

The Immutability of God

This Divine perfection is a principle attribute that distinguishes the Creator from the created. God is perpetually the same: subject to no change in His being, attributes, or determinations. God is eternally unchangeable.

Scripture used:	Context:
Deut. 32:4	Here God is compared to a "Rock."
James 1:17	Everything from above comes from God, "with whom there is no variation."

1. God is immutable in His essence. His nature and being are infinite, therefore, subject to no mutations. There never was a time when He was not; there never will come a time when He shall cease not. God has neither evolved, grown, nor improved. All that He is today, He has ever been, and forever will be. Malachi 3:6

Scripture used:	Context:
Exodus 3:14	He cannot change for the better, for He is already perfect; and being perfect, He cannot change for the worse. He can only say, "I AM WHO I AM."

2. God is immutable in His attributes. Whatever the attributes of God were before the universe was called into existence, they are precisely the same now, and will remain so forever. Because they are the very perfection's, the essential qualities of His being. Semper idem (always the same) is written across every one of them. His power is unabated, His wisdom undiminished, His holiness unsullied. The attributes of God can no more change than Deity can cease to be. His veracity is immutable, for His Word is "forever settled in heaven." Psalm 119: 89

Scripture used:	Context:
Jeremiah 31:3	God's love is an "everlasting love."
John 13:1	Jesus loved them to the end.
Psalm 100: 5	His loving-kindness is everlasting.

3. God is immutable in His counsel. His will never varies. Lets look at Genesis 6:6 where God appears to be repentant for the creation of man. The explanation is simple. God frequently accommodates His language to our limited capacities. He describes Himself as clothed with bodily members, as eyes, ears, hands etc. He speaks of Himself as "waking" (Psalm 78:65), as "rising early" (Jeremiah 7:13); yet He neither slumbers nor sleeps. When He institutes a change in His dealings with men, He describes His course of conduct as "repenting or sorrowful."

God is immutable in His counsel:

Scripture used:	Context:
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Numbers 23:19	God does not lie and God does not repent.
1 Samuel 15:29	He is not a man that He would change His mind.
Romans 11:29	The gifts of God are irrevocable. (without repentance)
Job 23:13	What His soul desires, He does.
Psalms 33:11	His counsel stands forever, His plans are of His heart for all generations.
Hebrews 6:17	God's promises are unchangeable.
Psalms 66:9	We should rejoice in that God keeps us in life.
Acts 17:28	In Him we live, move and exist. Why? (read verse 29-31)

As fallen creatures we are not only mutable, but everything in us is opposed to God:

Scripture used:	Context:
Jude 13	We are "wandering stars" out of orbit.
Isaiah 57:20	The wicked are like "tossing seas."
Genesis 49:4	"unstable as water"
Isaiah 2:22	Stop worshiping the created and worship the Creator.
Psalms 146:3	Don't trust in man, whom there is no salvation.

In God there is solid comfort:

Scripture used:	Context:
Isaiah 54:10	Although the world may change we should take comfort that God's compassion cannot be shaken or removed.

Herein is the encouragement to prayer:

"What comfort would it be to pray to a god that, like the chameleon, changed color every moment? Who would put up a petition to an earthly prince that was so mutable as to grant a petition one day, and deny it another?" (Stephen Charnock, 1670)

Scripture used:	Context:
1 John 5:14	He has willed everything for His child that is good. To ask anything contrary to His will is not prayer, but rank disobedience.

Herein is the terror for the wicked:

Scripture used:	Context:
Ezekiel 8:18	Those who deny Him, who break His laws, who have no concern for His glory, but who live their lives as though He does not exist, must not suppose that God will have mercy, or that He will alter His will, revoke His word, or rescind His threatening. God will not deny Himself to gratify their lusts. God is holy, unchangingly so. Therefore God hates sin, eternally hates it. Hence the eternality of the punishment of all whom He die in their sins.

“The Divine immutability, like the cloud that interposed between the Israelites and the Egyptian army, has a dark side as well as light side. It ensures the execution of His threatening, as well as the performance of His promises; and destroys the hope which the guilty fondly cherish, that He will be all lenity to His frail and erring creatures, and that they will be much more lightly dealt with than the declaration of His own Word would lead us to expect. We oppose these deceitful and presumptuous speculations the solemn truth, that God is unchanging in veracity (truth) and purpose, in faithfulness and justice.” John Dick, 1850