



Sound Doctrine: Applying Core Beliefs to Everyday Life Theology Proper: Who is our God? (Romans 11:36)

- After establishing the Bible as the authoritative, God-breathed, and sufficient source of truth, now we can begin to gather the instruction about the major doctrines of truth for our faith. First on the list is Theology Proper which looks at the existence, nature, attributes and works of God Himself.
- Romans 11:36 presents a succinct doxology of praise about God: *“for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”* Everything comes “from” our “all things” God, continues “through” Him and is carried out “for” Him.
- We worship and serve a R.E.A.L. God and there are four major ways God has revealed Himself to us in the Scriptures:

R is for God’s reality (He exists and is unique)

- God exists and there are at least seven compelling signs of His existence.
 - 1) The sign of communion declares God’s existence (God boldly proclaims He exists in His Scriptures – Isa. 44:8)
 - 2) The sign of creation declares God’s existence (God’s creative design points to a Designer – Rom. 1:21)
 - 3) The sign of common grace declares God’s existence (God is good in how He cares for His creation – Ps. 145:9; Matt. 5:45; Acts 14:16)
 - 4) The sign of chastening declares God’s existence (God brings consequences and judgment upon His creation which is noticed by unbelievers (like Pharaoh-Ex. 12:21-33) and people see the effects of what God has “subjected to futility” (Rom. 8:20-21 – natural disasters, etc.)
 - 5) The sign of conscience declares God’s existence (Everyone has an internal awareness of right and wrong (RRom. 1:20; 2:14-15) and a sense of God inside (Rom. 1:19; Ecc. 3:11)
 - 6) The sign of conversion declares God’s existence (The collective good of transformed sinners upon marriage, family and society proclaims God produces good – Ps. 96:3)
 - 7) The sign of Christ Jesus declares God’s existence (Jesus is the ultimate evidence of God in His incarnation displaying God – Jn. 14:9b; Heb. 1:1-2)
- God is exclusively God (Isa. 45:5; John 17:3) and all other gods are false (Ps. 115:4-8)

E is for God’s essence (He is a Triune God)

- God reveals Himself as one God who exists in three co-equal and co-eternal Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*this truth about God will be the topic for next week’s message*)

A is for God’s attributes (He exhibits perfect character and works)

- The incommunicable attributes we do not share with God are:
 - Independence (the quality of being self-sufficient and self-existent) – Rom. 11:36

- Immutability (the quality of being unchanging) – God is forever the same and His purposes never change (Isa. 46:10), His word never changes (Ps. 119:89), and His attributes never change (Mal. 3:6)
- Infinity (the quality of being without limits) – God has no limits in perfection or excellence (Ps. 18:30; Dt. 32:4) or in fullness (Ps. 145:3; Isa. 40:25-31)
- Eternal (the quality of being infinite in duration) – God is timeless having no beginning or end (Dt. 33:27) and is simultaneously first and last (Isa. 41:4)
- Immensity (the quality of being spatially limitless) – God is without measurable dimensions (1 Kings 8:27) and cannot be contained (Acts 7:48-49). He is transcendent
- Omnipresence (the quality of being everywhere present) – God can be everywhere at once (Ps. 139:7-10)
- Omniscience (the quality of knowing everything) – God knows everything comprehensively (Job 37:16), completely (Ps. 147:5), independently (Isa. 40:13-14), simultaneously (Acts 15:18), and innately (Isa 65:24)
- Omnipotence (the quality of being all-powerful) – God has the skill and strength to do anything (Dan. 4:35; Job 42:2)
- Perfection (the quality of being perfect) – God is the sum total of all conceivable perfections (Ps. 145:3)
- Sovereignty (the quality of being supreme and in control) – God is supreme in position above all (Dt. 10:14), in authority of all creatures and things (1 Chron. 29:12) and in purpose as His will providentially bring to pass all He has decided to will and do (Eph. 1:11)
- Creator (the quality of creating everything that exists) – God is the “Maker of all things” (Isa. 44:24) and He spoke it all into existence (Rom. 4:17)
- The communicable attributes we share with God are:
 - Life (the quality of being alive) – God is alive like no one else (John 15:26) and is the source of all creaturely physical life (A. 17:25) and spiritual life (1 Pet 1:3)
 - Unity (the quality of being one in number and parts) – God is one divine nature, not three gods (Deut 6:4) and one in simplicity (John 4:24 – having no essential parts like humans)
 - Spirit (the quality of being indivisible) – God’s essence cannot be observed by natural sense (Col. 1:15-16; 1 Tim. 6:17) as He is an unseen God (Dt. 4:12).
 - Truthfulness (the quality of being true) – God is true and genuine in nature (Jn 17:3), words (Jn 17:17), and works (Ps. 33:4)
 - Faithfulness (the quality of being reliable and loyal) – God is totally reliable in making and keeping promises (Num. 23:19; Heb. 10:23) and loyal to His covenant people (Dt. 7:9; 1 Cor. 1:9). He cannot deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13)
 - Wisdom (the quality of know-how) – God is all-wise (1 Tim. 1:17) and is the dispenser of wisdom (Pr. 2:6, 9-10)
 - Holiness (the quality of being set apart) – God is uniquely set apart from the universe (Isa. 57:15); morally set apart from sin and is the standard of all holiness (1 Pet 1:16)
 - Righteousness & Justice (the quality of being right and fair) – God is righteous in character and actions (Dan. 9:7; Ps. 145:7) and He is just in exacting penalties and rewarding good (Neh. 9:32-34; Rom. 2:6). He is never partial (Dt. 10:17)
 - Goodness (the quality of being and doing good) – God is qualitatively and actively good (Nah. 1:7; Ps. 119:68), creates only good (Gen. 2:18) and is good to all (Ps. 145:9)
 - Love (the quality of affectionate caring) – God is love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16) is He love the world generally (Matt. 5:44-45) and sacrificially (John 3:16), loves believers redemptively (Dt. 7:8, 13; Eph. 1:5) and love Himself preeminently (Jn 3:35; 14:31).

- Hatred (the quality of reacting against sin and sinners) – Because God is holy, He has an extreme dislike for and opposition toward sinners and their sins (Ps. 5:5; 11:5). This hatred is displayed passively (Rom. 1:18) and actively in judgment (Rev. 14:19)
- Grace (the quality of exercising undeserved favor) – God is “the God of all grace” (1 Pet 5:10) is provided through Christ (Jn 1:14). His favor is given to save sinners, maintain salvation, enable believers to pursue God’s will, endure tough circumstances and serve with spiritual gifts.
- Mercy (the quality of showing compassion) – God shows compassion toward the guilty (Neh. 9:7) and those who are suffering (Ps. 103:8-18)
- Long-suffering (the quality of being patient) – God is patient with His people (Ps. 86:14-17; and with the unsaved (Rom. 2:24; 2 Pet 3:9).
- God also reveals His Himself through His Old Testament names (Elohim, Adonai, Yahweh, and all the compound names from El forms, Elohim forms, and Yahweh forms, 22 names in all). Other names include Rock, Fortress; Maker; King; Savior; Redeemer; Judge; Shield: Judge; Strength; Portion; the Angel of the Lord (theophany). The New Testament names are God, Lord, and Jesus Christ with many other names for our Lord and Savior.

L is for God’s loftiness (He is worthy of our highest and best)

- Romans 11:36 summarizes our “*all things*” God.
 - He is the provider of all things (“*from Him*”)
 - He is the planner of all things (“*through Him*”)
 - He is the point of all things (“*to Him*”)
- The final word “*to Him be the glory forever. Amen*” sums up how we need to honor God. We do this with our wholehearted love, full trust, faithful service, active proclamation, passionate and accurate worship of our all-deserving God.