

The Doctrine of God

April 26, 2015

Righteousness, Justice, Holiness & Jealousy

Definitions

- Righteousness/Justice (same word in original languages) – “God always acts in accordance with what is right and is Himself the final standard of what is right.” (Grudem 203)
- Holiness – God’s distinction from anyone and anything else in greatness and moral purity.
- Jealousy – “God’s jealousy means that God continually seeks to protect His own honor.” (Grudem 205)

Righteousness in the Bible

- Genesis 18:25 – “Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”
- Deuteronomy 32:4 – “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.”
- Hosea 14:9b – “For the ways of the Lord are right, and the righteous will walk in them, but transgressors will stumble in them.”

Categories of God's Righteousness

- Although we might simply say that “God always does right,” it is helpful to understand some ways that His righteousness is expressed.
 - Moral righteousness – God does right (Isaiah 45:24).
 - Rectoral justice – God uses righteousness to govern the universe (Genesis 18:25, Job 34:23).
 - Common grace justice – God generally restrains evil and allows for human flourishing (2 Thessalonians 2:7, Romans 13:1-4).
 - Salvific justice – God's salvation, though undeserved, will not ignore justice (Romans 3:26).
 - Eschatological justice – God will bring every deed into just scrutiny (Hebrews 1:8, Revelation 20:11-15)

Holiness in the Bible

- Holiness distinguishes God in glory – Isaiah 6:3.
- Holiness distinguishes God in purity – Hebrews 7:26.
- Holiness, in its full form, belongs to God alone – Exodus 15:11.

Jealousy in the Bible

- Exodus 20:5 – “...I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God....”
- Exodus 34:14 – “...For you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”
- Isaiah 48:11c– “...My glory I will not give to another.”
- Revelation 4:11 – “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power....”

Resolving Difficult Questions

- Is God's justice egalitarian or distributive?
 - Egalitarian – God gives the same thing to everyone with no individual considerations.
 - Distributive – God considers each person individually.
- The Bible says, “each...according to his own labor” (1 Corinthians 3:8) and “according to his deeds” (2 Timothy 4:14).
- What answer could a non-believer give?

Resolving Difficult Questions

- Does God's jealousy make Him a megalomaniac or an egocentrist?
 - Megalomania – “a delusional mental disorder that is marked by feelings of personal omnipotence and grandeur” (Merriam-Webster)
 - Egocentrism – the limitation “in outlook or concern to one's own activities or needs” AKA selfish (Merriam-Webster).

Praying These Attributes

- Rejoice in Christ's righteousness on our behalf, leading to eternal life (Romans 5:21)!
- Rest in the confidence that Christ's righteous prayers obtain our forgiveness (1 John 2:1)!
- Pray that God would seek out wicked ways in you (Psalm 139:23-24), so that you can be holy as He is holy (Leviticus 11:45)

Singing These Truths

- More Love to Thee, O Christ
- Whatever My God Does is Right
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Before the Throne of God Above
- How Great is our God
- O Great God
- Receive the Glory