

Christian Apologetics
“always be prepared to give a defense...”

VII. The Nature of God

Last time we discussed what difference a creation or evolution theory makes to our concept of nature, ourselves and God. Romans 1:20-23 tells us - “*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*” What are those attributes?

God exists absolutely

This is not merely that God is always there or that he does not go out of existence. God is the source of being, or existence, for all things. That He exists is not dependent on any other being as His cause. There is no difference between *what* He is and *that* He is. *Exodus 3:13-14*

God is infinite

As we have seen, a finite or limited being must have a cause. By saying that God is infinite, we mean that we must deny God the kinds of limitations connected to finite beings. If something is limited, it must be limited by something else. *Job 11:7-9*

God in One

If God is infinite, can there be many gods? Obviously not. If God is without limit, there cannot be more than one God. For if there were, there would have to be some difference between them – and one could not be what or where the other(s) was/were. *Deuteronomy 6:4*

God is spiritual

By saying that God is spiritual, we mean that God is not a *material* being. To be a material being is to be a body of some kind. But a body is limited and subject to change.

God eternal

If God is infinite and not subject to change, then God is exempt from what we call “*time*”. Change happens over time. Time is what we use to measure or gauge change. God is both timeless and unchanging. Interestingly enough, the Incarnation does not contradict this. Through incarnation, God took upon Himself, in Christ, a human nature which included time, space and matter. Just because one is not bound by these things, does not preclude one from choosing to be. *Psalms 119:89, Jeremiah 10:10, Philipians 2:6-8*

God is transcendent (separate) and immanent (naturally present)

God cannot be part of the universe. If he were, he would be limited by other parts of it. But God is the *Creator* of all things, therefore he cannot be one of them. That is *transcendence*. However, God must be (actively involved) *in* all things in order for them to exist. *Revelation 4:11*

God is intelligent

The intricacies and complexities of the universe – from a single cell to the galaxies – indicate a vast intelligence, that of a Creator, Architect and Artist.

God is omniscient and omnipotent

There can be no real barriers to God's knowing or acting. God has created everything there is to be known and sustains its being. So is it conceivable that there is something he could not know or not have power over? *Psalms 147:5, Jeremiah 10:6, Revelation 19:1, Proverbs 3:19-20*