

Women of the Word
IMAGE BEARERS of the One True God:
(We are) Made for **Relationship, Worship, Service, Holiness**
(He is) Worthy of Worship because His attributes:
The Immutability of God

Monday, Tuesday, February 13, 14, 2017
Instructor: Elizabeth Inrig

I Introduction

Like other unshared (incommunicable) attributes, the immutability of God is an essential description of God's nature. As an adjective, it cl_____ the fact that God's personal essence will and can never change, never improve, grow, get better and will never diminish, disappear and be declared unnecessary or impotent. God can be no_____ other than Who and W_____. He is! He cannot be what He is not!

The corollary follows therefore that because of His immutable characteristic, none of His attributes, both shared and unshared (communicable and incommunicable) will be 'better' in the future than they are now. Who and what He is and has been will always be in the future!

This attribute of unchangeableness is seen as a brilliant diamond on the black cloth of our human nature to ch_____.! The fact that God 'remains the same' in the past, present and future should enable the believer to live with great confidence that God forever IS Whom He says He is.

Both Old and New Testaments bear witness to the Immutability of God. Like other statements about our God, they are beyond our un_____ but tr_____ in their meaning so we can trust God's heart even when we don't understand His w_____.

1. **Psalm 102:24-27 – an afflicted man...and the unchanging One (v. 24-27)**

²⁴ I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days,
Your years are throughout all generations.

²⁵ "Of old You founded the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

²⁶ "Even they will perish, **but You endure;**
And all of them will wear out like a garment;
Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.

²⁷ "**But You are the same,**
And Your years will not come to an end

2. **1 Samuel 15:20-29 – Saul rebukes disobedient Saul**

²⁰ Then Saul said to Samuel, "**I did obey the voice of the LORD**, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹ **But the people took some** of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal." ² Samuel said,

"Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?

Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,**

And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³ "For **rebellion is as the sin of divination,**

And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,

He has also rejected you from *being* king."

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the LORD." ²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷ As Samuel turned to go, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ So Samuel said to him,

"The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. ²⁹ Also **the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.**" ³⁰ Then he said, "*I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.*" ³¹ So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

3. **Jeremiah 18:1-11; Malachi 3:5-7 – God has absolute sovereignty over Israel and the nations; He will purify Israel while He brings judgment on His enemies**

⁵ "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.

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

⁷ "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept *them*. **Return to Me, and I will return to you,**" says the LORD of hosts.

4. **James 1:17 – The Unchanging Grace-giver**

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, **coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.** ¹⁸ *In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth,* so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

5. **Hebrews 13:5-8 – the Changeless Christ**

⁵ *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "**I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,**" ⁶ so that we confidently say, "**THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?**" ⁷ Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. ⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

II Understanding Immutability:

1. Definitions;

Immutability of God:

The attribute where God is un_____ in His b_____ (person),
perf_____, pur_____ and pro_____!

Immutable - not ca_____ OR su_____ to change

As the immutable One, He is consistently, invariably, irrevocably, unchangeably, absolutely and eternally as the B_____ describes Him! His per_____ preclude (impede, prevent, exclude, disqualify, prohibit) improvement.

2. Related words:

Impassibility - not able to suffer, experience emotion

This describes the theological doctrine that God does not exp_____ pain or pleasure from or **based on the actions** of an_____ being. He cannot and does not change His nature (love, mercy, kindness etc) because of man_____ or dramatic behaviors. He will and must act acc_____ to Whom He is and not respond on a whim as a man does.

Anthropomorphism - assignment of human attributes to nonhuman things

Anthropopathism - the assignment of human feelings to a god/deity or nonhuman being

III Practical Spiritual Implications

1. **God cannot become** ho_____ than He is now nor bet_____ than His goodness. (this is true related to every attribute of God) See Psalm 100:5. He is unchanging in **His essence**.
2. **God cannot become** less _____ or less _____ or less _____. His love is not fickle. **God's love will not** les_____ or inc_____ in intensity over time and eternity. He is unchanging in **His attributes**.
3. **Believers can be assured** that God f_____ toward us as He did in eternity past as He did when He sent His Son to d_____ for us. He is unchanging in His wi_____, pl_____, pur_____, prov_____.
4. **"God never changes moods or His mind; He never** cools off in His aff_____, loses His enth_____ and never throws a t_____." He has established e.g., a '*repentance pattern*' in the universe:(e.g. Jonah and Nineveh); He has already set up conditions for how human beings may be spiritually blessed: humble repentance.
5. **No man can maneuver God**, thereby ch_____ His emotions. Man's responsibility is to _____ the Lord. His is impass_____ in **His consciousness**.
6. **God's prerogative in all** He wills, says and does is to be con_____ with His nature, cong_____ with His perfections, lo_____ to His

purposes and faith _____ to His promises. He cannot change His will and is working all things out for our good.

III CONCLUSION – the Glorious freedom of the believers' change (transformation)

What God is – unchanging and unaffected by our emotions so He changes – cannot and will not ever change. But in a glorious act of grace, He unveils _____ our eyes to see His Son as our substitute for sin. Consequently, when a person turns to the Lord, (repentance is a turning away from self and sin to trust and rest in the Lord) the Spirit brings freedom from the bondage _____ of sin and calls us to look _____ long at the glorious Lord Jesus Christ so we will see His glorious _____ Person and be CHANGED! Only the Holy Spirit of God can transform _____ the repentant sinner and the surrendered and suffering saint _____!!!

2 Cor. 3:15-18

¹⁵ But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; ¹⁶ but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

IV In PRAISE of God's UNCHANGEABLE Character!

I HEAR THE WORDS OF LOVE

I hear the words of love, I gaze upon the blood,
I see the mighty sacrifice, And I have peace with God.

'Tis everlasting peace! Sure as Jehovah's Name;
'Tis stable as His steadfast throne, Forevermore the same.

The clouds may come and go And storms may sweep my sky;
This blood-sealed friendship changes not; The cross is ever nigh.

My love is oft-times low, My joy still ebbs and flows;
But peace with Him remains the same; No change Jehovah knows.

I change, He changes not, The Christ can never die;
His love, not mine, the resting place, His truth, not mine, the tie.

Credits: Words by Horatio Bonar (1861); Music by Henry Gauntlet (1868)

