

God's
Immutability
(God never changes)

God's Immutability (God Never Changes)

Sermon Notes:

God's Immutability (God Never Changes)

Devotional - Day 1

Day 1 – God's Immutability

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) - prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Malachi 3:6 “I the Lord do not change.”

Devotional:

The word immutable is the negative of mutable from the Latin word meaning “subject to change.” Mutation is a word we often use to mean “a change in form, nature or substance.” Immutability, then, means “not subject to change.” (A. W. Tozer - *The Attributes of God*, Volume Two) In *The Knowledge of the Holy*, Tozer writes: “To say that God is immutable is to say that He never differs from Himself. All that God is, He has always been, and all that He has been and is He will ever be. For God to change He must move in one of three directions. He must go from better to worse, worse to better or must change from within Himself, as in immature to mature, from one kind 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.”

Question to consider:

Have you ever thought of God as changeable? In what ways?

Prayer:

Lord, sometimes I forget that You never change! Help me to grasp the significance of Your immutability.

Conclude with silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to consider:

In what kind of situations would it be helpful for you to remember that God never changes?

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Devotional - Day 2

Day 2 – God's Immutability

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) - prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Numbers 23:19 God is not 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?

Devotional:

The doctrine of God's immutability is of the highest significance for religion. The contrast between being and becoming marks the difference between the Creator and the creature. Every creature is continually becoming. It is changeable, constantly striving, seeks rest and satisfaction and finds this rest in God, in Him alone, for only He is a pure being and no becoming. Hence, in scripture God is often called the Rock. (*The Doctrines of God* - Herman Bavinck)

In this world where men forget us, change their attitude toward us as their private interest dictate, and revise their opinion of us for the slightest cause, is it not a source of wondrous strength to know that the God with whom we have to do changes not? That His attitude toward us now is the same as it was in eternity past and will be in eternity to come? (A. W. Tozer - *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

Question to consider:

In what ways does God's nature contrast with that of human beings? How might that bring you comfort?

Prayer:

Lord, there are times when I think You are like others in my life who have lied who have changed their minds and broken their promises. Please forgive me and let me rest in You.

Conclude with silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

How can our ability to change (to become) be seen as a gift from God?

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Devotional - Day 3

Day 3 – God's Immutability

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) - prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Devotional:

“Shifting shadows” refers to our perspective on the sun: it is eclipsed, it moves and it casts its shadow. The sun rises and sets, appears and disappears every day; it comes out of one tropic and enters another at certain seasons of the year. But with God who, spiritually speaking, is Light itself, there is no darkness at all; there is no change with Him, nor anything like it. God is unchangeable in His nature, perfections, purposes, promises and gifts. The Bible is clear that God doesn't change His mind, His will or His nature. (www.gotquestions.org - *What is the Immutability of God?*)

The immutability of God appears in its most perfect beauty when viewed against the mutability of men. In God no change is possible, in men change is impossible to escape. Neither the man is fixed, nor his world, but he and it are in constant flux.” (A. W. Tozer - *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

Question to consider:

Reflect on the changes you are now facing. How might knowing that God never changes affect how you view them?

Prayer:

Lord, as I navigate through changes in my life, let me see them from Your perspective. Help me to trust You no matter what I face.

Conclude with silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

What does it mean to you to know that God doesn't change His mind, His will or His character?

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Devotional - Day 4

Day 4 – God's Immutability

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) - prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

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

Devotional:

You can run through the gamut of the attributes of God and what you say about the Father you can say about the Son and about the Spirit without modification. When we say that God is the same, we are saying that Jesus Christ is the same. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has not receded into history past. He is the same today as when He went away. He's the same Jesus Christ the Lord! He's not visible to our sight, but He says, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) If you turn to Him for clearer light, you'll find He is the same Jesus as when He gave the blind their sight - the very same Jesus. He'll feed you as He fed the multitude, He'll calm you as He calmed the sea. He'll bless you as He blessed the children. He'll forgive you as He forgave the woman that fell at His feet in her shame. He'll give you eternal life as He gave eternal life to His people. He'll wash you as He washed their feet, back there. He's the same! The God we preach is the same God, unchanging and unchangeable, forever and forever. (A.W Tozer - *The Attributes of God, Volume Two*)

Question to consider:

How might your faith grow if you trusted Jesus to be the very same Jesus for you now as He was for others back then?

Prayer:

Lord, though I can't see You - You've promised to always be with me. Let my faith grow as I trust You to meet my every need.

Conclude with silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

How might you cultivate a greater awareness of Jesus' presence in your life?

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Devotional - Day 5

Day 5– God's Immutability

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) - prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Hebrews 6:17-20 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, He confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:18-22 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but He became a priest with an oath when God said to Him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever." Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

Hebrews 10:16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.'"

Devotional:

In the working out of His redemptive processes, the unchanging God makes full use of change and through a succession of changes arrives at permanence at last. The old covenant as something provisional, was abolished, and the new and everlasting covenant took its place. The blood of bulls and goats lost its significance when the blood of the Pascal Lamb was shed. The law, the altar, the priesthood - all were temporary and subject to change; now the eternal law of God is engraved forever on the living, sensitive stuff of which the human soul is composed. The ancient sanctuary is no more, but the new sanctuary is eternal in the heavens

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and there the Son of God has His eternal priesthood. (A. W. Tozer - Knowledge of the Holy)

In his book, *The Two Covenants*, Andrew Murray writes, “the covenant was meant to be a security and guarantee, that the very things that God had promised would indeed come to pass. Amid all delay and disappointment and apparent failure of the divine promises, the Covenant was to be an anchor for the soul, a pledge of divine truthfulness and faithfulness and unchangeableness for the performance of what was promised. And so the Covenant was, above all, designed to give man a hold upon God as the Covenant keeping One. It was to link him to God Himself in expectation and hope - to bring him to make God Himself alone the portion and strength of his soul.”

Question to consider:

Hope in God's unchangeable purpose and promises is described as an “anchor for the soul.” What comes to mind when you consider that?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being immutable, for never changing, and for the security that gives me (Malachi 3:6). Thank you that every good and perfect gift is from You. Because You don't change like shifting shadows, You have always given good gifts and always will (James 1:17). Thank you that You will not promise without fulfilling that promise. Thank you that You do not lie or change Your mind. Thank you that Your plans stand firm and nothing can change them (Numbers 23:19). Thank you for being the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Thank you that the very nature of your purpose is unchanging. You have made that clear so that I will be encouraged - especially when I realize that your purpose is to conform me to your image (Hebrews 6:17-18). (taken from *Praying the Attributes of God* by Rosemary Jensen)

Conclude with silence (2minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

Which aspect of God's immutability has spoken to you the most?



Week 2: God's Immutability (God Never Changes)

GOAL:

Life, as we know it, is constantly changing. Seasons change, people change, our bodies change, the world around us changes, circumstances change, and our view of things can change. Like it or not, we are in a constant state of change, even when it feels like certain areas of life are stagnant. And for us, change is often needed.

There is only one thing we can count on in our lives to stay the same, and that is the immutability of God. The word immutable is defined online as “unchanging over time or unable to be changed.” In *The Attributes of God, Vol. 2* by A. W. Tozer, he states that there are three ways that people or things change. They can either go from better to worse, worse to better, or change into a different form altogether. Our God does not change like everything else in our lives, and none of these types of changes can apply to Him. What He always has been, He always will be. He has no need for change because He is perfect!

This week as we look at the truth of the Immutability of God, let yourself really ponder that and the implications of it for your life in this crazy, changing world!

LOVING GOD:

- * Memory Verse: **James 1:17** “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”
- * 2 minutes of silence
- * Devotional: choose one of the 5 devotionals for this week on the Immutability of God to read aloud to the group.
- * Question to Consider: this will come from the devotional as well
- * 2 minutes of silence

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BUILDING COMMUNITY:

* Growing Connected Questions

- Share with the group one thing that has changed in your life over the past year. Was it a change for the better or the worse?
- How has that change affected you?
- What stood out to you from this past week's message?

MAKING DISCIPLES:

* Bible Study Scriptures:

Read the following Scriptures out loud in the group: **Malachi 3:6;**
Hebrews 6:17-19; 13:8; James 1:17

* Questions:

- What do we learn about God in these verses?
- Think of something in nature or a man-made object and discuss how that particular item can experience the three types of change mentioned in the GOAL section: How it can go from better to worse; how it can go from worse to better; how it can change in form.
- Regarding the three types of changes, how is God not susceptible to any of these?
- Last week we discussed the Trinity, God in Three Persons yet eternally One. How does the truth that God never changes apply to each Person of the Godhead?
- Which of the Bible Study Scriptures listed above resonates with you the most? Why?

* Application questions:

- How does my understanding of God being immutable or unchanging affect my relationship with Him?
- If I truly understand and believe this about God, how will it affect the way I live?
- What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

* Daily Devotionals:

- Read the daily devotions for Week #2 "The Immutability of God."

*Going Deeper (The following are added optional resources for you to help you grow in your understanding of this week's attribute(s) of God):

- If you want to take the challenge, get a copy of A. W. Tozer's *The Knowledge of the Holy*, and read chapter 9.

Prayer Requests