

## Doctrine of God: Part 1 – God the Father

There is only one living and true God who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal being. He is the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Ruler of His created universe. God reigns over His created universe with providential care. He is all powerful, loving, all wise and everywhere present in the universe and beyond. There are seven attributes that describe His nature and character (see E. Y. Mullins, *The Christian Religion in Its Doctrinal Expression*, pp 222-229).

1. **God is Self-existent.** God did not derive His existence from any source outside himself. He did not will himself into being but has always existed in eternity (Gen 1:1; Isa 57:15).
2. **God is Immutable.** God does not change. His nature, character, and purposes are fixed and timeless (Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8). Changes are sometimes perceived when we change, especially as in repentance when His judgment is averted. The change is with us, not with God (Jon 3:9-10; Zech 1:3)
3. **God is Omnipresent.** God is not confined to any part of the universe but his presence and power is available at every point in time and space. There is no place in the universe that we can go where God is not also there (Ps 139:7-12).
4. **God is Superior to the Known Universe.** He called the universe into existence (Gen 1:31) Not only is He everywhere present in the seen universe, but also He inhabits the unseen spiritual world that exists apart from the physical universe (Is 57:15; Jn 4:24). Human ideas and concepts cannot describe or contain Him (Rom 11:33-36; Jn 21:25).
5. **God is Eternal.** The past, present and future all are known by Him (Ex 3:14; Dt 33:24; Ps 90:4; Is 57:15; 2 Pet 3:8; Rev 1:8). This attribute of God describes his relationship with time. Jesus statement in Revelation 1:8 “I am *alpha* and *omega*, the beginning and the ending suggest that God is above time and see all of it at once. He knows from where we have come and where we are going.
6. **God is Omniscient.** God possesses all knowledge (Job 38:1-39:30). Because He is not bound by time and space He knows everything simultaneously so that His foreknowledge of an event does not mean that He predetermined the event (Rom 8:28). When we respond to His love we then are predestined to be remade in the image of His son (Rom 8:29-30).
7. **God is Omnipotent.** God possesses all power in both the seen and unseen worlds so that He is able to keep us by that power (Nahum 1:3; Isa 40:25-26; Rom 8:33-39). He can do anything consistent with His nature, character and purposes (Num 23:19). Jesus had all power (Mt 28:18) because God gave it to Him.

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