



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

24 MARCH 2019

**“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.”**
ISAIAH 55:1



The DIFFERENCE & DISTANCE between God and Man

(Isa 55: 8 - 9)

HENRY WONG | 24 MARCH 2019



*“When I look at you,
I see”*





ICE
BREAKER

What do you think delights God
above everything else?

*“God is delighted with our obedience
when it is the fruit of our delight in him.
Our obedience is God’s pleasure when it
proves that God is our treasure.”*

- John Piper



Isa 1 - 35

Prophetic

CONDEMNATION

Isa 36-39

Historic

CONFISCATION

Isa 40-66

Messianic

CONSOLATION



The DIFFERENCE & DISTANCE between God and Man

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55: 8-9

“You may conclude that it is not intended that you should understand the infinite, for you are told that His thoughts and ways are far above you; but you are required to seek Him while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near.”



Charles Spurgeon



Thoughts + Ways = Nature
& Characteristics

Nature and Characteristics

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



Attributes that we share with God are called

communicable attributes. That which can be communicated to the creature albeit in a finite way.

Just as there are attributes of God that can be communicated to man, and in some sense shared; there are what theologians call **incommunicable attributes.**

These are attributes of God , the Creator,

- *that are not shared with creatures nor can be shared with creatures.*
- *that God is completely different from man.*



Why are the Communicable & Incommunicable Attributes of God important ?

Because on the one hand, we need to understand that God is unique and greater than we are, yet, on the other hand, God desired to create beings that share aspects of His nature.

The incommunicable attributes of God are those that belong to God alone (omniscience, transcendence, etc.,) where the communicable attributes of God are those that we can also possess (knowledge, love, mercy, etc.,).

However, we have to realize that all of our discussions about God's attributes are going to ultimately be inadequate. God is, after all, infinite in His perfections. Though we can understand the concept of omnipresence, we cannot experience it. We can understand the concept of transcendence, but we cannot experience it.

Therefore, our understanding of God and His attributes is woefully insufficient. *But that doesn't mean we can't know things about Him.*



He is infinite;

- *immeasurably great*
- *unlimited or unmeasurable in extent of space, duration of time*

we are finite.

- *having bounds or limits; measurable*
- *subject to limitations or conditions, as of space, time, circumstances, or the laws of nature:*



Incommunicable Attributes of God

- belong to God alone

1.HOLINESS

Holiness is God's perfection of character, without flaw , without sin, but with complete goodness, justice, mercy, love, etc.

2. IMMUTABILITY

God's nature does not change in any way. has always been and will always be exactly the same (Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God – Psa 90:2)

3. INFINITE

God is without measure or limit in scope or duration.

There are no constraints upon Him from outside of Himself that would restrict him in His scope or duration

*Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the
everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends
of the earth.
He will not grow tired or
weary,
and His understanding no
one can fathom Isa 40:28*

4. OMNIPOTENCE

God is capable of performing anything He desires.



I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’ Isa 46:10

5. OMNIPRESENCE

God is in all places and in all dimensions simultaneously. Nothing in the universe exists outside the presence of God

“Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the Lord.

“Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord. Jer 23:24

6. OMNISCIENCE



God has perfect, complete knowledge. He never learns, nor does He forget. He knows all things that exist and all things that could have existed. God cannot grow in knowledge, understanding, or wisdom

If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. *1 John 3:20*

7. SELF-EXISTENCE, NON-CONTINGENCY

God is not dependent upon anything else for His existence. He is uncaused--the infinite Being who has always existed

Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.
Psalm 93:2

7. SELF-SUFFICIENCY

*God needs nothing outside of Himself to maintain his existence;
therefore, He does not need us to fill a void*

But you remain the same, and your years will never end. Psa 102:27



8. SOVEREIGNTY

*God is the supreme being who answers to no one and who has the
absolute right to do with His creation as he desires*

*'I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.*

I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'
Isa 46:10

10. SPIRIT

God exists completely and sufficiently as an immaterial being without physical limitations and characteristics



11. TRANSCENDENCE

God's transcendence is the product of the relationship between God's essence and creation. God transcends space and time in that He is not dependent on them nor affected by them

12. UNIQUENESS

God alone is God. There is no one like Him. No rival, no equal. He is completely "other" than all things that exist

"This is what the Lord says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Isa 44:6



Communicable Attributes of God

- *can be possessed by people*

1.GOODNESS

Being good can only be understood in relationship to God and his character. Humans can be good in relation to one another, but their standard is subjective. Therefore, true goodness is understood in light of the revelation of God in His Word. We can emulate the goodness of God, but we can never be perfectly good.



2.HATE

God hates (Psalm 5:5), and He does so righteously and with perfect judgment and knowledge. However, we often hate unrighteously and in ignorance.

3.JUSTICE

Where God always does what is perfectly right according to the law, we do not behave perfectly. We can be lawful, and in so doing we emulate the perfect justice of God.

4. KNOWLEDGE



Where God knows all things (1 John 3:20), we only know partially. Our knowledge is incomplete and always will be incomplete.

5. LOVE

God is love (1 John 4:8) and expresses His love perfectly through Jesus. Because we are touched by sin, our expression of love towards others will always be tainted. But we are still able to express it.

6. RATIONALITY

God's mind is perfectly rational since all that God possesses in knowledge and wisdom necessitates his perfect thought. We, on the other hand, are imperfectly rational. Our conclusions and deductions are not always correct. They cannot be since we are affected by sin and do not have all knowledge.

7. MERCY



Mercy is not getting what we deserve. We can exhibit mercy to others though we do not always do it properly and perfectly.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.

8. SPEECH

We can speak and communicate. This is an attribute we possess, but our communications are never perfect. An attribute of God is His speech He said "let there be light" (Genesis 1:3), and it was so. God always speaks truth, and it contains power. Our speech is not always true, nor does it contain the same creative power as God's speech.



9. TRUTHFULNESS

Truth is a quality where statements properly reflect actuality, but it is also a quality of character possessed by God. We can be truthful, but our ability to be truthful is damaged in part because of our lack of all knowledge and also because of our sin.

10. WISDOM

People are capable of expressing wisdom, which is the proper use of knowledge. But this is best done in light of scriptural revelation. We can possess wisdom but not perfectly. God, however, possesses wisdom perfectly and always makes the right decisions as well as the best ways to accomplish His decisions.



Communicable Attributes of God

***attributes we can possess and develop so
that we can delight in Him and He in us***

remember this week's

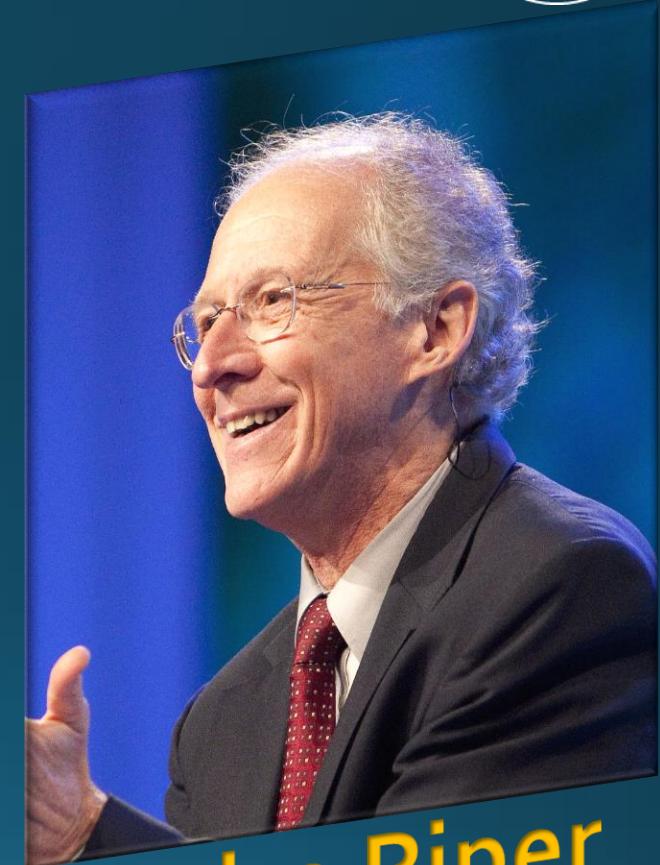
ICE
BREAKER

**What do you think delights God
above everything else?**



***“God is delighted with our
obedience when it is the fruit
of our delight in Him.”***

***Our obedience is God’s
pleasure when it proves that
God is our treasure.”***



John Piper



Communicable Attributes of God
*attributes we can possess and develop so
that we can delight in Him and He in us*

Incommunicable Attributes of God
*attributes of our Creator God so that we
can understand and relate to Him
and He to us*



Isaiah 57:15

For this is what the high and exalted One says -
He who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place, but
also with the one who is contrite and
lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the
lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

**OBEDIENCE
HUMILITY**



Isaiah 57:15

For this is what the high and exalted One says –
He who lives forever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place, but
also with the one who is contrite and
lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”



**“IF THIS DOESN’T MOTIVATE YOU TO FIGHT
FOR HUMILITY, NOTHING WILL.**

*Our Holy God offers to dwell with you if you have a
lowly and contrite spirit.” -Francis Chan*



PRAISE

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thess 5:16-18



OBEDIENCE

But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, ...
1 Sam 15:22

PERSEVERANCE

....and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,...
Heb 12:1



We are often tossed and driv'n
On the restless sea of time.
Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine.
In that land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by



*By and by when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We will tell the story how we've overcome;
For we'll understand it better by and by*

Charles Tindley



We are often destitute
Of the things that life demands.
Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands.
We are trusting in the Lord,
And according to His Word,
We will understand it better by and by.

Trials dark on ev'ry hand,
And we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed Promised Land.
But He guides us with His eye
And we'll follow till we die.
For we'll understand it better by and by



Charles Tindley

**Temptations, hidden snares
Often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
for some thoughtless word or deed.
And we wonder why the test,
When we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by**



Charles Tindley

***By and by when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We will tell the story how we've overcome;
For we'll understand it better by and by.***



PRAISE
OBEDIENCE
PERSEVERANCE

