

## Communicable Attributes of God

July 27, 2025

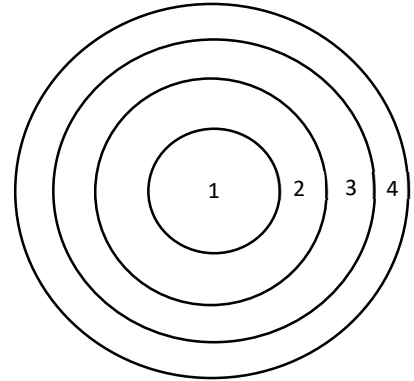
“The whole outlook of mankind might be changed if we could all believe that we live under a friendly sky and that the God of Heaven though exalted in power and majesty is **eager to be friends with us.**” -A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy.

### Article 1 of the EFCA Doctrinal Statement

We believe in one **God**, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

### Theological Prioritization

1. **Absolutes:** Essential to the faith
2. **Convictions:** Essential to close fellowship between churches
3. **Opinions:** Non-essential
4. **Questions:** Fun to think about



**Attribute:** a quality or feature regarded as characteristic or inherent.

-*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 11th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### 2 Types:

**Incommunicable:** Those attributes of God which are unique to Him and not applicable to human beings.

**Communicable:** Those attributes of God in which human beings may (are called to) participate to a limited point.

Participation in God’s Communicable attributes is connected to being created in His image.

So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God** he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen. 1:27) (ESV)

### God’s Attributes revealed in Scripture:

“<sup>6</sup> The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God **merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,** <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, **forgiving** iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will **by no means clear the guilty**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” -Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

### **These come up all over the Old Testament.**

“<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! <sup>2</sup> For great is his **steadfast love** toward us, and the **faithfulness** of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! -Psalm 117 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. -Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

Exodus 34	Galatians 5	Leviticus 11:44	Psalm 11:7
Merciful	Love	Holy	Righteous
Gracious	Joy		
Slow to anger	Peace		
Abounding in steadfast love	Patience		
Abounding in faithfulness	Kindness		
Forgiving	Goodness		
Just	Faithfulness		
	Gentleness		
	Self-Control		

Some theologians divide these into two categories:

God's greatness: holy, righteous, just

God's goodness: merciful, gracious, forgiving, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, joy, love, etc.

***Jesus is the perfect expression of God's attributes and our example and model.***

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" -John 14:9 (ESV)

***Growing in these attributes is a major goal of our walk with Jesus.***

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> **so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.** For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> **You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.** -Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

How do you see God?

Are there attributes of God which are especially present in your life and character?

Are there attributes of God which you need His help in growing in?