

As a characteristic of God, infinite simply means that there is no limitation to God's essence, nature, or attributes. For example, God is infinite Spirit. But this does not deny that finite, created spirits exist as distinct from Him.

b. God's infinity as perfection

God's absolute perfection refers to God's freedom from all limitation or defect in His characteristics. God is infinite Spirit, and is characterized by infinite knowledge and wisdom, infinite power, infinite holiness, infinite righteousness and justice, infinite love, mercy, and goodness, and infinite truth and faithfulness.

In this connection two Scriptures should be noted:

Matthew 5:48 -- "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Psalms 145:3 -- "Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable."

3. God's eternity

a. There are three basic conceptions of eternity in the philosophical/theological literature pertaining to this subject:

- (1) eternity = timelessness
- (2) eternity = eternal time; i.e., time without beginning or ending
- (3) eternity = the state of affairs before the first act of creation and after the last event of the consummation; thus eternity may be spoken of in terms of eternity past and eternity future

b. Philosophical background to God's alleged timelessness

In sections 37-38 of his *Timaeus*, Plato says the following:

When the father and creator saw the creature which he had made moving and living, the created image of the eternal gods, he rejoiced, and in his joy determined to make the copy still more like the original, and as this was an eternal living being, he sought to make the universe eternal, so far as might be. Now the nature of the ideal being was everlasting, but to bestow this attribute in its fullness upon a creature was impossible. Wherefore he resolved to have a moving image of eternity, and when he set in order the heaven, he made this image eternal but moving according to number, while eternity itself rests in unity, and this image we call time. For there were no days and nights and months and years before the heaven was created, but when he constructed the heaven he created them also. They are all parts of time, which we