

Christian Doctrine

God (Part 13)

Attributes: What Is He Like?

God Is Merciful

➤ ***What Does This Mean?***

- God shows mankind “loving kindness.”
- Mercy is compassion and goodness freely given toward someone in need.
- Just as with grace, it is God’s right to determine who will receive His mercy.

➤ ***Where Do We See This in Scripture?***

- “The Lord is gracious and merciful...and His mercy is over all that he has made” (Ps. 145:8-9).
- Paul described God as being “rich in mercy” (Eph. 2:4) and James stated that He “is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11).
- God shows mercy and compassions in accordance with His will (Rom. 9:14-16).
- Forgiveness of sin comes by the “tender mercy of our God” (Luke 1:77-78; note I Pet. 1:3).
- In the gift of salvation, God’s mercy is displayed to even the worst of sinners. Paul stated, “Though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent...I received mercy” (I Tim. 1:13).

➤ ***What Does This Mean for Me?***

- ⇒ Think about this verse phrase by phrase: “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). How many acts of God’s mercy does this verse reveal?
- ⇒ We should show mercy toward others: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). What resources and/or abilities has God given you which could be used in showing compassion to others (note Matt. 5:7)?