

The Immutability of God

DEFINITION:

"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end." Psalms 102:25-27

His immutability is that which distinguishes Him from all His creatures.

God is perpetually the same: subject to no change in His being, attributes, or determinations.

GOD IS IMMUTABLE IN HIS NATURE

- ◆ God is compared to a rock (Deut 32:4, etc.) which remains immovable, when the entire surrounding ocean is continually in a state of fluctuation; even so, though all creatures are subject to change, God is immutable.
- ◆ Because God has no beginning and no ending, He can know no change. He is everlastingly "the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).
- ◆ God has neither evolved, grown, nor improved. There never was a time when He was not; there never will come a time when He shall cease to be.
- ◆ Jesus as fully God is included in this attribute: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)
- ◆ All that He is today, He has ever been, and ever will be. "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6)
- ◆ He cannot change for the better, for He is already perfect; and being perfect, He cannot change for the worse.

What Change would imply _____

GOD'S IS IMMUTABLE IN HIS ATTRIBUTES

Whatever the attributes of God were before the universe was called into existence, they are precisely the same now, and will remain so forever.

His Word is "forever settled in heaven" (Psalm. 119:89).

His love is eternal: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah. 31:3) and "Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end" (John 13:1).

Numbers 23:19 is very clear, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"

GOD IS IMMUTABLE IN HIS ETERNAL WILL

God's purposes are eternal. God never has to change plans as if Satan or man has somehow frustrated Him. His degrees are from eternity past and He is not making up new ideas or plans.

Psalm 33:11

Proverbs 19:21

Job 23:13

Isaiah 14:25

Isaiah 46:9,10

THE BENEFITS OF GOD IMMUTABILITY

- 1) Since God Himself does not change then we know that we pray to the same God that all the believers of the past have prayed too.
- 2) God's Word and His promises do not change
- 3) God does not need to learn anything new
- 4) God is not growing to be more divine
- 5) God's moral nature and demands are constant
- 6) God does have a definite will and plan
- 7) Prayer ways are eternal

NOTICE:

- ◆ Immutability does not mean God is immobile. God is active and working and guides and deals with man. He comes and He goes. He reveals Himself and hides Himself. He becomes angry and turns from the fierceness of His anger. He rejected the nation of Israel and received to Himself the Gentiles.
- ◆ Immutability does not imply that God must work in the same way. In the Old Testament God required sacrifices now He met His satisfaction in Christ. This is not a change but a fulfillment of the eternal immutable plan of salvation.
- ◆ Immutability is not affected by the human understanding of God. When the Bible speaks of God changing His mind, it must be understood that the circumstance or situation has changed, not God.
- ◆ Scripture says that God “repented” (Psalm 106:45, Genesis 6:6) and that God changed His mind (Jonah 3:10, Exodus 32:14 and 1 Samuel 15:11-29). But this is a human way of understanding and expressing a holy God's reaction to man's sin or circumstance.
- ◆ "What comfort would it be to pray to a god that, like the chameleon, changed color every moment? Who would put up a petition to an earthly prince that was so mutable as to grant a petition one day, and deny it another?" (S. Charnock, 1670).

APPARENT PROBLEMS IF GOD NEVER CHANGES THEN WHY PRAY?

- ◆ Some would say “If God never changes then why pray, what is the use of praying to One whose will is already fixed?”

Because ... **He requires it** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

- ◆ Also, the Lord's Prayer as the model gives us the right understanding (Luke 11:1 , Matthew 6:9,10).
- ◆ What blessings has God promised without our seeking them? "If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14),

We do not pray to change the will of God rather we pray seeking to find His perfect will.



APPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES

The Word of God still applies today
We have confidence in the method in which we approach God
We have assurance that His Word is still faithful and true.
We know the promises of God are still in effect period
We know the expectations of God for His people.