**Communicable Attributes: God is Good**

**Review:**

**Categories of Communicable Attributes:**

* Attributes of being:
* Intellectual attributes:
* Attributes of sovereignty:
* Moral Attributes:

**Definition:** “The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Because “good” is a communicable attribute we see “good” in creation.**
   1. **21st century “good”:**

**Explanation:** Obviously our culture doesn’t like the idea of God (or God’s law), but that creates a problem. What is the standard for goodness?

* + - 1. Utilitarian goodness- that which advances the well-being of an individual or society.
      2. When choosing between good and bad, the choice lies in which action will benefit the most people and harms the fewest. That action/choice is morally good.

1. **But true “good” is not relative, it is found in God.** 
   * 1. **Luke 18:19** No one is good except God alone.
        1. We can’t look at creation and determine goodness, because nothing is good in an absolute sense, only God is absolutely good.
        2. Scripture is a hymn of praise to God’s goodness.[[2]](#footnote-2)
2. **God’s goodness is manifested in various forms and spoken of in different ways depending on the objects towards which his goodness is directed.**
   1. When God’s goodness is directed toward those in **misery**, his goodness is called **mercy**.
      1. **Nehemiah 9:18-21**
      2. **Lamentations 3:19-24**
      3. **Psalm 51:2**
      4. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4a**
      5. **Hebrews 4:16**
   2. When God’s goodness is expressed in the sparing of those who deserve punishment, his goodness is called **patience**.
      1. **Nehemiah 9:16-17**
         1. Many times the Lord should have wiped out the Israelites for their complaining, idolatry, and rebellion. But God is good, and his goodness is expressed in his forbearance and patience their punishment was withheld.
      2. **Jonah 4:2**
         1. The Ninevites were brutal people🡪perhaps some of the most vile and evil people the world has ever seen.
         2. Yet God spares them, he is good to those who deserve punishment.
      3. **Romans 3:25**
         1. His patience and forbearance were manifested in the entire time before Christ.
         2. NOTE: God will punish sin; his forgiveness is never arbitrary. The Ninevites repentance was faith in the person and work of Christ, even if they wouldn’t have put it in those terms.
         3. God’s forbearance and patience is still displayed to sinners:
            1. Romans 2:4🡪his patience should lead us to repentance.

1. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Zondervan, 1994), 197. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics vol. 2*., 212. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)