

Catechetical Sermon, February 15, 2026

Belgic Confession, Article 1: “The Communicable Attributes of God: Wisdom, Justice and Goodness”

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 145

Lesson Aim	To understand what the communicable attributes of God are: Wisdom, Justice and Goodness.
Steps to Learning	Read the Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 1 and Psalm 145. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>What do we mean by the communicable attributes of God? The communicable attributes of God are the particular character qualities of God that are communicated to us imperfectly. That is, we can reflect the character of God by exhibiting these attributes in our lives.</p> <p>What are the communicable attributes of God that the Belgic Confession lists? Wisdom, justice (or righteousness) and goodness.</p> <p>What does it mean that God is wise and how can we become wise? God's wisdom is his knowledge applied as we see his works in the creation and in redemption. We can be wise in the general sense by living according to the logic and order that God has built into the creation. We can be ultimately wise by having faith in Christ and living according to that faith.</p> <p>What does it mean that God is just and how can we be just? God's justice is his holiness in action. The holiness of God is God's absolute perfection and "otherness" from creatures. Therefore, justice is God demanding holiness, moral perfection, from His creatures in the form of publishing His Law in the creation and in the Bible. But in addition, we are just in the ultimate sense when we have faith in Christ, which means we are justified in God's sight because the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us.</p> <p>What does it mean that God is good and how can we be good? One person states: "We speak of something as good, when it answers in all parts to the ideal. Hence in our ascription of goodness to God the fundamental idea is that He is in every way all that He as God should be and therefore answers perfectly to the ideal expressed in the word "God." We can be good as we live by faith in Christ recognizing that all things come by God's fatherly hand.</p>
Bible Reading	Exodus 31-34 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)