
God is Immutable

Malachi 3:6; James 1:17

Main Idea

God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises. Human nature cannot be relied upon but God can! However unstable I may be, however unpredictable our friends and family, God changes not. The permanence of God's character guarantees the fulfillment of His promises.

Study Questions:

1. Every day we experience change in varying degrees. What is your relationship like with change? When is change good? When is change bad?
2. The Bible teaches that God is unchanging in nature. The theological term for this is *immutability*, which comes from the Latin word *mutable* ("subject to change"). In other words, to say God is *immutable* is to say that God is not subject to change.

A.W. Pink says "Immutability is one of the divine perfections which is not sufficiently pondered. It is one of the excellencies of the Creator which distinguishes Him from all His creatures." Do you agree with this statement? Why do you think he says this?

There are four areas that God's immutability distinguishes Him from all creation:

3. First, God is immutable in His Being. Read Exodus 3:13-15 and Malachi 3:6. Why is it a big deal that God's people know that He is unchanging?
4. Second, God is immutable in His Perfections. Read James 1:17 and Hebrews 6:17-18. How is serving a God who never changes comforting to you?
5. Third, God is immutable in His Promises. Read Numbers 23:19 and 1 Samuel 15:29. From these passages, how is God different than man? What is the implication when we read His Word?
6. Fourth, God is immutable in His Purposes. Read Psalm 33:11 and Isaiah 46:9-11. From these passages, how is God different than all of creation? How does the immutability of God's purposes affect how you view the future?
7. For someone (or something) to alter or change at all, to be different from themselves, one of three things has to take place:
 - i. They must go from better to worse, or
 - ii. They must go from worse to better, or

iii. They must change from one kind of being to another.

Based on the Scripture passages looked at so far, discuss how God does not fall into any of these categories of change.

8. As part of the Godhead, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change (Hebrews 13:8). What does that mean for us as Christians? To what extent is salvation now guaranteed for those who believe in Him? How does this change how you look at life?