

The Attributes of God
Attribute #5
Part 1

1. Spirit – He is spiritual in substance and invisible to the human eye (Luke 24:39; John 4:24). God has no flesh and bones; therefore He is not confined to space.
 - A. God is a Spirit
 1. Isaiah 33:1
 2. Heb. 12:9
 3. Acts 17:24
 4. 2 Cor. 3:17
 - B. Spirit defined – The term is used to denote an immaterial and intelligent substance, or being; one which is without the peculiar properties of matter, and possess properties analogous to those of the human mind.
 1. He is not extended, solid, and divisible like a rock, a tree, or a human body (matter).
 2. He thinks and wills in a manner free from all imperfection
 3. The Bible everywhere recognizes as true the intuitive conceptions of men. One of these is that spirit is not matter, or matter spirit; that different and incompatible attributes cannot belong to the same substance.
 - a. Therefore, no attribute of matter can be assigned to the divine essence.
 4. The spirituality of God is the foundation of the Second Commandment.
 - a. Exodus 20:4-5
 - b. The Israelites saw no form when God manifested His presence to them at Mt. Sinai (Deut.4: 12 -18)
 - c. He appeared to them in cloud and fire through their journey through the wilderness, at the Tabernacle and afterwards in the Temple built and dedicated by Solomon.
 - d. He appeared to Moses in a burning bush.
 - e. As what is purely spiritual cannot be perceived by bodily senses, God was pleased to employ these

material symbols to give a sensible demonstration of His presence.

5. The spirituality of God contradicts the pantheistic notion that the universe is God.
 - a. The universe is not spirit
 - b. In its material fabric, intelligence is displayed, but this intelligence does not belong to the material fabric itself, for matter cannot think or know.
 - c. The universe did not create itself.
6. If we grant that God is, we must necessarily grant that He cannot be corporeal, because a body is of an imperfect nature.
 - a. Had God the ligaments of a body, the Gentiles would not have been charged with the accusation of changing His glory into that of a corruptible man (Romans 1:23).

II. If God were not a Spirit

A. He could not be Creator

1. The wisdom whereby the world was created could never be the fruit of a corporeal nature; such things are not capable of understanding and comprehending the things that are within the compass of their nature, much less producing them.
2. Can a corporeal substance put "wisdom in the inward parts and give understanding to the heart?" (Job 38: 36)

B. He would not be invisible

1. He is invisible to our sense, which beholds nothing but material and colored things; and incomprehensible to our understanding, that conceives nothing but what is finite.
2. 1 Tim. 6:16
3. The essence of God no man ever saw, nor can see (John 1:18)

C. He would not be infinite

1. All bodies are of a finite nature; everybody is material and every material thing has an end.
2. If God had a body, He would consist of parts, those parts would be bounded and limited, and whatever is limited is of a finite virtue, and therefore below an infinite nature.
3. If all or any of the parts of God were finite, then He would be in His essence finite and a finite God is not more excellent than a creature.
4. 2 Chron.2: 6

D. He would not be an independent being

1. If God had finite bodily parts, as we do, His essence would result from those parts and He would be dependent upon them.
2. If He were to lose one of those bodily parts, He would be less than perfect.

E. He would not be immutable and unchangeable.

1. Mal. 3:6
2. He is unchangeable in His essence; His attributes are perfections belonging to His nature.

F. He would not be omnipresent. (See Attribute #3)

1. It is impossible for a body to be two places at once.
2. Since God is everywhere, He must be spiritual

G. He would not be the most perfect being

1. There cannot be creatures of more excellent nature than God.
2. God cannot be less perfect than His creatures, and contribute an excellency of being to them, which He wants Himself (1 John 1:5).

III. Applications (uses) of this attribute

- A. We are not created in the physical form of God.

1. Col. 3:10
2. Acts 17:29

B. It is unreasonable to create pictures of Him

1. It is impossible to fashion any image of God
2. No corporeal thing can represent a spiritual being
3. God is an infinite, immense, eternal, invisible, incorruptible being
4. A statue, picture, etc, is a finite, limited, temporal, visible, corruptible body.
5. God is a living Spirit; a statue sees nor hears nor perceives anything

C. To create images of God is to disgrace His nature

1. A corruptible object is not fit to represent God for it renders God no better than a corruptible being.
2. Jer. 10:8-16

D. To represent God by an image and to worship Him in and by that image is idolatry.

1. 1 Cor. 10:7
2. Ex. 32:5
3. His works are more excellent representations of Him than anything that is the product of man.
4. Job 31:26-28 (nature worship)

E. More in Part 2.

Part 2

1. Spirit – He is spiritual in substance and invisible to the human eye (Luke 24:39; John 4:24). God has no flesh and bones; therefore He is not confined to space.
2. Spirit defined – The term is used to denote an immaterial and intelligent substance, or being; one which is without the peculiar properties of matter, and possess properties analogous to those of the human mind.
3. If God is Spirit, why does the Bible so often refers to God having bodily parts ascribed to Him?
 - A. It is condescension to our weakness – we are not able to conceive a spirit without some kind of resemblance to something below it, nor understand the actions of a spirit without considering the operations of a human body with its specific members.
 - B. All such representations are to signify the acts of God as they bear some likeness to those, which we perform, by the members of the body ascribed to Him.
 - C. Only those members, which are the instruments of the noblest actions, are used by Him to represent a notion of Him to our minds.
 1. Heart – the principle of vital actions
 2. Watchful and discerning eyes, not sleepy and lazy ones.
 3. A mouth to reveal His will, not take in food.
 4. Eyes and hears to acquire knowledge
 5. Mouth, lips, tongue to communicate not taste
 - D. Thus, we should not conceive of the visible God according to such descriptions but according to the true intent of them.
 - E. Applications (uses) of this attribute
 1. Since God is Spirit:
 - a. We can only communicate with Him with our spirit
 1. Psalm 51:17 Eph. 4:23
 - b. He only can be the true satisfaction for our spirits
 1. Matt. 5:6
 - c. We should take care of that which is most like God
 1. Heb. 12:9

- d. We should be mindful of those sins which are of the spirit
 - 1. 2 Cor. 7:1
 - 2. Matt. 5:28
- e. Sins of the spirit are the greatest root of bitterness within us. As grace in our spirits renders us more like a spiritual God, so spiritual sins bring us into conformity to a degraded devil.