

## God Is Holy & Eternal

God is clearly separate from His creation based on His nature and attributes.

**Holiness** is the foundation of all other aspects of God's character. Revelation 15:4 says of God, "You alone are holy."

Revelation 4:8 describes the four living creatures who sing to God day and night, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

It is God's holiness that makes Him the "consuming fire" that will judge all sin (Hebrews 12:29).

It is important to understand that God is an **eternal spirit** (John 4:24).

He is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) who has always existed as three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He does not have a physical body (although the Son became incarnate).

A doctrine is false if it denies the Trinity, views God the Father as a man, or denies the humanity and deity of Christ (see 2 John 1:7)

## God Is Sovereign & Immutable

God is also, by nature, **sovereign**. He is judged by no one and has absolute authority over the entire universe and everything in it.

His sovereignty is expressed in many ways, including His omnipotence. All of His ways are right (Psalm 145:17), and whether mankind believes God's ways to be "fair" is irrelevant.

The Lord God is not constrained by time or place. He has a plan, He has had it from eternity past, and His purpose will be accomplished (Daniel 4:37; Psalm 115:3).

**His immutability**. He does not change, being the same "yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He states outright in Malachi 3:6, "I the LORD do not change."

Because of His unchanging nature, we can depend on His blessings: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

## God Is Omnipotent & Love

**Omnipotence** speaks to His ability to do so. He also knows everything, from eternity past to eternity future, everything we think, do, and say.

He has personal knowledge of every person who has ever lived or will live, knowing them intimately in every way. It is encouraging to hear God's words in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."

**Love** is more than an attribute of God; He is literally the essence of love. This is stated clearly in 1 John 4:8, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." God's love is eternal. Because He is immutable, His love never changes. His love is perfect and holy.

**God is an objective person who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is perfect in every way and is especially characterized by his holiness, his righteousness and his love. He has eternally existed, and reveals himself to mankind in three distinct personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three manifestations are co-equal expressions of one God**

**Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one." A.W. Tozer**

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he? Habakkuk 1.13

## I. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT MEANING OF THE TERM

### 1. The Holiness of God

**(1) Absoluteness and Majesty:** First in the more general sense of separation from all that is human and earthly. It thus denotes the absoluteness, majesty, and awfulness of the Creator in His distinction from the creature

**(2) Ethical Holiness:** "Be ye holy; for I am holy" ([Leviticus 11:44](#); [19:2](#)), plainly implies an ethical conception. Men cannot resemble God in His incommunicable attributes. They can reflect His likeness only along the lines of those moral qualities of righteousness and love in which true holiness consists

### 2. Holiness of Place, Time and Object

From the holiness of God is derived that ceremonial holiness of things which is characteristic of the Old Testament religion. Whatever is connected with the worship of the holy Yahweh is itself holy.

Nothing is holy in itself, but anything becomes holy by its consecration to Him. A place where He manifests His presence is holy ground ([Exodus 3:5](#)). **The tabernacle or temple** ([Exodus 28:29](#); [2 Chronicles 35:5](#)); and **all its sacrifices** ([Exodus 29:33](#)), **ceremonial materials** (30:25; [Numbers 5:17](#)) and utensils ([1 Kings 8:4](#)) are also holy. **The Sabbath** is holy because it is the Sabbath of the Lord ([Exodus 20:8-11](#)). "Holiness, in short, expresses a relation, which consists negatively in separation from common use, and positively in dedication to the service of Yahweh" (Skinner in HDB, II, 395).

### 3. Holiness of Men

**(1) Ceremonial:** A ceremonial holiness, corresponding to that of impersonal objects and depending upon their relation to the outward service of Yahweh. Priests and Levites are holy because they have been "hallowed" or "sanctified" by acts of consecration ([Exodus 29:1](#); [Leviticus 8:12,30](#))

**(2) Ethical and Spiritual:** For unlike other creatures man was made in the image of God and capable of reflecting the Divine likeness. And as God reveals Himself as ethically holy, He calls man to a holiness resembling His own ([Leviticus 19:2](#)).

## II. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION

**1. Applied to God:** In the New Testament the term "holy" is seldom applied to God, and except in quotations from the Old Testament ([Luke 1:49](#); [1 Peter 1:15](#)), only in the Johannine writings ([John 17:11](#); [Revelation 4:8](#); [6:10](#)). But it is constantly used of the Spirit of God ([Matthew 1:18](#); [Acts 1:2](#); [Romans 5:5](#), etc.), who now, in contrast with Old Testament usage, becomes specifically the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost.

**2. Applied To Christ:** In several passages the term is applied to Christ ([Mark 1:24](#); [Acts 3:14](#); [4:30](#), etc.), as being the very type of ethical perfection (compare [Hebrews 7:26](#)).

**3. Applied To Things:** In keeping with the fact that things are holy in a derivative sense through their relationship to God, the word is used of Jerusalem ([Matthew 4:5](#)), the Old Testament covenant ([Luke 1:72](#)), the Scriptures ([Romans 1:2](#)), the Law ([Romans 7:12](#)), the Mount of Transfiguration ([2 Peter 1:18](#)), etc.

**4. Applied To Christians:** But it is especially in its application to Christians that the idea of holiness meets us in the New Testament in a sense that is characteristic and distinctive. Christ's people are regularly called "saints" or holy persons, and holiness in the high ethical and spiritual meaning of the word is used to denote the appropriate quality of their life and conduct.

**(1) As Separate from the World:** as applied to believers, "saints" conveys in the first place the notion of a separation from the world and a consecration to God. Just as Israel under the old covenant was a chosen race, so the Christian church in succeeding to Israel's privileges becomes a holy nation ([1 Peter 2:9](#))

**(2) As Bound to the Pursuit of an Ethical Ideal:** It is taken for granted that the Holy Spirit has taken up His abode in the heart of every regenerate person, and that a work of positive sanctification is going on there. The New Testament leaves no room for the thought of a holiness divorced from those moral qualities which the holy God demands of those whom He has called to be His people.

### 1. Eternal spirit.

- **Eternal** ([aionios](#) from [aion](#)) means perpetual eternal, everlasting, without beginning or end (as of God), that which is always.
  - God's power, [Mt 18:8](#) –
  - God's place of judgment, [Ro 16:26+](#) - God's attribute).
  - Eternal is the exact antithesis of [proskairos](#) (temporal).
  - Specifically, the importance of an [accurate understanding of aionios as a refutation of the false teaching of universalism](#) (everyone will be saved).
- **Eternal** is a key word in Hebrews:
  - Blood of **eternal** covenant ([He 13:20](#)).
  - He offered Himself through His **eternal** spirit ([He 9:14](#)) and has become the Author/Source of **eternal** salvation ([He 5:9](#)).
  - He has obtained **eternal** redemption ([He 9:12](#)).
  - He enables men to receive of the **eternal** inheritance ([He 9:15](#); [He 13:20](#)).

### 2. Eternal Judgement

- Eternal judgment is equal in importance to [repentance](#), [faith](#), [baptism](#), etc. *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines *judgment* as "a legal decision, order or sentence given by a judge." In eternal judgment, God decides a person's reward or punishment for all eternity
  - God the Father has appointed Jesus Christ to judge humanity. Only He has ever lived a perfect life. In addition, He knows what it is like to be a human being and what difficulties His people have while living in this present, evil world ([Hebrews 2:14-18](#)).
  - Under the guidance and authority of Jesus Christ, the resurrected saints will help to judge [the world](#). Just as we are being judged now, we will judge those who live and die throughout the Millennium. We will also judge the angels who rebelled against God under [Lucifer](#) ([I Corinthians 6:3](#); [II Peter 2:4](#); [Jude 6](#); see [Isaiah 14:12-15](#)).
  - God will judge us by the things written in the "books," that is, His Word. The Bible contains God's laws, the standard of righteousness by which everyone is judged.
  - The Great White Throne Judgment will occur during this hundred-year period. At this time, those of the second resurrection will be judged by the same standard as everyone else—the Word of God.

### 3. Eternal Gospel

- Revelation 14.6, And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people
  - All time is as nothing before Him, because in the presence as in the nature of God all is eternity; therefore, nothing is long, nothing short, before Him; no lapse of ages impairs His purposes, nor need He wait to find convenience to execute those purposes. And when the longest period of time has passed by, it is but as a moment or indivisible point in comparison of eternity.
  - **Eternity is God's signature—it is who He is.**

**Jesus Himself said, "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal" ([Matt. 6:20](#)). Having the perspective of living for eternity can make all the difference in this world.**

God's "sovereignty" means that He is absolute in authority and unrestricted in His supremacy.

### **The fact that God is sovereign essentially means**

- He is judged by no one and has absolute authority over the entire universe and everything in it.
- His sovereignty is expressed in many ways, including His omnipotence.
- All His ways are right (Psalm 145:17), and whether mankind believes God's ways to be "fair" is irrelevant.
- The Lord God is not constrained by time or place. He has a plan, He has had it from eternity past, and His purpose will be accomplished (Daniel 4:37; Psalm 115:3).
- He has the power, wisdom, and authority to do anything He chooses within His creation.
- Whether or not He exerts that level of control in any given circumstance is actually a completely different question.

### **God's sovereignty is one of the most important principles in Christian theology, as well as one of its most hotly debated.**

- Whether or not God is sovereign is usually not a topic of debate
- All mainstream Christian sects agree that God is preeminent in power and authority.
- God's sovereignty is a natural consequence of His omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.
- What's subject to disagreement is to what extent God applies His sovereignty—specifically, how much control He exerts over the wills of men..

### **God's Sovereignty and Free Will of Man**

- It is impossible for us to fully understand the dynamics of a holy God molding and shaping the will of man.
- Scripture is clear that God knows the future (Matthew 6:8; Psalm 139:1-4) and has total sovereign control over all things (Colossians 1:16-17; Daniel 4:35). The Bible also says that we must choose God or be eternally separated from Him.
- We are held responsible for our actions (Romans 3:19; 6:23; 9:19-21).
- How these facts work together is impossible for a finite mind to comprehend (Romans 11:33-36).
- Everything that happens is, at the very least, the result of God's permissive will.

### **God's Sovereign Grace**

- Sovereign grace combines two of God's attributes, His sovereignty and His graciousness. Both of these characteristics of God are so vast that many volumes have been written about each
- God in His sovereign grace has chosen to save those on whom He has set His love (Romans 9:8–13).

*Mal.3.6, For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

A W Tozer offers an interesting contrast - The immutability of God appears in its most perfect beauty when viewed against the mutability of men. In God no change is possible; in men change is impossible to escape. Neither the man is fixed nor his world, and he and it are in constant flux.

Synonyms & Similar Words

unchangeable	unchanging	fixed
unalterable	invariable	determinate
steadfast	inflexible	inalterable
constant	hard-and-fast	incommutable
changeless	established	unaltered
steady	stable	unvarying
immovable	settled	unmovable

**God's Immutability**

- He changes not in Character
- He changes not in Will
- He changes not in Purpose.
- He changes not in Aim

**God's Unchangeable Divine Counsels**

- Are Not Understood by The Wicked, Mic 4:12, Despise Isa 5:19, Reject Luk 7:30
- Are Faithfulness and Truth, Isa 25.1
- Are Immutable, Psa 33:11; Pro 19:21; Jer 4:28; Rom 9:11; Hbr 6:17
- Are Sovereign, [Isa 40:13,14](#); [Dan 4:35](#)
- Are Eternal, [Eph 3:11](#)

**God is transcended over space, he is therefore everywhere in space, so immutability is a natural result, a natural issue of God's eternity.**

- God is immutable in His essence
  - He cannot increase. He cannot decrease. He cannot self-evolve. He cannot develop.
- God is immutable in His attributes
  - He cannot be wiser than he was before, he cannot be holier than he was before, he cannot be more righteous or more merciful than he was before, he cannot be less merciful than he was before
- God is immutable in His will.
  - Because God is infinite in his wisdom, then there is no error in the conception of his plans. All of his plans are perfect, and he does not have to reason them out. He has within himself the power to know that which is the finest plan.
- God is immutable in His consciousness
  - Since infinite experience is a fixed quantity, then nothing is added to God's consciousness and nothing old is taken from it. He is immutable in his consciousness.
- God is immutable in his place
  - "He cannot be changed in time because he is eternity. And he cannot be changed in place because he hath ubiquity." That is, he is everywhere present.)

[Revelation 19:6](#), "For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth

**The Definition** - The word means "all-powerful" and refers to the fact that God's power is infinite and unlimited. He can do with power anything that power can do. Said another way, God has the power to do all he wills to do. He has both the resources and the ability to work his will in every circumstance in the universe

**The Scripture** - This doctrine is assumed everywhere in the Bible. One might easily find 500 verses that either teach omnipotence or implicitly assume it. Although the word is not found in our modern translations, the concept might be truly said to be assumed on every page of the Bible

**A. Nothing is too hard for God.**

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee." [Jeremiah 32:17](#)

**B. No one can stop God's plans.**

I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee." [Job 42:2](#)

**C. He made all things, and all things serve him.**

"Thy faithfulness *is* unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all *are* thy servants." [Psalm 119:910-91](#)

**D. He does whatever he pleases.**

"But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." [Psalm 115:3](#)

**Seven Stages of God's Power**- Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Eph 3.20

1. He is able, for he is the true and living God..
2. He is able to do, for he is neither inactive, idle, nor dead.
3. He is able to do what we ask, for he hears and answers prayer.
4. He is able to do what we ask or imagine, for he reads our thoughts, and sometimes we imagine things for which we do not dare to ask. But he can do those things anyway.
5. He is able to do all that we ask or imagine, for he knows it all and can perform it all.
6. He is able to do more than all we ask or imagine, because his expectations are higher than ours.
7. He is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, because his power is unlimited.



1 John 4:16 - "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

## 1. Love is God's Essence [KJV 1900 - Logos Bible Study](#)

His demonstration of His love, most profoundly seen in sending His Son in the flesh as a sacrifice for humanity.

## 2. Divine Love Had No Beginning [The Attributes of God - Part 1b | Precept Austin](#)

- For breadth the love of Jesus is immensity, for length it is eternity, for depth it is immeasurability, and for height it is infinity. Spurgeon
- He loved them, not for anything that he could ever gain from them, for he had all things in himself, but because of what he would impart to them. Spurgeon
- The individuality of the divine love is a great part of the sweetness of it. God thinks of every separate child of his as much as if he had only that one. The multiplicity of his elect does not divide the loaf of his affection. Spurgeon

## 3. Divine Love Described As

- Sovereign -[Dt 7:8](#); [10:15](#)
- Great -[Ep 2:4](#)
- Abiding -[Zeph 3:17](#)
- Unfailing -[Is 49:15,16](#)
- Unalienable -[Ro 8:39](#)
- Constraining -[Ho 11:4](#)
- Everlasting -[Je 31:3](#)
- Irrespective of merit -[Dt 7:7](#); [Job 7:17](#)

## 4. Divine Love Manifested Toward

- Perishing sinners -[John 3:16](#); [Titus 3:4](#)
- His saints -[John 16:27](#); [17:23](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:16](#); [1 John 4:16](#)
- The destitute -[Deuteronomy 10:18](#)
- The cheerful giver -[2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

## 5. Divine Love Exhibited In

- The giving of Christ -[John 3:16](#)
- The sending of Christ -[1 John 4:9](#)
- Christ's dying for us while sinners -[Romans 5:8](#); [1 John 4:10](#)
- Adoption -[1 John 3:1](#)
- Redemption -[Isaiah 43:3,4](#); [63:9](#)
- Freeness of salvation [Titus 3:4-7](#)
- Forgiving sin -[Isaiah 38:17](#)
- Quickening of souls -[Ephesians 2:4,5](#)

## 6. Divine Love Perfected In Saints

- By obedience -[1 John 2:5](#)
- By brotherly love -[1 John 4:12](#)

