

We will now begin the third lecture on systematic theology. /Today we will study the universal attributes of God.

/B. Universal attributes. /God's universal attributes are ones that can be similarly found in man. /However, the attributes of man are limited. /Compared to God's infinite and complete attributes, the attributes of man are insecure.

/1. Knowledge of God. /The knowledge of God indicates that God knows himself through distinct ways, /and God knows the possibilities of what can happen as well as what actually happens. /God knows everything, which can be defined as the completeness of God.

/God possesses this knowledge, /and God does not obtain knowledge from external things. /The knowledge of God is complete /and omniscient.

/God knows all things of the past, present, and future, /and not only does God know things that exist, /but God knows the possibilities of all things. /1 Kings 8:28 /Psalm 139:1-16 /Isaiah 46:10 /Acts 15:18 /John 21:17.

/2. Wisdom of God. /Wisdom is God's virtue, /in which God establishes a purpose of highest value, /and chooses the best way for the realization of the purpose. /God uses all things for the ultimate purpose in that he would be glorified. /Romans 11:33 /1 Corinthians 2:7 /Ephesians 1:6 /Colossians 1:16.

/3. Goodness of God. /God always works in ways that please him. /God is inherently good. /God is completely good without any flaws. /God's goodness is shown through actions.

/This means that God's goodness is shown through good deeds towards others. /God's goodness is a divine completeness that stimulates oneself /to treat all of creation with kindness and generosity. /Psalm 36:6 /Psalm 145:8, 9 /Matthew 5:45 /Acts 14:17.

/4. Love of God. /Love comes from liking and treating others valuably, /and from sacrificing oneself for the benefit of others. /God is pleased when he sees man, the reflection of his completeness and image, through the attribute of love.

/a. Grace. /God shows love to those who do not have merits or the right to be loved. /God forgave the sins of man, and God's great love is the demonstration of his forgiveness. /Ephesians 1:6, 7 /Ephesians 2:7-9 /Titus 2:11.

/b. Mercy and compassion. /God has pity on his creation, which is in a state of misery. /God's love removes misery from lives burdened with sin. /We call this God's mercy and compassion. /Luke 1:54 /Romans 15:9 /Romans 9:16 /Ephesians 2:4.

/c. Patience. /God waits for the time of judgment. /God is patient and tolerant, which demonstrates God's love in saving sinners who are indifferent to God's instructions and

warnings. /God encourages repentance. /Romans 2:4 /Romans 9:22 /2 Peter 3:15. /d. Kindness. /Matthew 6:26-28.

/5. Holiness of God. /God is without sin and he is pure. /God is full of honor and glory. / This means that God is set apart or separate. /God is absolutely separate from all of creation. /God is complete in that he transcends all of creation with his boundless majesty. /Exodus 15:11.

/God is separate from moral impurities and sin. /God is morally perfect. /Man deeply recognizes his sins when he stands before the holy God. /Job 34:10 /Isaiah 6:5 /Habakkuk 1:13.

/6. Justice of God. /God is right and upright in all things. /God's justice indicates God's preservation of his holy being amid all things that go against his holiness. /God morally reigns over this world with his justice.

/Then, God rewards those who obey him. /God punishes those who disobey him. /Psalm 99:4 /Isaiah 33:22 /Romans 1:32. /God gives both rewards and punishments.

/7. Veracity of God. /God is true because he exists internally. /God is also true regarding his revelation. /God is also true regarding his relationships with his people.

/God's true attribute indicates divine perfection. /God is the true God. /God is faithful in fulfilling his promises. /Numbers 23:19 /1 Corinthians 1:9 /2 Timothy 2:13.

/8. Sovereignty of God. /The sovereignty of God can be separated into God's sovereign will and God's sovereign power.

/a. God's sovereign will. /God's will is revealed as the ultimate cause of creation. /Ephesians 1:11 /Revelation 4:11 /Deuteronomy 29:29.

/God carries out all things according to his will. /God acts according to his will regarding creation and providence. /1 Samuel 2:6-7. /Jesus' incarnation and suffering took place according to God's will. /Luke 22:42. /God also acts according to his will regarding his work in saving humanity. /Romans 9:15, 16 /James 1:18.

/b. God's sovereign power. /God has the power to do all that he wishes. /God's sovereign power refers to power that executes his will. /The Bible teaches that there is something God cannot do. /God cannot lie. /God cannot sin. /God cannot deny himself. /Numbers 23:19 /1 Samuel 15:29 /2 Timothy 2:13 /James 1:13.

/Therefore, God can fulfill everything that he plans to, according to his will. /God can do everything if he wants to. /Genesis 18:14 /Jeremiah 32:27 /Matthew 3:9 /Matthew 26:53.

/IV. The Trinity. /A. A general contemplation on the doctrine of the Trinity.

/1. Christian conception of God. /There are many different religions in this world, and each religion has its own conception of God. /The Christian conception of God is **the**

Trinity God.

/The Trinity God is personal, and the Trinity reveals the God of infinite love and wisdom. /The doctrine of the Trinity has not been revealed to nature, and hence, man cannot recognize the Trinity with his reason. /Man can only know the Trinity through God's revelation alone.

/“The Trinity God” is in its essence one, /but there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that exist within the one being. /The Trinity is three persons.

/This means that “three persons” exist in God who is one. /There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. /Yet, they are not three different beings, but are “one” and of one essence. /Genesis 1:26 /Isaiah 6:8 /Matthew 3:16, 17 /Matthew 28:19 /1 Corinthians 12:4-6 /2 Corinthians 13:13.

/a. There are three persons in one God. /God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit exist in God who is one, and they are eternally unchanging. /However, the three persons are not three different Gods.

/One person of the Trinity also does not appear in three different ways at different times. /The three persons are equal in essence, but the first person is known as the Father, the second person the Son, and the third person the Holy Spirit in that order.

/(1) The relationship between God the Father and God the Son. /The Father and the Son forever maintains the relationship of a father and a son. /God the Father gives commands to God the Son, and God the Son obeys God the Father. /God the Father sent God the Son to this earth. /John 3:16 /Galatians 4:4.

/God the Father speaks to God the Son. /The Father gives the Son all that he needs for his work. /Matthew 28:18 /John 5:22 /John 11:42.

/(2) The relationship between the Holy Spirit and God the Father and God the Son. /The Holy Spirit is eternally obedient to God the Father and God the Son. /God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to this world through God the Son. /John 14:26. /The Holy Spirit also fulfilled the will of the Father and the Son. /John 16:14, 15.

/(3) The personal relationships within the Trinity. /The three persons of the Trinity completely love one another and rejoice in one another. /Therefore, God is the God of love, and God is satisfied in himself. /1 John 4:8. /The Trinity God is a community of love that cooperates with and serves one another. /Each person of the Trinity have shared work in their ministry.

/For example, God the Father planned creation, /God the Son created the entire universe with his word, /and the Holy Spirit helped with his power and presence.

/God the Father chose the lives of sinners before the creation of the world /in order that

he might save them, /Ephesians 1:4, /and God the Son redeemed sinners, /Ephesians 1:7. /The Holy Spirit moves chosen believers to repent and believe in the gospel. /Ephesians 1:13. /The Holy Spirit also helps the spirits of us believers grow. /Philippians 2:12.

/b. Each of the three persons are fully God. /God the Father is fully God. /Matthew 7:21 /Galatians 1:1. /God the Son of fully God. /John 20:28 /Romans 9:5 /Colossians 2:9 /Hebrews 1:8-10.

/The Holy Spirit is also fully God. /Mark 3:29 /John 15:26 /Acts 5:4, 5. /One person of the Trinity is not superior to the others or lacking than the others. /The three persons eternally share God's complete attributes with one another.

/c. The three persons are one God. /God is one being. /God is one being in essence. /God is not made up of several parts. /God cannot be separated.

/God is one being, and he has three distinct persons. /The three persons coexist eternally as one being. /Deuteronomy 6:4.

/2. Biblical evidence of the doctrine of the Trinity.

/a. Evidence in the Old Testament. /(1) God spoke of himself in the plural form. /Genesis 1:26 /Genesis 11:7. /(2) The LORD separates himself from the LORD. /Genesis 19:24 /Hosea 1:7 /Matthew 22:44.

/(3) God speaks of one Son. /Psalm 2:7 /Romans 1:4.

/(4) God says that he presides in the great assembly of God. /Psalm 82:1.

/(5) The Holy Spirit is distinguished from God. /Genesis 6:3 /Numbers 27:18.

/(6) The angel of the LORD is portrayed as a divine being. /Genesis 16:7-13 /Genesis 18:1. /(7) The Spirit of God is clearly described as having a distinct personality. /Isaiah 48:16 /Isaiah 63:10. /(8) The Trinity is clearly revealed. /Isaiah 61:1 /Isaiah 63:9, 10.

/b. Evidence in the New Testament. /(1) The Trinity is revealed more clearly in the New Testament than the Old Testament. /When Jesus baptized, /God the Father spoke from heaven /and the Holy Spirit descended on God the Son like a dove. /Luke 3:21, 22.

/In the Great Commission, Jesus told the disciples to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. /Matthew 28:19. /The Trinity is spoken of in Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit. /John 14:26. /The ministry of the Trinity is also revealed. /1 Corinthians 12:4-6. /The Trinity is revealed in the benediction of the apostles. /2 Corinthians 13:13.

/(2) The fulfillment of the incarnation of God the Son. /John 1:14. /(3) The fulfillment of the coming of the Holy Spirit. /Acts 2:1-4.

/3. False views of the doctrine of the Trinity.

/a. Tritheism. /This view claims that the three persons of the Trinity are separate divine

beings. /This view asserts that there are three distinct gods.

/b. Modalism. /Followers of Sabellius saw the three persons of the Trinity as three different forms of God that appeared differently according to the place and time. /This view also asserts that one God appeared as God the Father at creation and when he gave the law, /appeared as God the Son in Christ's incarnation and ministry of redemption, /and appeared as the Holy Spirit when believers are born again and also in the ministry of sanctification.

/c. Unitarianism. /Paul of Samosata /and Socinianism made the following claims. /They claim that the Son is God. /They also say that Jesus is man. They deny the divinity of Jesus. /They claim that the Holy Spirit is a divine force. /They acknowledge only the one person of God the Father. /These three views are all false views.

/B. Separate contemplations of the three persons. /1. God the Father. /a. He is the source of all creation. /1 Corinthians 8:6 /Ephesians 3:14 /Hebrews 12:9 /James 1:17.

/b. He is the Father of Israel. /Deuteronomy 32:6 /Isaiah 63:16 /Malachi 1:6.

/c. He is the Father of believers. /Matthew 5:45 /Matthew 6:6 /Romans 8:15 /1 John 1:3.

/d. He is the first person of the Trinity. /John 1:14.

/e. God the Father planned creation, providence, and redemptive work. /Matthew 26:39 /Ephesians 1:3-6.

/2. God the Son. /a. He is called the Son or the Son of God. /Matthew 16:16. /He is the Son of God who came to this earth in the body of man. /Matthew 8:29 /John 1:49. /He was born through the special work of the Holy Spirit. /Luke 1:35.

/b. The eternal generation of God the Son. /The personal qualities of the Son are generated from God the Father. /This is the generation of the eternal personal relationship between God the Father and God the Son. /Psalm 2:7.

/c. The deity of God the Son. /(1) The name of God is used to call God the Son. /Isaiah 9:6 /John 1:1 /John 20:28 /Hebrews 1:8 /1 John 5:20.

/(2) God the Son has attributes of God. /Eternality. /Isaiah 9:6 /John 1:1 /Hebrews 1:11 /Revelation 1:8. /Omnipresence. /Matthew 18:20 /John 3:13.

/Omniscience. /Matthew 11:27 /John 1:49 /John 2:24 /John 21:17 /Colossians 2:3.

/Omnipotence. /Mark 5:11 /Luke 4:38 /Matthew 9:25 /John 11:43. /Immutability. /Hebrews 1:12 /Hebrews 13:8.

/(3) God the Son carries out the ministries of God. /He created. /John 1:3 /Hebrews 1:10. /Providence over all creation. /Ephesians 1:22 /Colossians 1:17. /He resurrects believers. /Philippians 3:21. /He performs miracles. /He heals the sick, /casts out demons, /and brings the dead to life. /God the Son performed these works.

/ (4) God the Son gives honor and glory to God. /John 14:1 /Hebrews 1:6.

/c. Ministry of God the Son. / (1) He worked with his words in the creation ministry. /John 1:1-3. / (2) He accomplishes redemption in the salvation ministry. /Ephesians 1:7. / (3) He completes the salvation of believers with his return. /Revelation 20:1-6.

/3. The Holy Spirit. /a. The personality of the Holy Spirit. / (1) The Holy Spirit is referred to in personal pronouns. /John 15:26 /John 16:13. / (2) The Holy Spirit is called Counselor. /Counselor also means, Mediator, Comforter, Advocate. /John 14:16 /15:26 /16:7.

/Jesus was also called Counselor. /John 14:16 /1 John 2:1. /Therefore, the personality of the Holy Spirit must be acknowledged when acknowledging the personality of Jesus.

/ (3) The Holy Spirit has personal qualities. /The Holy Spirit has intellectual activities. /John 14:26 /1 Corinthians 2:11. /The Holy Spirit also has emotional activities. /Romans 15:30 /Ephesians 4:30. /The Holy Spirit has volitional activities. /Acts 16:7 /1 Corinthians 12:11.

/ (4) The Holy Spirit has personal activities. /The Holy Spirit thinks. /Romans 8:6. /The Holy Spirit speaks. /Acts 13:2 /1 Timothy 4:1. /The Holy Spirit acts. /1 Corinthians 12:11 /John 16:13 /Romans 8:26.

/ (5) The Holy Spirit works with God the Father and God the Son. /Matthew 28:19 /2 Corinthians 13:13. /Some people deny the personality of the Holy Spirit. /Some think that the Holy Spirit is a power or influence. /However, the Bible clearly describes the personality of the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit is God.

/b. The Holy Spirit's relationship with the two persons. / (1) The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father in the name of the Son. /John 15:26. / (2) The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit, Christ's Spirit. /Romans 8:9 /Galatians 4:6. /The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

/ (3) The Holy Spirit lives in believers. /1 Corinthians 3:16 /John 16:8, 9 /John 17:17 /Romans 15:16 /2 Thessalonians 2:16.

/Here we will conclude the third lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.