection.
- ❖ He perceives all possible options offered to wisdom.
- ❖ He is a perfect reasoner, a perfect idea thinker
- ❖ He has perfect perception of the greatest good. The best means to accomplish the greatest good---God's perfect plan
- ❖ The following natural attributes qualify God as a moral agent: moral agency of God: personality, he is a person we are persons, therefore our creator must be persons like us.

10. Free-will. —

- ❖ He has _____ to choose in either direction.
- ❖ He has responsibility for the choices he makes.
- ❖ God has the ability to make choices— therefore: He can have character.
- ❖ God decided to make man, He decided to make a promise to Abraham, David, etc.

11. Sensibilities—

- ❖ God experiences sensibilities common to all moral agents. He feels and desires, etc.(grief, joy, delights, etc.)
- ❖ Desires that all men be saved. Takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
- ❖ God's feelings, desires, compassions, sorrows are infinite in degree.

12. _____ /awareness—

- ❖ He knows that he knows
- ❖ He lacks no knowledge of his own activities.
- ❖ He perfectly knows himself.

13. _____ —

- ❖ The "moral reason"
- ❖ Source of the moral law
- ❖ Perceives and dictates to God the moral obligation upon him to be benevolent
- ❖ Gives him knowledge of the moral law, and imposes obligation:
- ❖ Pronounces guilt if there is disobedience to the moral law;
- ❖ Pronounces praise for obedience to the moral law.
- ❖ This is the source of God's joy.

The next question is: What is _____?

Character:

- ❖ It is the result of choice.
- ❖ It is a moral quality.

Character is either blame-worthy or praise-worthy, because character is voluntary.

Character is either virtue or vice

- ❖ _____ is virtue
- ❖ _____ is vice

Character is either _____ or _____ to moral law.

Character is _____

Character is how you choose to _____ to other people

_____ is what a person is.

_____ is why a person does.

_____ is ----- what! What you are.

_____ is ----- why! Why you act.

So, if we “are partakers of the divine nature” how do we partake of the above-mentioned attributes?

John 16: 12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.