

# GIC 101:

## Theology – The Study of God

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***“We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!” – EPC Essentials #1***

### God

His Attributes

His Nature - Trinity

### What is God?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”  
“Man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its **idea** of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshipper entertains high or low **thoughts** of God.” - A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 4. **What is God?**

*A. God is a Spirit, Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable in his Being, Wisdom, Power, Holiness, Justice and Truth.*

**God is (in His attributes or being) a Spirit**

**John 4:24:** “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

What is a spirit? - **Illocal** presence

Mind, emotion and will = personhood

### ***Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable***

**Psalm 90:2 , Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, 1 Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:24**

#### Infinite

- Unlimited or boundless, in time or space
- Without limit in **power**, capacity, knowledge, or excellence; boundless; immeasurably or inconceivably great; perfect; -- opposed to **finite**.
- Indefinitely large or extensive; great; vast; immense; gigantic; prodigious.

#### Eternal

- Without beginning or **end** of existence; always existing.
- Without end of existence or duration; everlasting; endless; immortal.
- Continued without intermission; perpetual; ceaseless; constant.

#### Unchangeable

- Existing at all times without change; immutable.
- Not subject or susceptible to change.
- Incapable of changing or being modified.

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### *Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable in His:*

#### Wisdom

**Psalm 147:5:** “Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.”

**Romans 16:27:** “To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”

- All Knowing – Omniscience
- Knows all real, potential and possible things.

#### Power

**Genesis 17:1**

**Revelation 19:6**

- Ability to act, regarded as latent or inherent; capacity for action or performance
- Ability, regarded as put forth or exerted; strength, force, or energy in **action**
- The exercise of a faculty; the employment of strength; the exercise of any kind of control; influence; dominion; sway; command; government.

#### Holiness

**Isaiah 57:15**

**John 17:11**

**Revelation 4:8**

- Set apart
- The state or quality of being holy;
- perfect moral integrity or purity; freedom from **sin**; sanctity; innocence

#### Justice

**Deuteronomy 32:4:** “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

- The quality of being just; conformity to the principles of righteousness in all things; strict performance of moral obligations; practical conformity to human or **divine law**; integrity in the dealings, equity; uprightness.
- Conformity to truth and reality in expressing opinions and in conduct; fair representation of facts respecting merit or demerit; honesty; fidelity; impartiality; as, the justice of a description or of a judgment; historical justice.
- The **rendering** to everyone his due or right; just treatment; requital of desert; merited reward or punishment; that which is due to one's conduct or motives.

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### Goodness

**Psalm 100:5**

**Romans 2:4**

- The quality of being good in any of its various senses; excellence; virtue; kindness; benevolence; as the goodness of character, of disposition, of conduct, etc.
- Good being - Possessing desirable qualities of being excellent; admirable; commendable; not bad, corrupt, evil, noxious, offensive, or troublesome, etc.
- **Kind**; benevolent; merciful; gracious; polite; propitious; friendly; well-disposed

### Truth

**Exodus 34:6**

**Psalm 117:2**

- Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been; or shall be.
- Fidelity; constancy; steadfastness; faithfulness.
- Speaking what is true; freedom from falsehood; veracity.
- True concerning any matter or subject, or generally on all subjects; real state of things; fact; verity; reality.
- A true thing; a verified fact; a true statement or proposition; an established principle, fixed law, or the like; as, the great truths of morals.

God is not perfect unless he – Exists!

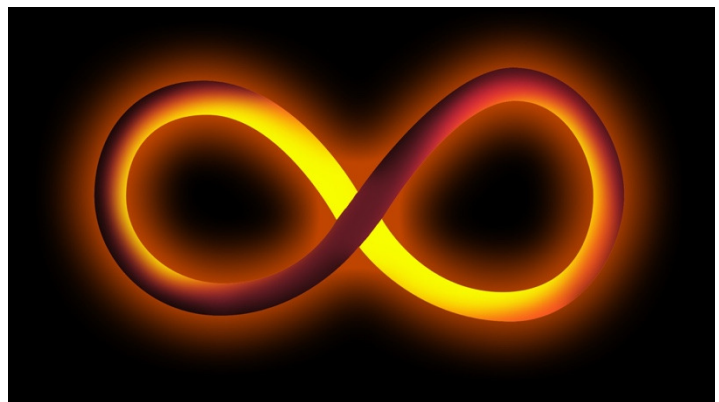
*Existence and **Reality** are within Him alone.*

*Genesis 1:1*

*Exodus 3:14*

*John 1:1-3*

*John 8:58*



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### Communicable and Incommunicable Attributes of God

The Bible tells us that mankind was created in the image and likeness of God. That means that God has shared some of His characteristics with us who bear His “image”.

God has designed the nature of all people to have qualities, that while **limited**, point to things that are true about him.

We love because God is loving. We feel because God feels. We desire justice because he is just. These qualities are known as “communicable attributes,” attributes that He shares with us—the **fingerprints** of God all over the nature of mankind.

But, the Bible also teaches us that God has qualities he does **NOT** share with us: “incommunicable attributes,” aspects of His nature that belong to Him and no one else.

**“Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me...I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior...To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike...For I am God, and there is no other, I am God, and there is none like me”**  
**(Isaiah 43:10, 46:5, 9).**

The Creator is of an entirely different nature than His creation, and altogether superior! God is not a **Man**, and never has been.

And only when we acknowledge the enormous gap between us and God can we truly begin to appreciate the greatness of the love He has for us.

Excerpt from “*Is God A Superman?*” – Godlovesmormons.com  
A sight dedicated to sharing the biblical Christ with Mormons

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### Communicable Attributes of God

#### **BELONG TO GOD & CAN BE REFLECTED IN US VIA THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- **HOLINESS:** “Your ways, O God, are holy” (Ps. 77:13; cf. Isa. 6:3; 57:15; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8).
- **WISDOM:** “...magnificent in wisdom...” (Isa. 28:29; cf. Jer. 10:12; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:2-3).
- **TRUTHFULNESS:** “...God is truthful...” (John 3:33; cf. Num. 23:19; Isa. 45:19; John 14:6).
- **LOVE:** “...His unfailing love...” (Ps. 33:5,18, 22; cf. Exod. 15:13; Pss. 13:5-6; 89:2; Rom. 8:38-39; Eph. 3:17-19; 5:1-2).
- **GOODNESS:** “...He is good...” (2 Chron. 7:3; cf. Gen. 1:31; Pss. 119:68;145:9; Mark 10:18).
- **FAITHFULNESS:** “...He is the faithful God...” (Deut. 7:9; cf. Pss. 33:4; 100:5; 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:24).
- **MERCY:** “...His mercy is great...” (2 Sam. 24:14; cf. Neh. 9:31; Dan. 9:9; Luke 1:50, 54).
- **KINDNESS:** “...He shows unfailing kindness...” (2 Sam. 22:51; cf. isa. 54:8; Jer. 9:24; Romans 11:22).
- **PATIENCE:** “...His unlimited patience...” (1 Tim. 1:16; cf. Neh. 9:30; Rom. 3:25; 2 Peter 3:15).
- **JUSTICE:** “...all His ways are just...” (Deut. 32:4; cf. Job 37:23; Psalm 99:4; Luke 18:7-8).
- **RIGHTEOUSNESS:** “...My righteousness will never fail...” (Isa. 51:6; cf. Ps. 89:14; Jer. 23:5-6; 1 Cor. 1:30).
- **WRATH:** “...expresses His wrath every day...” (Ps. 7:11; cf. Deut. 29:28; Isa. 13:13; Rom. 1:18; 5:9; 9:22; Rev. 19:15).
- **JEALOUSY:** “...a jealous God...” (Exod. 34:14; cf. Deut. 4:24; Nah. 1:2; Zech. 8:2; 2 Cor. 11:2).
- **GRACE:** “...God, gracious, and compassionate...” (Neh. 9:17; cf. Exod. 34:6-7; Isa. 26:10; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5-7).



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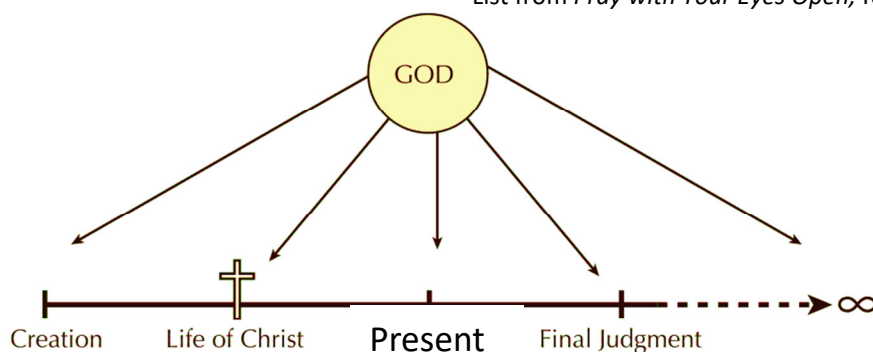
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### Incommunicable Attributes of God

#### **QUALITIES THAT BELONG TO GOD Alone**

- **INDEPENDENT:** “...He does whatever pleases Him” (Ps. 115:3; cf. John 5:26; Rom. 11:35-36).
- **INFINITE:** “...from everlasting to everlasting” (Ps. 90:1-2; cf. Ps. 33:11; 93:2; 145:13; Heb. 1:8-12).
- **ETERNAL:** “...the LORD, the Eternal God” (Gen. 21:33; cf. Neh. 9:5-6; John 8:58; Rev. 1:8).
- **INCOMPREHENSIBLE:** “...beyond our understanding” (Job 36:26; cf. Isa. 40:18-26; Matt. 11:27; Rom. 11:33-34).
- **PRE-EMINENT:** “...all things were created by Him and for Him...” (Col. 1:15-19; cf. Exod. 15:1,11, 18; Rev. 19:11-16).
- **SOVEREIGN:** “I will do all that I please...” (Isa. 46:10; cf. Ps. 135:6; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11).
- **THE ONE AND ONLY:** “...there is but one God...” (1 Cor. 8:6; cf. Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:21-22; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- **MAJESTIC:** “In the greatness of Your Majesty...” (Exod. 15:7; cf. 15:6, 11; Job 37:22; Ps. 8:1,9; Jude 25).
- **EVERYWHERE (OMNIPRESENT) :** “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” (Jer. 23:23-24; cf. 2 Chron. 2:6; Ps. 139:7-16; Acts 17:27-8).
- **ALL-KNOWING (OMNISCIENT):** “...You alone know the hearts of all men...” (1 Kings 8:39; cf. Ps. 139:1-6; Prov. 3:19-20; 1 Cor. 2:10).
- **ALL-POWERFUL (OMNIPOTENT) :** “...Is anything too hard for the LORD?” (Gen. 18:14; cf. 1 Sam. 2:6-7; Ps. 18:13-15; Rev. 19:6).
- **UNCHANGING (IMMUTABLE) “...You remain the same...”** (Ps. 102:27; cf. Mal. 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8).

List from *Pray with Your Eyes Open*, Richard Pratt Jr.



THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOD TO TIME

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***“We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!” – EPC Essentials #1***

### I. The Trinity

Though the actual word is not used in the Bible, the truth of God **revealing** Himself in three persons is included.

- Explicit VS Implicit Understanding
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called God, given worship as God, exist eternally, and are involved in doing things only God could do.
- *From Scripture.* Mt 3:16,17; 28:19; Ro 8:9; 1Co 12:3-6; 2Co 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 1Pe 1:2; Jude 1:20,21; Rev 1:4,5
- *Divine titles applied to the three persons in.* Ex 20:2; Joh 20:28; Ac 5:3,4.

### II. The Shema, God is One (Monotheism)

***“Hear, o Israel; the LORD our God, the LORD is one.”*** Deuteronomy 6:4

- *Although, God reveals Himself in three persons, God is One and cannot be divided. All are involved completely whenever One of the Three is active.*  
(Deut. 6:4; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa. 44:6; Mark 12:29, 32; John 10:30)

### III. Three Persons, One Divine Essence

- *Father - declares, loves the Son – Creator – Gen. 1:1*
- *Son - Obeys, loves the Father - eternally generated – Creator – John 1:10*
- *Holy Spirit - Applies, comes from both - eternally proceeding from – Creator – Genesis 1:2*
- **Resurrection** – Father (Rom. 6:4, Acts 2:32)  
Son (John 2:19-21,10:18)  
Holy Spirit (Romans 8:12)

***Trinity (Triune) 1 God = 3 Persons***

***1 x 1 x 1 = 1 Father is God, Son is God and Holy Spirit is God = God***

***Three Persons who are the one eternal God.***

***Or***

***The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three persons  
who equally share one infinite, undivided divine nature.***

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### Illustrations of the Trinity?

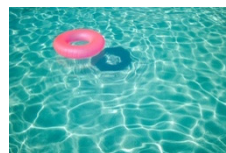
Actor Playing 3 Roles – **Bad**

Egg – Shell, White, Yoke – **Bad**

Water in 3 Modes – **Bad**

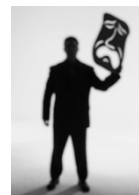
3 Leaf Clover – **Bad**

3 Faculties of the Soul – Mind, Will, Emotion – **Close**



### Problems in Changing the Trinity

- **Modalism** – 1 Essence, 1 Person 3 Roles =
- **Tri-theism** - 3 Finite Essences, 3 Persons, 3 distinct Roles = 3 Gods
  - 1+1+1=3
    - **Mormons, some Word of Faith, Kenneth Copeland**
    - **Holy Spirit is a impersonal being.**
- **Unitarian God** – 1 Essence, 1 Person, 1 Personal Role= 1 God ONLY – Jesus reduced to a created being and the Holy Spirit is not personal.
  - **Muslims – Jesus was a prophet only, Holy Spirit is a power**
  - **Jehovah’s Witness – Jesus is an angel, Holy Spirit is a force**
- **Trinitarian** Theology is grounded in Scripture
  - **John 1:1-5, 14**
- **Short Definition** –
  - **Three Persons who are the one eternal God.**
- **Complex** –
  - **The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three eternal Persons who equally share one infinite, undivided divine nature.**
- **Incomprehensible- God is an eternal, necessary, actually infinite, independent, self-existent, immaterial Being that simultaneously subsists in three personal modes. The Persons are distinguished by their eternal hypostatic characteristics; the Father is defined by His unbegottenness and active generation of the Son; the Son is defined by His generation from the Father and His procession of the Spirit; the Holy Spirit is defined by His emanation from the Father and Son. The Divine Persons are consubstantial and co-inhere in each other.**





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