

Thou Changest Not: God's Immutability

The Attributes of God – Session Four

“I am the LORD, I do not change.”
—Malachi 3:6 NKJV

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
—James 1:17 NKJV

I. Introduction

- a. Definition of Immutability
- b. Immutability a Perfection, not a Deficiency
- c. Relation of Immutability to Other Doctrines

II. The Doctrine of God's Immutability

- a. Scriptural Foundations
 - i. God's Covenant Name (Exod. 3:14)
 - ii. Unchangeable in His Being (Psa. 102:25-27; Mal. 3:6; Jas. 1:17)
 - iii. Unchangeable in His Purpose (Eph. 1:11)
 - iv. Unchangeable in His Promises (Heb. 6:17-18)
- b. Historical Considerations
 - i. Greek Philosophy
 - 1. Plato
 - 2. Aristotle – “Unmoved Mover”
 - ii. Augustine (AD 354-430)
 - iii. Aquinas (AD 1225-1274): *Actus Purus*

III. Modern Errors

- a. Pantheism/Panentheism
 - i. Pantheism: All is god.
 - ii. Panentheism: All is in god.

- b. Process Theology
- c. Open Theism
- d. “Covenantal Attributes”

IV. God’s Impassibility?

- a. WCF 2.1: “There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, *or passions*, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory...”
- b. What Are Passions?
- c. *Analogia Fidei*
- d. Scriptural Support
 - i. Acts 14:15
 - ii. Romans 1:25-26
 - iii. “Blessed” (Gr. εὐλογητός, *eulogētōs*)

V. Conclusion/Applications

- a. Immutability
 - i. God is trustworthy.
 - ii. God’s promises are sure.
 - iii. We are not consumed (Mal 3:6).
- b. Impassibility
 - i. A passible God could not love you!

Recommended Resource

Beeke, Joel R., and Paul M. Smalley. *Revelation and God*. Vol. 1. Reformed Systematic Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019; pp. 685-718, 832-844.