

Self- Existence and Immutability of God

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“In the beginning, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will wear out like a garment. Like clothing you’ll change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.” Ps. 102:25-27

Introduction

In the introduction of this series, I’ve shared with you briefly the purpose of discussing and understanding the ‘attributes of God.’ One thing I did not mention yet is the fact that in his attributes, there are some that are ‘Communicable’ and there are some that are ‘Incommunicable.’ For example, out of what we discussed so far, His Infinitude, Immensity, Eternalness, Omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnipresence, Transcendence, and Imminence are considered incommunicable attributes. The attributes that we, human beings do not and could not possess. However, His Goodness, Justice and Mercy are communicable attributes – the attributes that we can and we must possess. The two attributes that we discussed the week before last week – the Perfection and Holiness of God are the subjects of great discussion as far as whether they are communicable or incommunicable! Some believe, it is; and some believe that only God can be holy and perfect! I personally believe, they are communicable that God wants us to possess and that was the whole purpose of His perfect and Holy sacrifice on the Cross! I admit that we will never become holy like God and perfect like God as long as we live in this imperfect body and in this imperfect world! God knows that too! However, He wants us to pursue it with the help of His Word and the Grace through His Holy Spirit! There is a point of elevation - perfection and that is at the appearance of Jesus. John reminds us, 1 Jn. 3:2 “...we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

Self-Existence of God:

Now, let me move to the next attribute, the self-existence of God. It is definitely not a communicable attribute. In fact, this attribute is the most debated one of all – if God is the creator of the universe and everything in it, ‘who created God?’ That has been an age old question. It was the great philosopher, Aristotle who made the first philosophical and religious argument that in a universe that is in motion, there must be a force behind this motion that is not subjected to the chain of motion, but the origin of all motions, or movements! He called it, the ‘unmoved mover’! He was even prepared to call this ‘unmoved mover’, God – the self-existing God! Modern philosophers called it ‘an uncaused cause’. But the Bible would call it, ‘the uncreated creator!’

Whenever God has revealed himself in the Scriptures, directly speaking or speaking through his prophets he has presented himself as a self-existing, unchanging and eternal God! When he appeared to Moses at the burning bush and asked him to go to the people of Israel and prepare them to leave Egypt, Moses asked him, ‘whom shall I say that sent me to them?’ God’s answer was simple: (Ex. 2:14) “God said to Moses, “I’m who I’m.”

Psalmist David sang about the self-existence of God in Ps. 90:2, “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are

God.” From eternal past to the eternal future – no beginning, no end! In the book of Revelation first chapter he introduces himself in verse 8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." He concludes the book of Revelation and even the whole Bible in chapter 22 with the statement, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." The unmoved mover – the uncaused cause – the uncreated creator! He is our God; that whom we worship and honor!

Immutability of God:

Immutability is the opposite of mutability. The word, mutable is a Latin word, meaning, 'subject to change.' Immutability means, not subject to change – means, he is beyond the access and observation of any human sciences. Realistically, is there anything in this world that does not change? Things and people change, either from good to bad; or from bad to good; or from bad to worse; or from good to better! One who does not change is God! He declares that through prophet Malachi in chapter 3:6, "I the Lord do not change."

King David testified in Ps. 102:25-27, "In the beginning, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will wear out like a garment. Like clothing you'll change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." What a wonderful statement – the immutable God!

What does this mean to you and I, God's children? Our God is an unchanging God while everything else and everyone else in the world changes! One of my most favorite verses in the Scripture is the statement prophet Balaam made to Balak, the king of Moab. We find that in Numbers 23:19, "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?" It gives great joy and confidence to a child of God that his God is an unchanging God! Although he or she might have been disappointed by the untrustworthiness of this world, he has a God who never changes, or turn away from his promises! If he has promised, he will deliver it – every one of them! Saint Paul makes it relevant to the New Testament believers expounding the true meaning for them in II Cor. 1:20, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ Jesus." What does that mean? Does that mean, you identify all the promises in the Scripture and claim it in your prayer? No. The promises are made to his children who would honor and obey him so that he will be glorified through their life! Those promises are extended to his children in the New Testament – that is you and I through Christ Jesus!

Conclusion

He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. In the book of Malachi 3:6, where he introduces himself as an unchanging God, he also tells them, "...So you descendants of Jacob are not destroyed." What the Lord is saying is this, 'if He was a mutable God – changing God like the people, God would have reacted to every change of behavior and choices people make! Imagine how disastrous that would have been! Thank God, he is an unchanging God that he is not reacting to our behavior, unlike the best of human being or even our dearest ones!
