

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD? WEEK 20 – IMMUTABILITY

<p>** Communicable – We share with God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Love 2. Jealousy 3. Graciousness 4. Just 5. Wrath 6. Merciful 7. Goodness 8. Faithfulness 9. Wisdom 	<p>**Incommunicable – Unique to God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Omniscience 11. Incomprehensibility 12. Glory 13. Majesty 14. Sovereignty 15. Omnipresence (& Immanence) 16. Holiness 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Righteousness 18. Omnipotence 19. Immutability
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Introduction

What Does This Attribute Mean?

Definition:

Immutable: unchangeable; invariable, unalterable, permanent

Immutability: unchangeableness

Biblical Definition: Let's try to get to a Biblical definition for clarity:

Mal. 3:1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. **6** “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

Side Note: The Rock

Robot?

New Testament Passage:

James 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

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AW Pink

Herein is solid comfort. Human nature cannot be relied upon; but God can! However unstable I may be, however fickle my friends may prove, God changes not. If He varied as we do; if He willed one thing today and another tomorrow; if He were controlled by caprice, who could confide in Him? But, all praise to His glorious name, He is ever the same. His purpose is fixed; His will is stable; His word is sure. Here then is a Rock on which we may fix our feet, while the mighty torrent is sweeping away everything around us. The permanence of God's character guarantees the fulfillment of His promises...(AW Pink, The Attributes of God)

AW Tozer

For a moral being to change it would be necessary that the change be in one of three directions. He must go from better to worse or from worse to better; or, granted that the moral quality remain stable, he must change within himself, as from immature to mature or from one order of being to another. It should be clear that God can move in none of these directions. His perfections forever rule out any such possibility.

God cannot change for the better. Since He is perfectly holy, He has never been less holy than He is now and can never be holier than He is and has always been. Neither can God change for the worse. Any deterioration within the unspeakably holy nature of God is impossible. Indeed I believe it impossible even to think of such a thing, for the moment we attempt to do so, the object about which we are thinking is no longer God but something else and someone less than He. The one of whom we are thinking may be a great and awesome creature, but because he is a creature he cannot be the self-existent Creator.

As there can be no mutation in the moral character of God, so there can be none within the divine essence. The being of God is unique in the only proper meaning of that word; that is, His being is other than and different from all other beings. We have seen how God differs from His creatures in being self-existent, self-sufficient, and eternal. By virtue of these attributes God is God and not some other being. One who can suffer any slightest degree of change is neither self-existent, self-sufficient, nor eternal, and so is not God. (AW Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, P49)

Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?

Ex. 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

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Num. 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Psa. 102:26 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, **27** but you are the same, and your years have no end. **28** The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.

Is. 54:10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Heb. 13:9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1 – God’s Immutability & His Essence and Nature

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2 – God’s Immutability & His Will

3 – God’s Immutability & His Word