

Character and Attributes of God – Wisdom and Goodness

November 17, 2019

God's Wisdom

Definitions

- *God's wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals. -Grudem*
- *God's wisdom is the source of his words and laws. It is the source and standard for all the world's knowledge and skills, for godly living, and for the way of salvation in Christ. All God's work in creation and providence reveals his wisdom. -Frame*
- *Men acquire wisdom by loss of their fairest years; but [God's] wisdom is the perfection of Divine nature, not the birth of study, or the growth of experience, but as necessary, as eternal, as his essence. He goes not out of himself to search wisdom: he needs no more the brains of creatures in the contrivance of his purposes, than he doth their arm in the execution of them. He needs no counsel; he receives no counsel from any. -Charnock*

Biblical Support for God's Wisdom

God creates by wisdom. Psalm 104; Proverbs 3:19; Job 9:4; Psalm 19:1-7; Isaiah 40:28; Jeremiah 10:12; Proverbs chapters 8 and 9 personify wisdom.

God redeems by his wisdom. Romans 11:25-33; Ephesians 3:10-11; Rev 5:12

God is the source of all wisdom. Proverbs 2:6-7; James 1:5

God is all-wise, or omniscient. Job 12:13; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28ff; Romans 11:33

Application

For the Christian-

- God has a wise plan, even when circumstances are bad, we should trust and obey him.
- Resting in his wisdom centers us in a biblical worldview. Romans 8:28
- Resting in his wisdom combats humanistic false wisdom.
- Since he is the source of wisdom, we can and should ask him to give us wisdom (James 1:5)

For the unbeliever-

- The gospel and Jesus Christ are the pinnacle of God's wisdom.
 - Repentance and trusting in Christ are your hope for escaping sin and its eternal consequences.
 - Fear him with a holy reverence, as this is the beginning of true wisdom.
 - Human ideas for salvation and peace will fail; trust and obey God's wisdom.

God's Goodness

Definitions

- *The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all God is and does is worthy of approval. -Grudem*
- *(1) what He is as to inward goodness of character (immanent goodness), namely holiness, truth and love; (2) what he is in manifestation of that good character (emanative, or transitive goodness), namely righteous, faithful and merciful. -Culver*
- *When we say God is good, we evaluate God's conduct on the basis of his own revelation. God is both supremely good and the ultimate standard of goodness. -Frame*
- *God's goodness is that he is the perfect sum, source, and standard (for himself and his creatures) of that which is wholesome (conducive to well-being), virtuous, beneficial and beautiful. -MacArthur and Mayhue*

Biblical Support for God's Goodness

God's general goodness. Psalm 100:5; Psalm 106:1; Psalm 107:1; Luke 18:19; 1 Chronicles 16:34.

All that comes from God is good. Genesis 1:31; Psalm 139:14-15

His providence in our lives is good. See teaching on providence. Ecclesiastes 9:9-10

His laws are good. Psalm 119:2-3; 15-16; 18-20; 127-103; 175-176; Gal 3:24-26; James 2:8

God's goodness is expressed in being our Savior. Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6; Ephesians 2:8-9

God's goodness is expressed in his common grace. Psalm 145:15-16; Psalm 136:25; Psalm 145:9; Matthew 5:44-45

God restrains sin. Gen 4:15; Gen 11:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; Job

God restrains his wrath. Matthew 19:8; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 3:25

God gives temporal blessings to all. Romans 13:4; Genesis 39:5

Application

For the Christian-

- Meditate on the goodness of God should lead us to humility and thanksgiving.
- We seek to imitate God in his goodness. Galatians 6:9-10
- We should be slow to complain and check our motivations considering God's goodness to us in all its varied facets.
- Since God is good, we should strive to repent quickly when we do sin.

For the unbeliever-

- God's goodness and patience are designed to lead you to repentance faith in Christ as the only acceptable response to that goodness.