

Unity of the Spirit – One God Eph. 4:6

Introduction:

Today we will notice the nature of God as Paul describes it in the book of Ephesians. We will notice six different characteristics about His nature.

(Original sermon from Tom Holland, Sermon Outlines From Ephesians)

I. God is a God of Power.

- A. Eph. 1:19 - and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
- B. The Power of God is revealed in the creation of His universe.
 - 1. Rom. 1:20 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
 - 2. Ps. 19:1-2 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. {2} Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.
- C. God's power is seen in that He raised His Son from physical death.
 - 1. Eph. 1:20 - which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
- D. God's power had also brought the Ephesians saints from spiritual death to life in Christ.
 - 1. Eph. 2:1-5 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, {2} in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, {3} among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. {4} But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
 - a. Paul later calls this salvation a "working of God" in Col. 2:12.
 - b. This power is exercised through the gospel (Rom. 1:16 – the gospel is God's "power...to salvation."
- E. Paul also tells us that God's power enables us to withstand evil.
 - 1. Eph. 6:10-12 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. {11} Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

II. God is a God of Great Love.

- A. Eph. 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- B. Love is the essential nature of God.
 - 1. I Jn. 4:8 - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- C. God's love toward man was demonstrated in through Christ.
 - 1. Rom. 5:6-8 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - 2. I Jn. 4:10 - In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- D. The great love of God is revealed in the love of Christ.
 - 1. Christ's love towards us is great.
 - 2. Eph. 3:17-19 - that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, {18} may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—{19} to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- I. God is a God of Power.
- II. God is a God of Great Love.

III. God is a God of Wisdom.

- A. Eph. 3:10 - to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,
- B. God is an omniscient, all-wise God.
 - 1. Rom. 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! {34} "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" {35} "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" {36} For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever.
- C. The church reveals the wisdom of God.
 - 1. Eph. 3:11 - according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 - 2. It was always God's purpose to establish the church to save those who believe.

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- II. God is a God of Great Love.
- III. God is a God of Wisdom.

IV. God is a Father.

- A. God is referred to as Father several times by Paul.
 - 1. Eph. 1:2 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Eph. 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
 - 3. Eph. 1:17 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
 - 4. Eph. 5:20 - giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - 5. Eph. 6:23 - Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. As our Father, God is accessible to us.
 - 1. Notice what Paul says in Ephesians.
 - a. Eph. 2:18 - For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
 - b. Eph. 3:12 - in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.
 - 2. God's eyes are over the righteous, and His ears are open to our prayers.
 - a. I Pet. 3:12 - For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.
 - b. I Pet. 5:6-7 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, {7} casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
 - 3. Also, we are urged to draw near to God.
 - a. Heb. 10:22 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
 - b. Js. 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

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V. God is a God of Grace and Mercy.

- A. To refer to the grace of God is to say that God has a "friendly disposition from which kindly acts proceed" (Holland).
 - 1. Grace is "loving kindness and goodwill" (Vine's).
- B. Paul's preaching was a dispensation of the grace of God.
 - 1. Eph. 3:2 - if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
 - 2. It is through this grace that we are saved.

- a. **Eph. 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 - b. **Titus 2:11-14** - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, {12} teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, {13} looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, {14} who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- C. God's great love for man prompted God to show grace to sinful man.
- 1. **Eph. 2:7** - that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- D. God also has great mercy on us.
- 1. **Eph. 2:4** - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
 - 2. **II Cor. 1:3** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
 - 3. **Titus 3:4-7** - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, {6} whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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VI. God is a God of Wrath.

- A. Paul reminds us that even though God is a God of love and mercy and grace, He is also a God of wrath.
 - 1. **Eph. 5:6** - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- B. Men cannot sin against God and not face the eternal consequences.
 - 1. **Heb. 10:26-31** - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot,

counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." {31} **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

2. Knowing this wrath of eternal damnation, Paul says "Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (II Cor. 5:11).
- C. God's wrath will be revealed at the day of Judgment.
1. **Rom. 2:5** - But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,
 2. **Rom. 2:8-9** - but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, {9} tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

Conclusion:

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- IV. God is a Father.
- V. God is a God of Grace and Mercy.