

The Self-Existence and Immutability of God

The Self-Existence of God is the doctrine that basically teaches that God is independent from all things. He does not *need* anything. He is independent in His Being.

(Genesis 1:1-2)

[1:1] **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

(Acts 17:24-25)

[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, **does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything,** since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

(John 5:26)

[26] For as **the Father has life in himself,** so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

(John 17:5)

[5] And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with **the glory that I had with you before the world existed.**

As the self-existent God, not only is He independent in His Being, He creates and causes all things to depend on Him.

(Isaiah 42:5)

[5] Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

(Colossians 1:16-17)

[16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. [17] **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

(Hebrews 1:3)

[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power.** After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

(Revelation 4:11)

Therefore, this should inspire sober fear and humble awe as we consider God's majesty and grace.

[11] "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, **for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**"

(Job 38:4-7)

[4] "**Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?** Tell me, if you have understanding. [5] Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? [6] On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, [7] when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

The Immutability of God teaches that God, being perfect, is devoid of all change. We see this in his Being, promises, and purposes.

(Psalm 102:25-27)

[25] Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
[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.**

(Numbers 23:19)

[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?

(Isaiah 46:9-11)

[9b] I am God, and there is none like me,
[10] declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,' ...
[11b] I have spoken, and I will bring it to
pass;
I have purposed, and I will do it.

(Hebrews 13:8)

[8] **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.**

The immutability of God, however, does not teach the immobility of God. There is still change around him, particularly in how men relate to Him, but not in his own Being.

(Jonah 3:10)

[10] When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, **God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them,** and he did not do it.

(1 Samuel 15:10-11)

[10] The word of the LORD came to Samuel: [11] **"I regret that I have made Saul king,** for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments."

(John 1:14)

[14] And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Therefore we can be confident that God is for us and not against us. He is eternally unchanging in his goodness in all things.

(Hebrews 6:17-18)

[17] So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he **guaranteed it with an oath,** [18] so that by two unchangeable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie,** we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

(Malachi 3:6)

[6] **"For I the LORD do not change;** therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

(James 1:17)

[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**

(Ephesians 3:9-11)

[9] and to bring to light for everyone what is **the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,** [10] so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

[11] This was according to the eternal

purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus
our Lord,