

Character and Attributes of God
Welcome to Harvest Community Church
Series: He IS
Text: Romans 1:20

God desires for us to know Him. He wants us to know Him correctly and intimately. Many people have a wrong view of God. Some see Him as a vengeful dictator and live in fear of Him, others as a soft and cuddly grandfather.

How we view God affects everything about our life. Our desires, motives, choices, words, attitudes, self-esteem and actions are all influenced by our perception of God. Perception is not reality. Perception is our version of reality. Truth is what is real.

God is completely trustworthy, but you will only trust Him to the degree that you know Him. Knowing the truth about His character will transform every situation and our life. **John 8:32**

- ❖ God is never changing. This is known as His immutability. It is impossible for God to change. The influences that cause change in our life have no effect on God.
Hebrews 6:17-18, Malachi 3:6a Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17

God will never grow stronger or weaker. His wisdom and knowledge will never decrease or increase. He does not have mood swings and life's uncertainties never move Him. He IS, the Rock of ages. Because He never changes, He is always reliable, dependable and consistent. This is comforting and familiar. He is always stable.

God's unchanging purpose gives us eternal significance. He is absolutely absolute. Because He never changes His counsel never changes. **Psalms 18:30** His counsel never changes because His word always stays the same. **Isaiah 40:8**
Same-ness is not boring, it is consistent, stable and dependable.

Same-ness is the characteristic that separates the Creator from the created – God is always being, we are always becoming. **HE IS**. He is our anchor and our one constant.

- ❖ God is sovereign. There is no higher authority or ruler in the universe.
1 Chronicles 29:11-12 (NIV)

Nothing occurs without His permission. Every boundary and scientific law is established by Him. God directs people and circumstances, world and local events. **Daniel 2:21**

We must remember that God is at work in all areas of life, we can make plans, but God's plan will prevail. **Proverbs 19:21, Psalm 37:23**

- ❖ God is holy. **Exodus 15:11, Psalm 96:9 (NIV), Proverbs 9:10, 1 Peter 1:15-16**

God's character is perfect in every way. His moral excellence is the highest standard of integrity and ethical purity. Recognizing the Lord's holiness will change the way we worship. We will stand in awe of Him with the fear of the Lord and a respect for His greatness and authority. We have been set apart by God to be holy. The holiness of God is reflected in His purity. **1 John 1:5, Revelation 21:23, John 1:4** There is no mixture with God only perfection. This is why it is called the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

- ❖ God is truth. Because He is we can believe what He says and live what He says.
John 18:37-38, John 8:31-32

Our God is absolute truth. He is not only truth but the source of all truth. Our God who is all knowing and ever present has total understanding of what is real, right and true. Whatever He says is completely accurate. Whatever He says will be fulfilled. Jesus prayed that we would know the truth. **John 17:17** Jesus didn't just know truth, He IS truth.

He teaches us truth through the word of truth. **John 14:16-17** God is the foundation of truth in a society of relativism. Truth is found by those who seek it. **Psalm 86:11**

- ❖ God is righteous. **Psalm 145:17, Psalm 71:19** God is right in every sense of the word, morally and in being. There is nothing situational about who He is because He IS, I AM. God's standards do not change.

His laws are a reflection of His righteous nature. The only way we are made right is through God's Son, Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:21** Every person will be held accountable according to God's righteous standards. Whose are you following? **Psalm 5:12**

- ❖ God is just. He cannot be bribed or corrupted in any way. He cannot be moved or swayed to move from His purity and righteousness. He is completely right in all His judgements.
Jeremiah 17:10, Revelation 15:3, 1 Peter 3:18, Psalm 19:9-10

Justice is a pillar of society. True justice makes sure that the innocent are vindicated and rewarded and that the guilty are punished. Since God is righteous He is completely just - because of this you cannot manipulate Him. **2 Timothy 4:8**

He judges us by our heart not our actions. **Proverbs 23:7a, 1 Samuel 16:7, Matthew 5:28, Ecclesiastes 12:14**

God is both just and fair. **Ezekiel 33:17-20** Many times we confuse God's fairness with equality. God is not a respecter of persons yet many need more grace and mercy. Remember, God is just, so what we do in this life will matter for eternity.

- ❖ God is Love. This means He is unconditionally committed to our well being. God is not just the essence of love, He is love. **1 John 4:16, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

God's love is unconditional. Do not confuse love with salvation, which is conditional. His love is not based on how good we are or what we do to please Him.

He loves us because He is God. **Psalm 100:5(NIV), Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10**
His love does not cease because of disappointment or a change of mind. **Romans 8:37-39**

- ❖ God is merciful. His very nature desires to relieve us of the self-imposed misery and stress we experience because of our sin. **Psalm 103:8, James 5:11**

God cares about the things that we are going through – this extends to forgiveness and healing. God's mercy flows to those who show mercy to others. **Matthew 5:7**
Matthew 6:15 As children of God we have unrestricted access to His goodness. Out of His great compassion God gives us blessings we do not deserve. **Hebrews 4:16**

- ❖ God is faithful. **Psalm 89:8**

He is faithful in every way. Faithfulness is at the heart of all God does. His truthfulness, holiness, love and righteousness ensure that He will always be faithful. God is incapable of being anything else. **2 Timothy 2:12-13**

Things that God cannot do

He cannot lie
He cannot sin
He cannot be unfaithful

If God were unfaithful, He would cease to be God. That is why this is a huge deal in our relationship with Him. God is faithful to protect us from temptation and the devil.

1 Corinthians 10:13 God is faithful to forgive even when we sin if we will confess.
1 John 1:9

God is faithful to fulfill His promises to us. **2 Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 10:23**
HE IS wholly trustworthy and reliable. **1 Peter 4:19**