

THEOLOGY PROPER (46)

7. Omniscience means the unknown we fear is the known God controls.
8. Omniscience means God knows all future events before they actually happen,
9. Omniscience means God knows all faithfulness which should encourage and comfort.
10. Omniscience means God knows all unfaithfulness which should intimidate and cause fear.

(Incommunicable Attribute #8) - Self-Existence.

This is the that means God is complete in and of Himself and He is dependent on no other being. God is totally independent in Himself and is in need of no one or nothing. **This is a critical incommunicable attribute, for in order for all of creation to depend on One God, God must never have need of depending on any other than Himself.** If God is not self-existent, then He is dependent on something or someone else, which means He is not infinitely perfect. This attribute is very important to God, for His name "Jehovah" (YHWH) "I AM" (Ex.3:14) is clear revelation of God's "self-existence."

God is the **only** Being who can completely exist in Himself, for all other Beings and dependent upon other beings and things. For example- Plants are dependent. Animals are dependent. People are dependent. There is no such thing as an independent created thing. God is the only Being who is completely self-existent. There are many passages that teach this:

- 1) Exodus 3:14 - Dr. Paul Enns says of this verse: "Exodus 3:14 emphasizes His self-existence in His identification, "I AM WHO I AM" The verb "to be" emphasizes He has continual existence in Himself." (Handbook of Theology, p.189)
- 2) Is.40:18-26 - Berkhof said these verses not only prove God is independent of all things, but that all things are dependent and only exist because of God. (Systematic Theology, p.58)
- 3) Jn.5:26 - God has life in Himself, whereas all other Creatures are dependent upon a variety of things, all controlled by God, for their life.
- 4) Acts 17:24-25 - God is the One who made all things, however, He did not need anything, meaning He is complete in Himself, He is self-existent.
- 5) Rom.11:33-36 - God is self-existent and in need of nothing.

God is the **ONLY** Being who never needs to depend on any person or thing. He is the **ONLY** Being who is self-existent. This is a very meaningful attribute in several ways:

1. This attribute should cause us to stand in awe of God- One theologian said "There is nothing more ultimate than God, "
2. This attribute should cause us to realize how dependent we are upon God.
3. This attribute should cause us to realize that God does not need us, but we all need Him.
4. This attribute should cause us to be thankful that God would relate to any of us. He does not need us.
5. This attribute should cause us to realize that since God needs nothing, we can go to God for everything. He is never, at any time, less than He is, which means He always has the ability to answer our requests, in and of Himself. The wisest thing for a believer to do when faced with any insurmountable matter is to take the request to the self-existing God.

THEOLOGY PROPER (47)

(Incommunicable Attribute #9) - Simplicity.

This is the attribute of God, which is philosophical in nature, which is implied in the Scriptures, although not specially stated. Many theologians consider this attribute to be very important.

This attribute basically means that God is always simply and fully God. He cannot be divided into parts, He does not consist of parts, nor are there separate ingredients that comprise and form God is “always...what He is.” He is always fully and simply God.

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer described simplicity this way: "By this term it is indicated that the divine Being is uncompounded, incomplex and indivisible."(Vol.1, p.213)

Dr. Louis Berkhof described simplicity this way: "When we speak of the simplicity of God, we use the term to describe the state or quality of being simple, the condition of being free from division into parts, and therefore from compositeness. It means that God is not composite and is not susceptible of division in any sense of the word"(p.62)

Dr. Charles Ryrie described simplicity this way "The attribute of simplicity means that God is not a composite or compounded being. ...He is not divisible or composed of parts of multiple substances."(p.43)

As we have previously stated, Scripture does not explicitly state this attribute, but it does imply One such passage of Scripture would be **I Timothy 1:17**. In this verse certain Attributes of God are in a simple, manner, named in the verse is always God. God will always be these things and cannot ever be divided into less than He is. These attributes are not detached portions of His Being, which when compounded compose God, for God is always fully and simply God. This attribute is practical in several ways:

- 1) It guarantees that God will always be who He is.
- 2) It guarantees that God will never be any less than He is.
- 3) It guarantees that God will always act and react as fully God.
- 4) It guarantees that God will always be absolutely perfect in everything
- 5) It guarantees that God will always be fully God.

(Incommunicable Attribute #10) - Sovereignty.

Some theologians do not include this as an attribute of God, however, it certainly is one described in the Bible and it certainly is one that is incommunicable. **This means that God is supreme ruler of and over all things (Ps.103;19; I Cor.8:6)**. As Dr. Berkhof states: "He rules all things...so as to secure the accomplishment of the divine purpose." (p.175) God does what He pleases (Ps.115:3) and purposes (Is.14:27). God carries out His will in everything (Dan.4:35). One cannot begin to accurately grasp the true concept of God until one has some perspective of the fact that He is the sovereign God. It is this very quality that leads one to properly worship God (i.e.Rev.4: 11).