



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Character of God” Series Lesson 8 – September 18, 2016

Communicable Attribute of Spirituality

I. Lesson Starters:

Last week we finished up looking at the Incommunicable attributes with Unity. God is always the same and ***EVERYTHING HE DOES IS CONSISTENT WITH ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES***. The ***Doctrine of the Unity of God*** should caution us against attempting to single out any one attribute of God as more important than all of the others. Today we will start our review of ***Communicable attributes***, which will be broken into five categories. These are the attributes that are “more shared” with us. God’s communicable attributes are ones that we should desire and strive to imitate in our own lives. This lesson will cover the attribute of Spirituality.

II. Summary of God’s Incommunicable Attributes:

- Independence, Immutability, Eternity, Omnipresence, Unity

III. Summary of God’s Communicable Attributes:

- Attributes Describing God’s Being
 - *Spirituality, Invisibility*
- Mental Attributes
 - *Knowledge (Omniscience), Wisdom, Truthfulness (Faithfulness)*
- Moral Attributes
 - *Goodness, Love, Mercy, Holiness, Peace, Righteousness, Jealousy, Wrath*
- Attributes of Purpose
 - *Will, Freedom, Omnipotence (Sovereignty)*
- Summary Attributes
 - *Perfection, Blessedness, Beauty, Glory*

IV. Communicable Attribute of Spirituality

John 4:23-24

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

This discussion is about the location a person should worship with the Samaritan woman. No physical location is necessary to worship our God, since He himself is spirit. Again from other lessons, God is not limited to spatial dimensions or locations (Omnipresence). God does not have size or dimensions, even infinite ones.

No place in the universe can surround or contain him (1 Kings 8:27).

Exodus 20:4-6

4 You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments

- God forbids his people to think of His very Being as similar to anything else in the physical creation, not just about worshipping something other than him
- God’s being is different from everything else we know and understand in the physical world. This would misrepresent Him or limit Him by using a created item to be “him”

- While each part of creation reflects God in some small way, to picture God in a form or mode of being that is anything like his creation is misleading and dishonoring.

God is a jealous God to protect His own honor, holiness and his very Being. He wishes people to think of Him as he is, not what they want to make of him. God is angered when his excellence is diminished or His character is falsely represented.

God does not have a physical body, made of any kind of matter like the rest of creation or some type of energy. God's being is also not exactly like "our spirit" since that is also a "created thing". Our spirits seem to be able to exist only in one place at one time, the exact opposite of Omnipresence (think back to that lesson about being everywhere at all times through all of eternity).

God's Spirit is unlike anything we know in creation:

God's spirituality means that God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily physical senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence.

So you might ask, why is this a "Communicable Attribute"? Certain parts are supportable for an incommunicable attribute, but God has created in us a spirit to worship and unite with Him:

Philippians 3:3

3 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:17

¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit

- God gave us spirits to worship him
- Holy spirit joins to bear witness to our adoption in God's family
- Pass into the Lord's presence when we die in a spirit form
- There is obvious communication from God to us in a spiritual nature, while not in all respects

This is the main reason why we are studying Spirituality under the Communicable Attributes. We are to think and treat God as he desires in all of His glory, holiness and Spirit.

V. Group Questions:

1. Before this lesson, have you thought of God as a "spirit Being" pretty much like your own spirit?
2. The Exodus scripture is typically thought of as not to worship anything but God himself, but have you correlated it to the concept of "misleading and dishonoring" to God's very image instead of focusing on the worship part?
3. Why is God jealous and angered in Exodus 24? Integrate our previous lessons about God's attributes, how could this jealousy and anger be one in the same in perfect unity with love?
4. In John 4:24, there seems to be a similarity discussed between our spirit and God's spirit; think through this and discuss similarities? What are the differences in God's spirit and our own?
5. Do you agree that God's attribute of Spirituality is "communicable"? In other words, an attribute "shared" with us from God, where we have the ability to imitate in our own lives?