

The Goodness of God

The Love of God

- "...that perfection of divine nature by which He is eternally moved to communicate Himself" - Henry Thiessen
- It is a necessary expression of God's very nature and existence
 - "...the God of love and peace..." - II Corinthians 13:11
 - "...God is love." - I John 4:8
 - Note - this contrasts with the false gods of man's creation, who are most often shown as angry or malevolent
- It is noted in the Trinity itself
 - The Father loves the Son - Matthew 3:16-17
 - The Son loves the Father - John 14:31
- The objects of God's love:
 - the world - John 3:16
 - Israel - Deuteronomy 7:6-8
 - His followers - John 14:23
 - Righteousness - Psalm 11:7
 - Judgment - Isaiah 61:8
 - The church - Ephesians 5:25

The Benevolence of God

- "...the affection He feels and manifests towards His sentient and conscious creatures." - Thiessen
- "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." - Psalm 145:9
- It extends to both the evil and the good - Matthew 5:45, Acts 14:17
- Illustrated in nature - Matthew 6:25-34

The Mercy of God

- "...His goodness manifested towards those who are in misery or distress." - Thiessen
- "...God, who is rich in mercy..." - Ephesians 2:4
- "...the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." - James 5:11
- Objects of God's mercy:
 - Israel - Psalm 102:13
 - Gentiles - Romans 11:30-31
 - Those that fear Him - Luke 1:50

- Those seeking salvation - Isaiah 55:7

The Grace of God

- “...the goodness of God manifested toward the ill-deserving.” - Thiessen
- Grace is “getting what we don’t deserve”
- Expressed in:
 - Delay of sin’s penalty - Romans 2:3-5
 - Providing salvation - Titus 2:11
- Shown to the believer in:
 - Redemption - Ephesians 1:7-8
 - Sanctification - Titus 2:11-12
 - Preservation, Strength - II Corinthians 12:9
 - Future State - I Peter 1:13