

**Introduction**

- A divine attribute is something true about God – whatever God has in any way revealed as being true of himself. (A. W. Tozer)
- God's attributes are not to be confused with human characteristics or traits. (His attributes do not change and they do not contradict each other.)
- Several systems have been devised to classify God's attributes. The most common one speaks of "incommunicable" and "communicable" attributes.

**Harmony (unity) of God's Attributes**

- All of God's attributes define one another. (God is **powerful** and God is **infinite**; therefore his power is infinite, it has no limits. God is also **immutable**, therefore his power cannot vary or change.)
- God never expresses certain attributes at the expense of others. (God is **just** and God is **merciful**; God is **one** and God is **triune** [three in one].)
- Maintaining the unity of God's attributes is essential in the study of His character. Considering his attributes independently of each other can lead to unbalanced idolatrous conceptions of God. (An example would be focusing only on God's **love**.)

**Incommunicable Attributes**

- Only God has these attributes. God, and only God, is **eternal, self-existent, immutable, omnipresent, and infinite**. Incommunicable attributes cannot be transferred or shared – they are unique to God and cannot be attributes of humans beings.

**Communicable Attributes**

- These attributes are shared by people (people who have been created in the image of God). God is **loving, good, merciful, faithful, and wise**. These attributes are infinite in God, but are found at least in partial form in humans.

**Remember these things**

- God, being infinite, must possess attributes about which we can know nothing.
- The divine attributes are qualities of the entire Godhead. Jesus is a model of God's attributes.

**Selected Scriptures**

**GEN. 18:25** Shall not the **Judge**... do what is **just**?

**ROM. 11:22** Note the **kindness** and **severity** of God.

**REV. 4:8** The Lord God is **Holy... Almighty... Eternal...**

**References**

*The Knowledge of the Holy* by A. W. Tozer     *KNOWING GOD* by J. I. Packer  
*Christian Theology* by Millard J. Erickson     *The ESV Study Bible*  
*Everyone's a Theologian* by R. C. Sproul     *Attributes of God* Rose Publishing