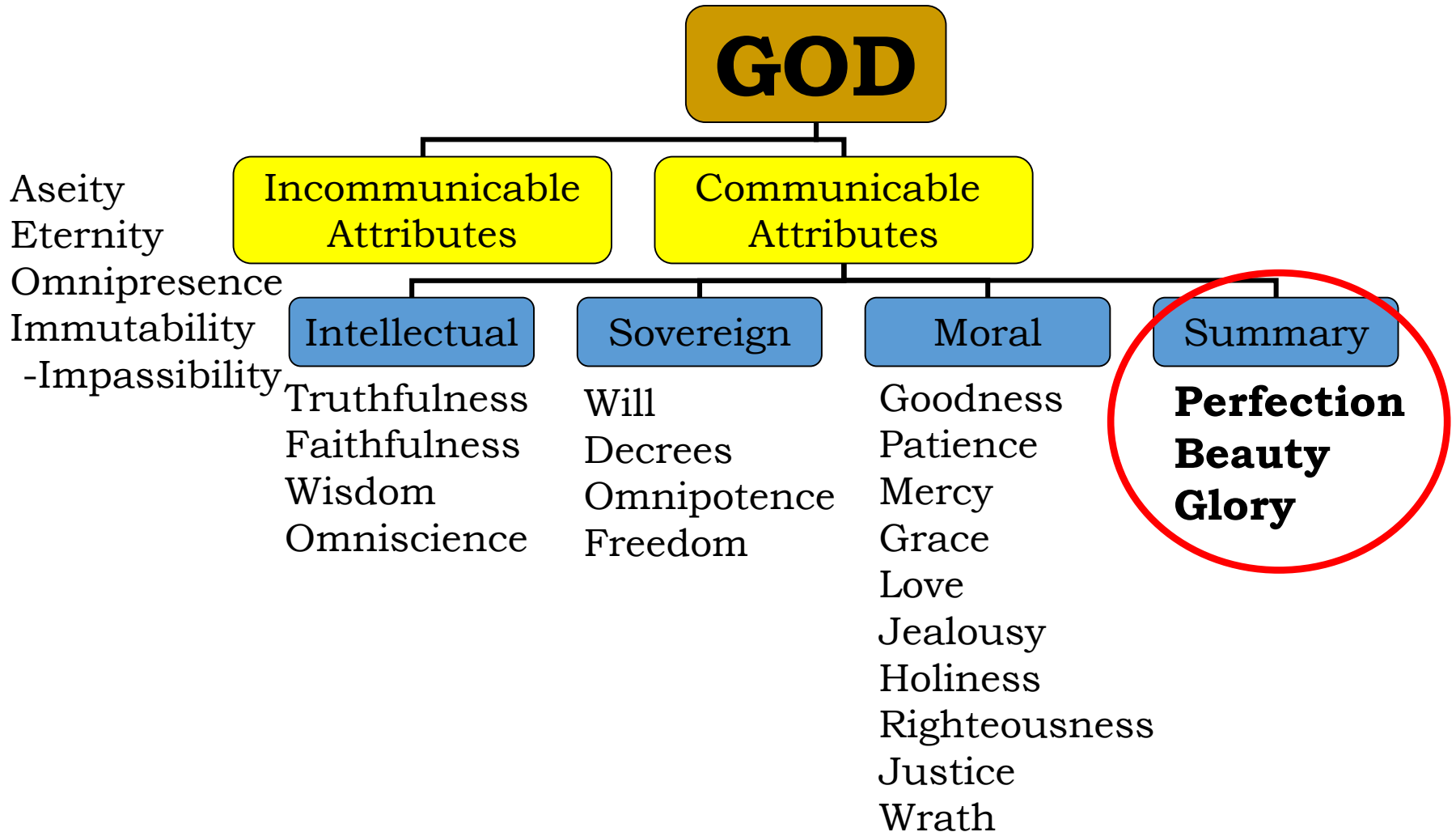


Behold Your God, Part 14: The Perfection, Beauty, and Glory of God



Classifying the Attributes of God



Perfection, Beauty, and Glory

Omnipresence Faithfulness

Love Justice Holiness

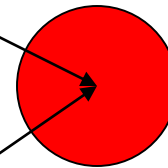
Mercy Wrath Omniscience

Wisdom Omnipotence Jealousy

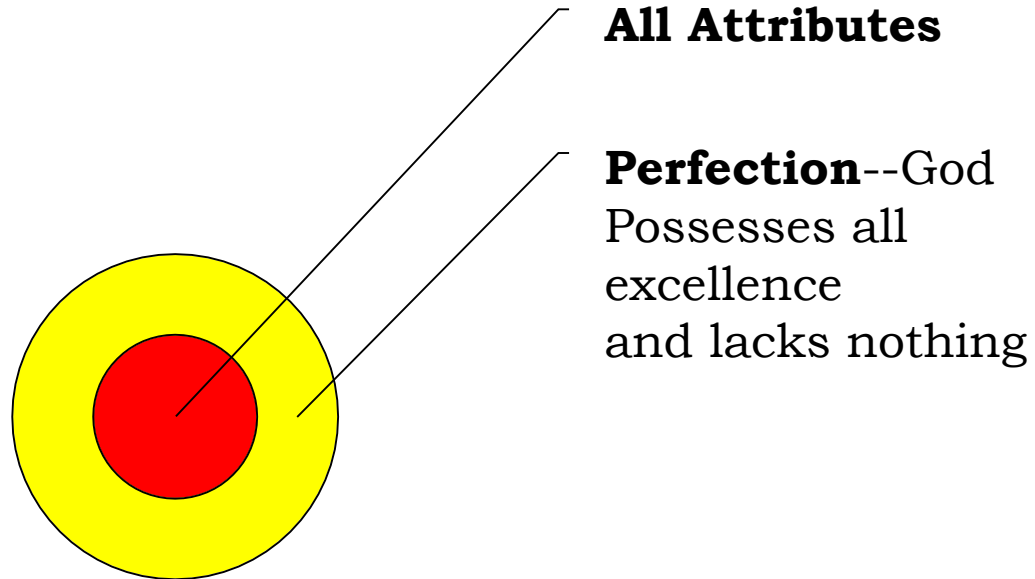
Freedom Eternity Truthfulness

Independence Grace Goodness

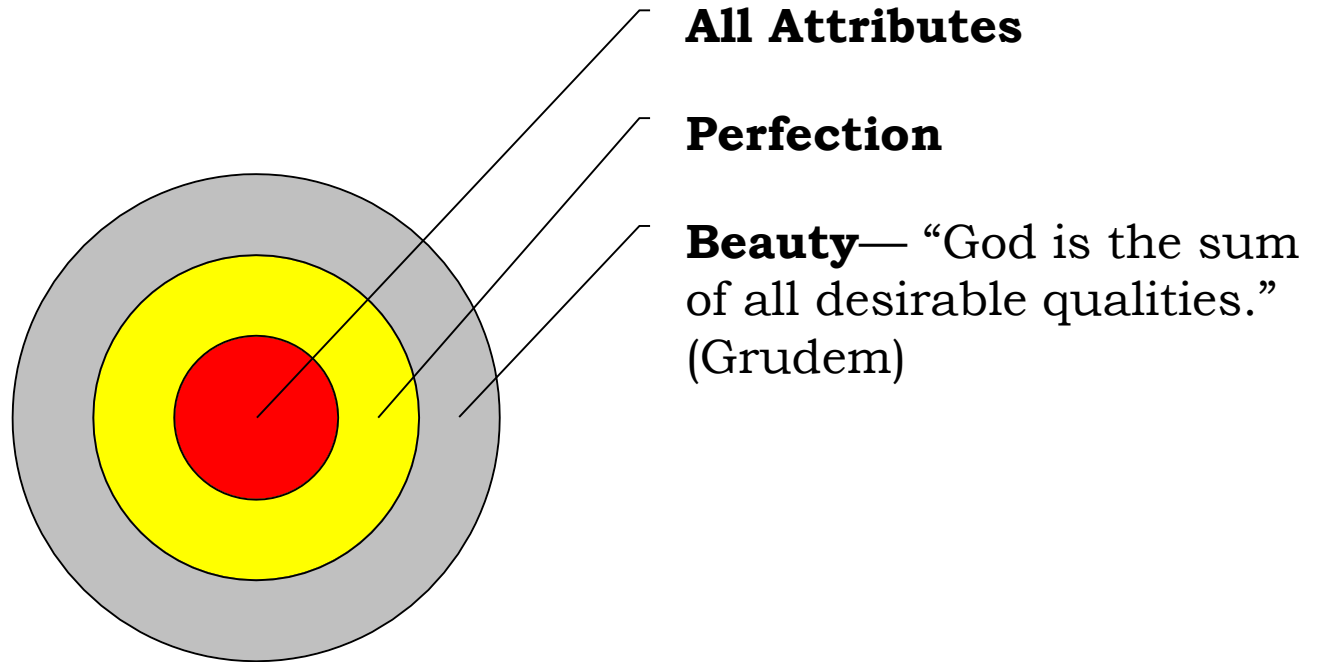
Will Immutability
Righteousness



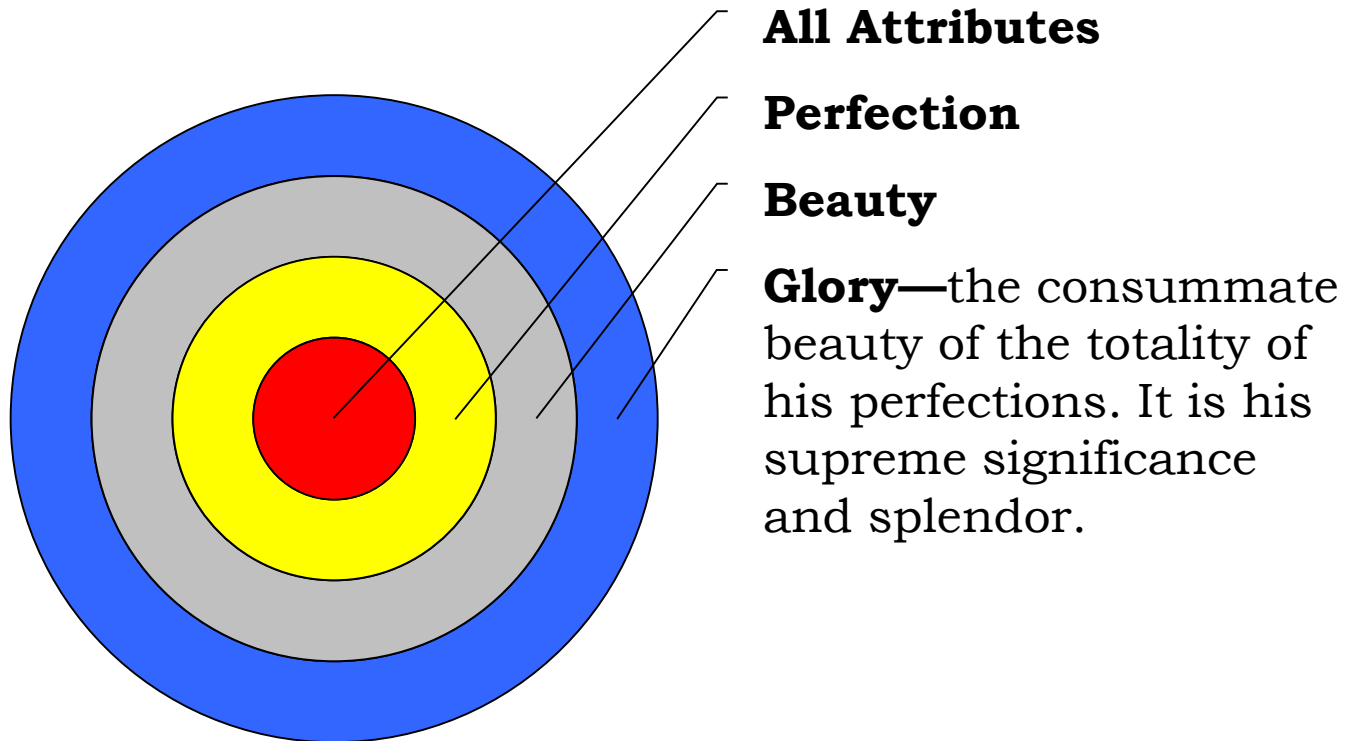
Perfection, Beauty, and Glory



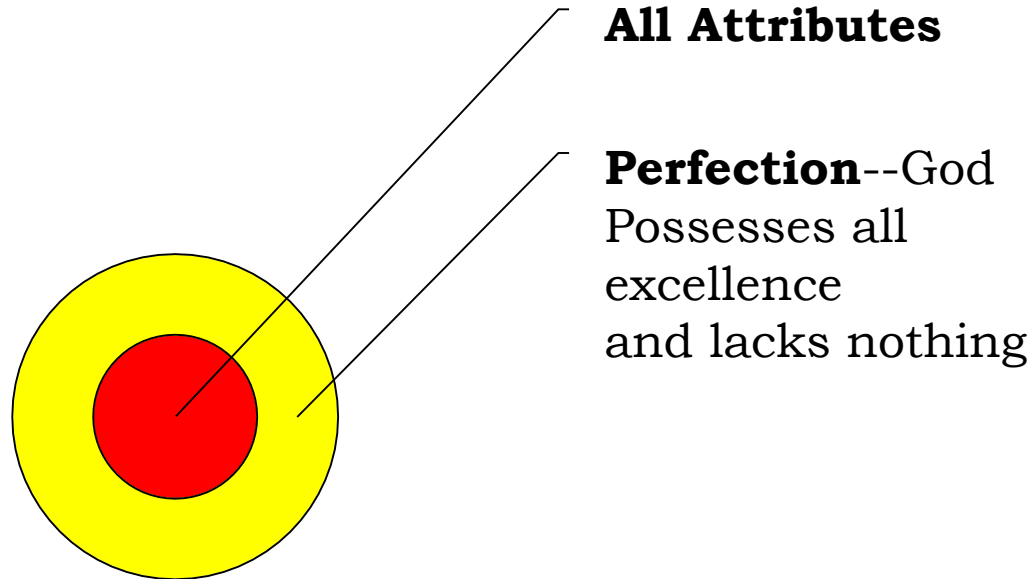
Perfection, Beauty, and Glory



Perfection, Beauty, and Glory



Perfection, Beauty, and Glory



The Perfection of God

- **Definition of the Perfection of God**

- **Grudem:** “God’s perfection means that God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him.”
- **Matthew 5:48:** “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Perfection of God

- God owns every attribute in all its **fullness** in such a way that He is completely excellent
- There is nothing we can do to **improve** upon all the attributes of God

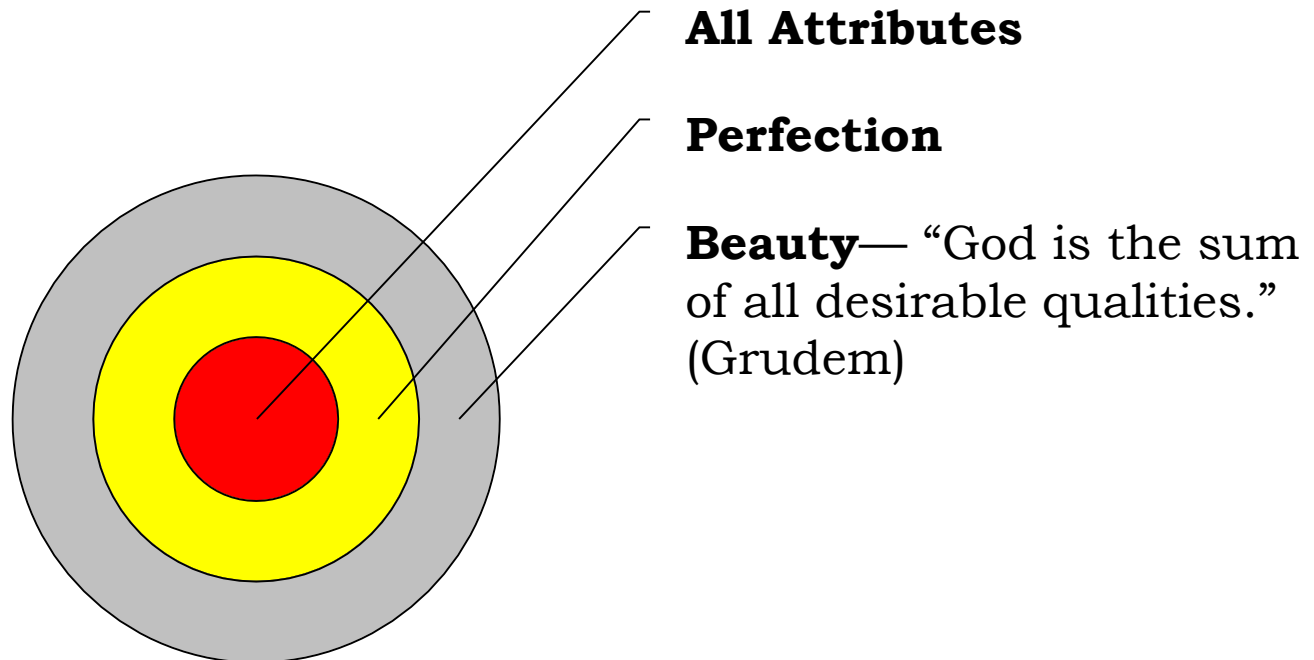
The Perfection of God

- **God's works are perfect**
 - **Deuteronomy 32:4:** "'The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."
- **God's ways are perfect:**
 - **Psalm 18:30:** "His way is perfect."
- **God's Word is perfect**
 - **Psalm 19:7:** "The law of the LORD is perfect."

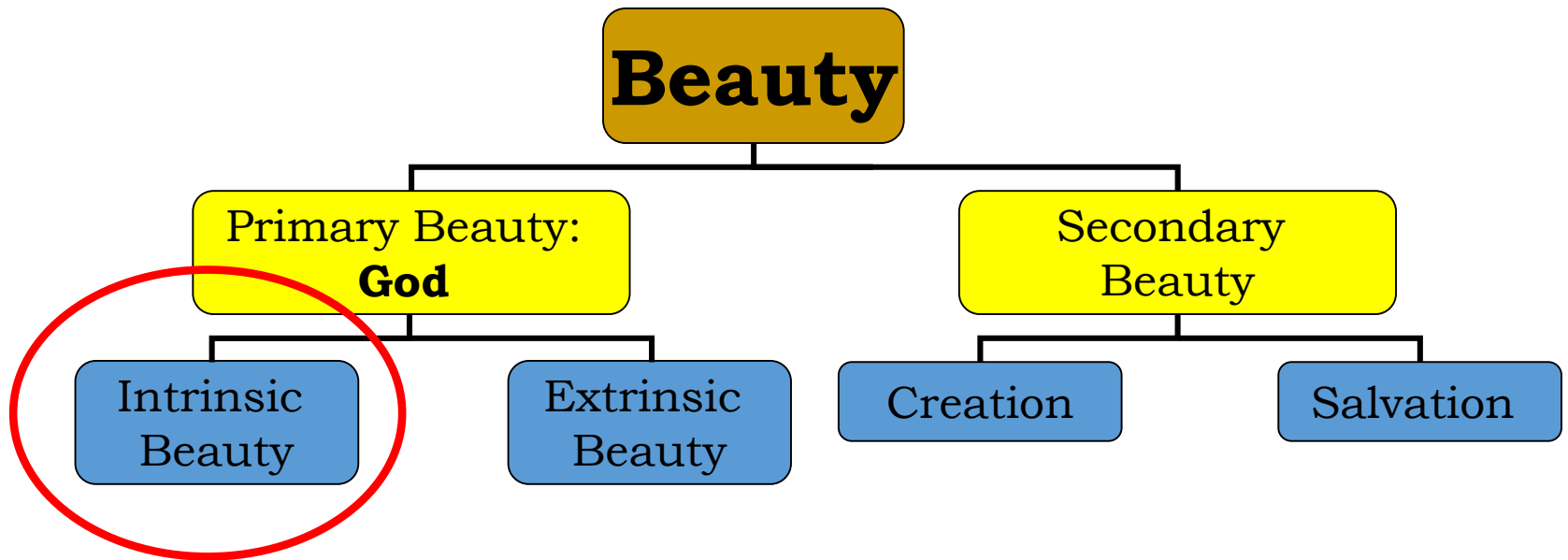
The Beauty of God

- **Definition of the Beauty of God**

- **Grudem:** “that attribute of God whereby He is the sum of all desirable qualities.”



The Beauty of God



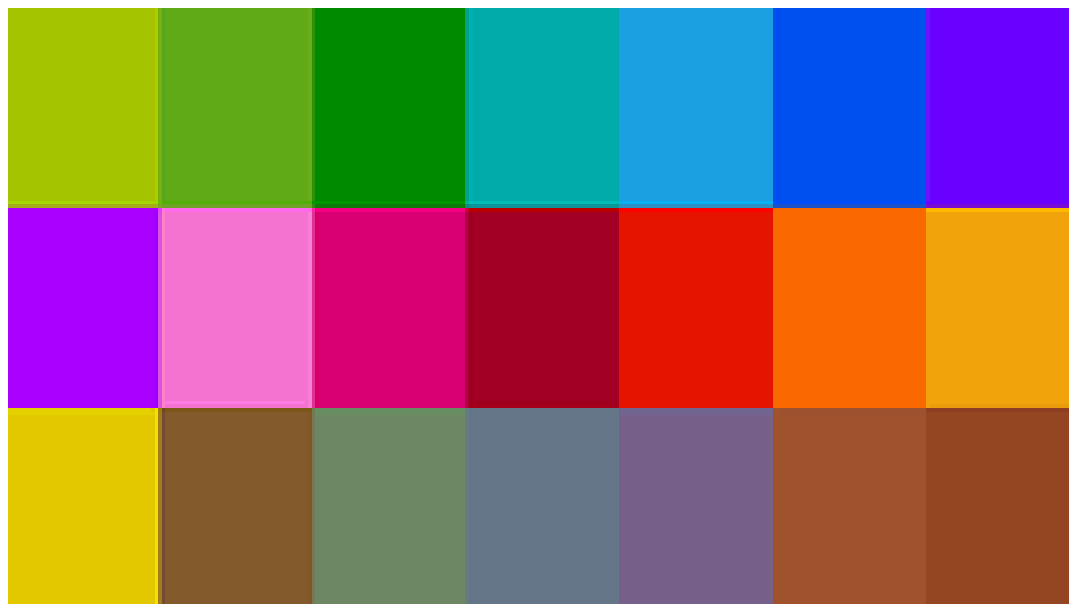
The Beauty of God

- Intrinsic Beauty: Objective Beauty
 - **Isaiah 33:17:** “Your eyes will see the King in His beauty”
 - Excellence
 - **Psalms 50:2:** “Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone forth.”
 - attractiveness or desirability

The Beauty of God

- What makes God objectively beautiful?
 - God's attributes have perfect **harmony**
 - God's attributes have **symmetry and proportion**
 - **Piper says**, "It is the peculiar proportionality and interplay and harmony of all God's attributes that constitutes God's beauty, and makes him the foundation of all the beauty in the world."

The Beauty of God



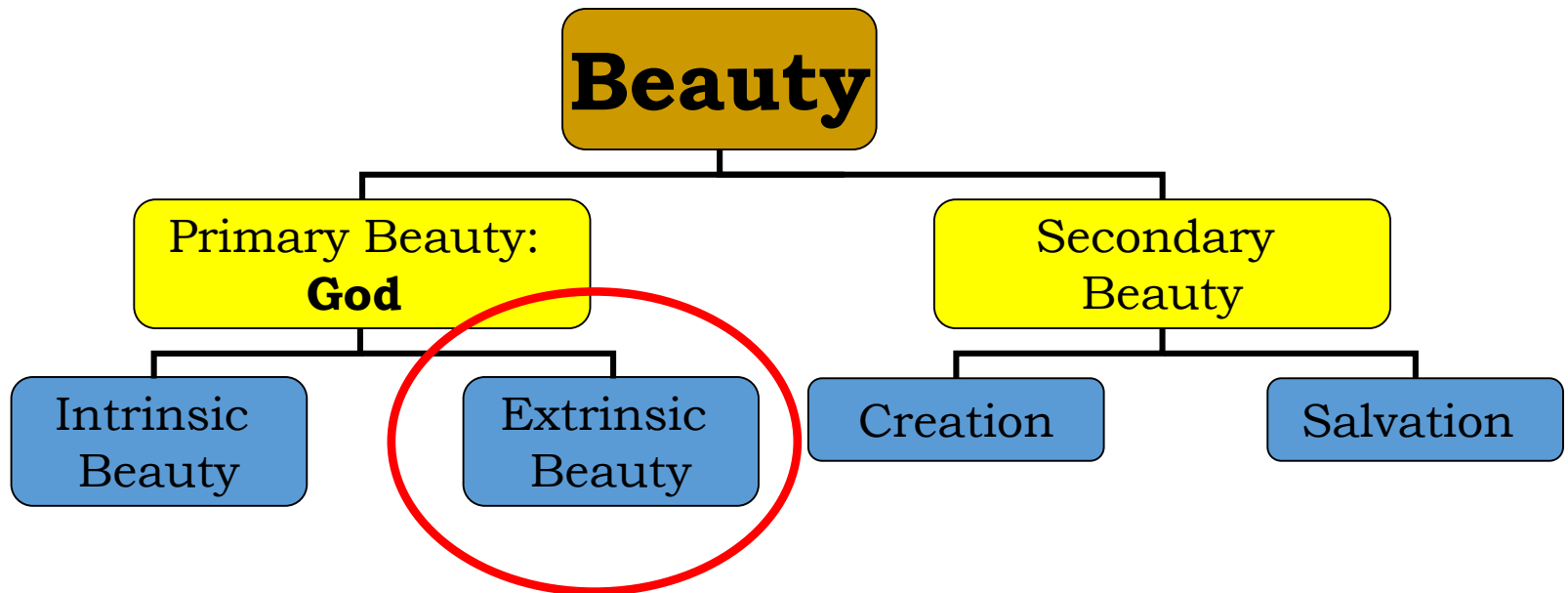
The Beauty of God



The Beauty of God

- **A.W. Pink:** “The fairest face on earth, with the most comely features, would soon become ugly and unsightly, if one member continued growing while others remained undeveloped. Beauty is, primarily, a matter of proportion. Thus it is with the Word of God: its beauty and blessedness are best perceived when its manifold wisdom is exhibited in its true proportions.”

The Beauty of God



The Beauty of God

- Extrinsic Beauty (Aesthetic Beauty)
 - we must see God's attributes not only as moral but aesthetically **pleasing and desirable**

The Beauty of God

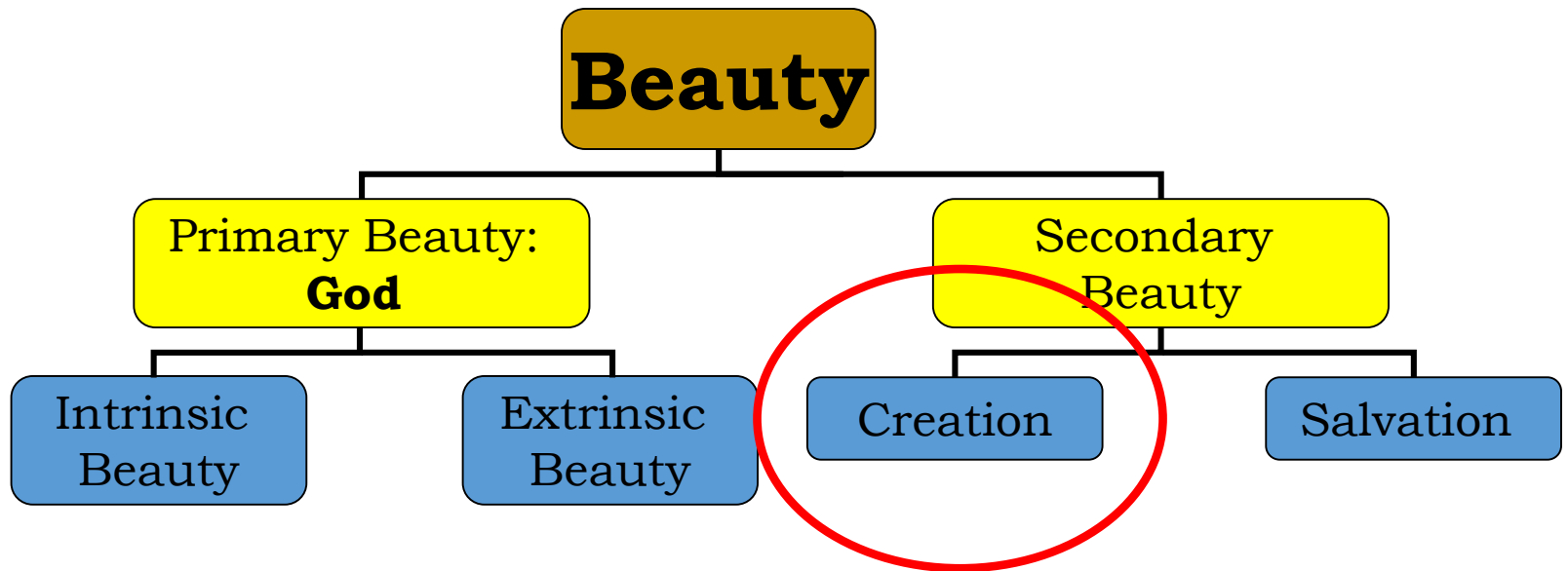
- **Psalm 27:4:** “One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord.”
 - Beauty: “To have pleasure in the perception”

The Beauty of God

- To enjoy the beauty as an end in itself



The Beauty of God



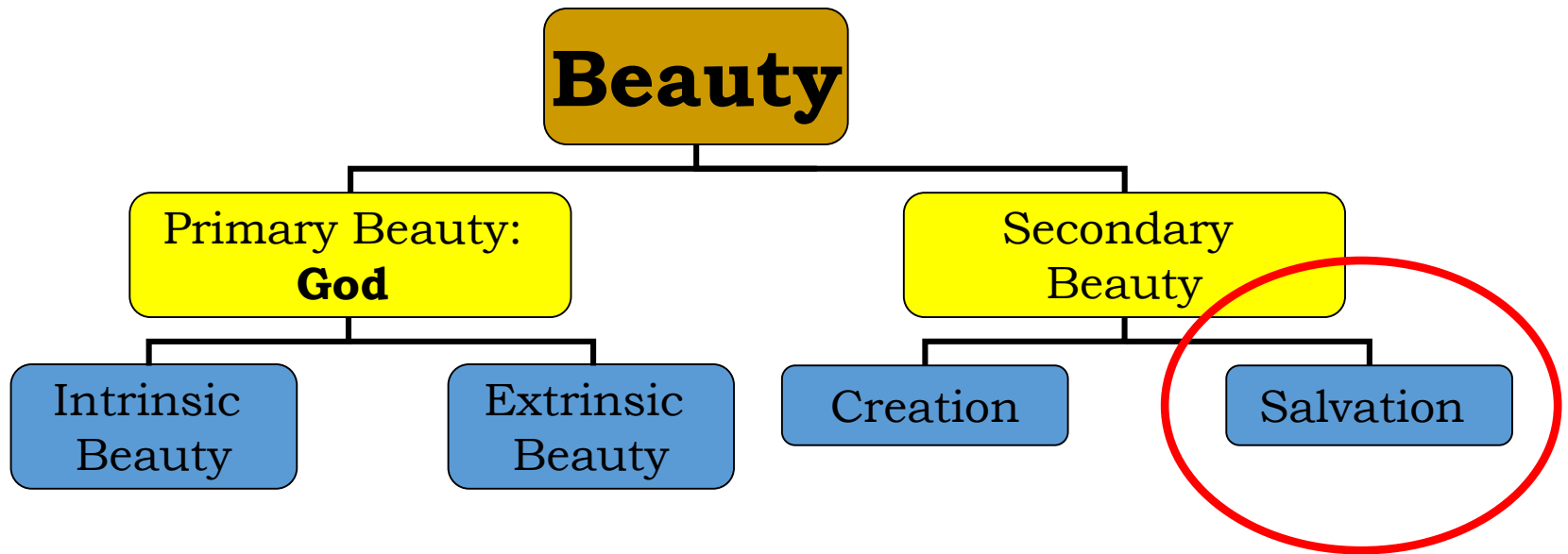
The Beauty of God

- Secondary Beauty: The echoes of God's beauty on earth
 - **Job 26:13:** By His breath the heavens gained their beauty
 - **Job 31:26:** I beheld the sun when it shone or the moon walking in beauty.
 - **Psalms 8:5:** 'For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and hast crowned him with glory and beauty.'

The Beauty of God

- **Edwards:** ...the beauties of nature are really emanations or shadows of the excellencies of the Son of God. So that, when we are delighted with flowery meadows, and gentle breezes of wind, we may consider that we see only the emanations of the sweet benevolence of Jesus Christ. When we behold the fragrant rose and lily, we see His love and purity. So the green trees, and fields, and singing of birds are the emanations of His infinite joy. The easiness and naturalness of trees and vines are shadows of His beauty and loveliness. The crystal rivers and murmuring streams are the footsteps of His favor, grace, and beauty. When we behold the light and brightness of the sun, the golden edges of an evening cloud, or the beauteous bow, we behold the [outlines] of His glory and goodness; and, in the blue sky, of His mildness and gentleness.”

The Beauty of God



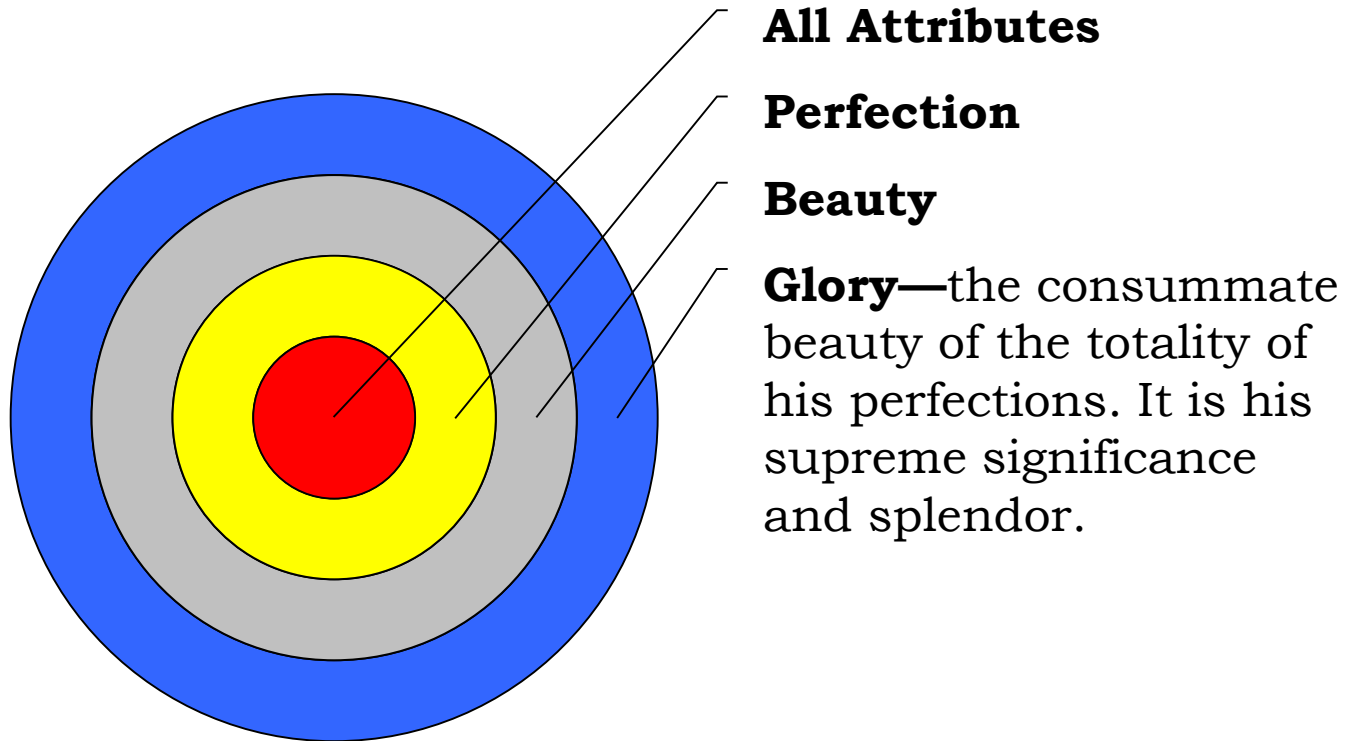
The Beauty of God

- Joy is the personal experience of true beauty
- The soul is the organ by which beauty is apprehended and enjoyed
- Regeneration, is the decisive awakening to beauty.
- Sin is false beauty
- Sanctification is becoming more beautiful
- Heaven is the full experience of beauty
 - **Isaiah 33:17:** Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty

Why Do We Need Beauty?

- Because we need beauty when we suffer
 - **Psalm 27:3-4:** Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In *spite of* this I shall be confident. One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord.”

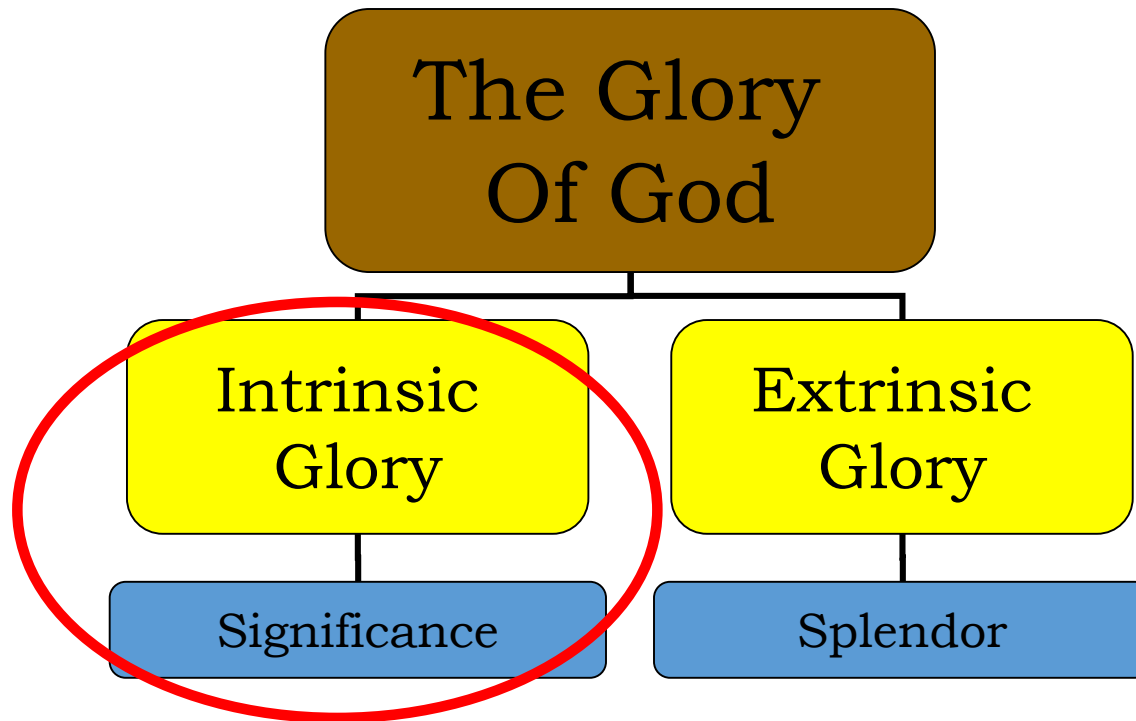
The Glory of God



The Glory of God

- **The Definition of Glory of God:**
 - **MacArthur and Mayhue:** “God’s glory refers to the consummate beauty of the totality of his perfections. It is his supreme significance and splendor.”

The Glory of God



The Glory of God

- Intrinsic Glory: Significance
 - Hebrew: Kabod: to be heavy or **weighty**.
 - Heavy with position or power or wealth (Genesis 31:1)
 - Greek: doxa: **honor** and reputation



The Glory of God

- “Kabod” is contrasted to things which are light and worthless
 - God tells Belshazzar **Daniel 5:27**: “you have been weighed and found wanting.”

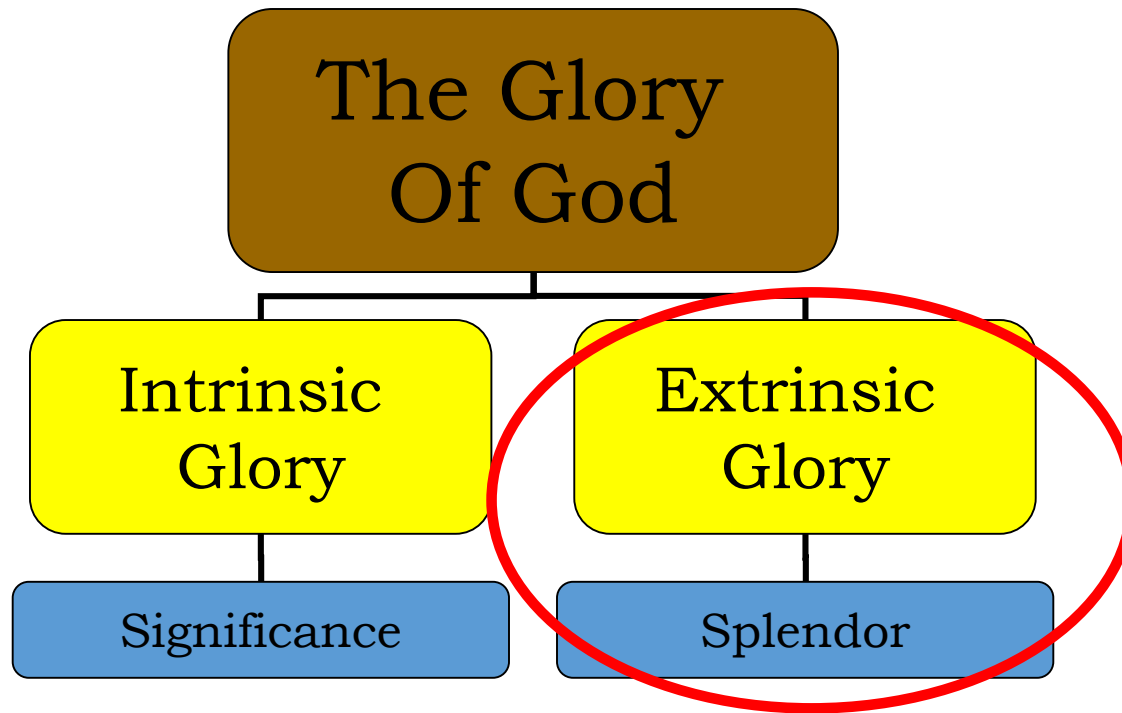
The Glory of God

- **Robert Reymond says,** “God’s glory is the sum total of all of his attributes as well as any one of his attributes. God’s glory is simply the inescapable ‘weight’ of the sheer intrinsic Godness of God, inherent in the attributes essential to him as the Deity. For the creature to deny to him any one of his attributes is to attack the very glory of God and to deny him that without which he would no longer be God. Or to ascribe to him any attribute which he himself does not expressly claim to have is again to represent him as something less than he is and thus is to attack his glory. For this reason it is imperative to listen carefully to God’s description of himself in Scripture.”

The Glory of God

- Within the Trinity, God has enjoyed His glory from eternity past.
 - **John 17:5:** “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

The Glory of God



The Glory of God

- Extrinsic Glory: Splendor
 - Kabod: “the manifestation of **light** by which God revealed Himself”
 - **Grudem says**, “this is the visible manifestation of the excellence of God’s character.”

The Glory of God

- Shekinah Glory: Glory of “Presence”
 - **Exodus 13:21:** God appeared in a pillar of fire.
 - **Exodus 16:10:** “the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.”
 - **Ezekiel 8:2:** “the appearance of fire, and from His loins and upward the appearance of brightness, like the appearance of glowing metal.”

The Glory of God

- Shekinah Glory of Christ
 - **Matthew 17:5:** “And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.”
 - **Revelation 21:23:** “And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.”

How do we glorify God?

- **John Frame says:** “Scripture calls on us to glorify God. In one sense, of course, we cannot increase God’s glory. But when we speak truly of him and obey his Word, we enhance his reputation on earth, and we ourselves become part of the created light by which people come to know God’s presence. So Jesus says that his disciples are ‘the light of the world’ (Matt. 5:14), as he is (John 8:12). Our words and our lives bring praise to God, which shows his glory-light to the world. To glorify God, then, is simply to obey him, and therefore to proclaim his greatness by our words and deeds.”

The Glory of God

- The Display of God's Glory
 - We are predestined for God's glory: Ephesians 1:5-6
 - The universe was created for God's glory: Psalm 19:1
 - Human beings were created for God's glory: Isaiah 43:6-7
 - Salvation is given for God's glory: 1 John 2:12

The Glory of God

- The Display of God's Glory
 - Sanctification is achieved for God's glory: Psalm 23:3
 - Suffering is for God's glory: Phil 1:29
 - Damnation of sinners is for God's glory: Rom 9:22-23
 - The Return of Christ will be for God's glory: 2 Thess 1:9-10

The Glory of God

- The Display of God's Glory
 - All things happen for God's glory: Romans 11:33-36
 - The deepest motive in the heart of God is His own glory
 - **Isaiah 48:11:** "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can *My name* be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another." God's deepest is to His own self exaltation

The Glory of God

- **Summary:**

- Perfection is the **Completeness** of His attributes
- Beauty is the **Harmony** and **Enjoyment** of His attributes
- Glory is the **Worth** and **Splendor** of His attributes

Practical Application

- The Beauty and Glory of God should humble us.
 - **1 Corinthians 8:1:** “Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.”

Practical Application

- The Beauty and Glory of God should remind us of the gospel.
 - **Isaiah 4:2:** “In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious.”
 - **Isaiah 53:2 tells us about Jesus:** “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

Practical Application

- The Beauty and Glory of God should cause us to worship
 - Let us meet the God of our theology

The Attributes of God

- **Isaiah 40:9:** “Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘BEHOLD YOUR GOD!’”

