

Welcome to

Who is God  
and

Why Does it Matter to Me

The Immutable God

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# James 1:17

“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.**”



He cannot vary

Cannot change

Cannot decrease

Cannot increase

He is all that He will ever be, all that  
He ever was



300,000,000,000,000,  
000,000,000 (300  
sextillion) stars in the  
universe

Psalm 102:25–27

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

<sup>26</sup>"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.

<sup>27</sup>"But You are the same, And  
Your years will not come to an  
end.



# Nothing can change God

He cannot be changed by outside forces

He cannot change from within

Philippians 1:6

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Because God does not need to hold back any resources for Himself He is able to apply all of them to us and knowing that the purpose which He has for our lives is one of perfection should give us an enormous sense of honor.

# God's immutability is our survival

Malachi 3:6

“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”

It is true that:

- God is self-sufficient and so does not need us.
- God can immediately take anyone's life and still be righteous.
- We are sinners and God is perfectly holy.

However, it is also immutably true that:

- God is rich in mercy.
- God loves us with a great love.
- Although God does not need us, nonetheless, He greatly delights in us. We are not without a friend in Heaven.

# Because God does not change then neither do His eternal purposes

Hebrews 6:17–18

“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,

<sup>18</sup>so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”

# Truth is forever

Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

Truth is never dependent on our understanding or acceptance of it. It is as true if we believe it and as true if we doubt it.



# Jesus Christ is immutable

Luke 2:52

“kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men”

Philippians 2:6–7

“Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”

Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”



# God raises us up

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

God does come down to our level to have a relationship with us but raises us up to His level.

Because God cannot change He, therefore, changed us.



# What does God's immutability mean to us?

We can trust God

James 1:17 says

“Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.”

# We can resist temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

# We can have confidence in His desire for our life

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

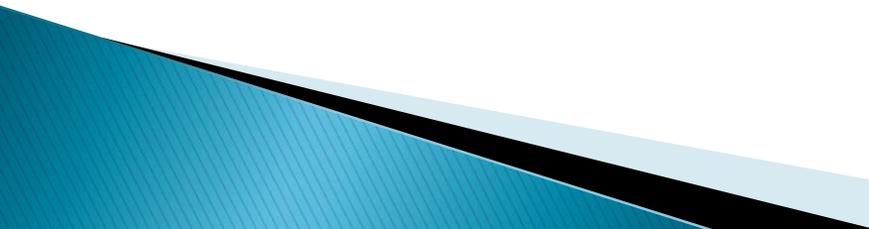
Psalm 16:11

You will make known to me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

We can become more godly



# Discussion Questions

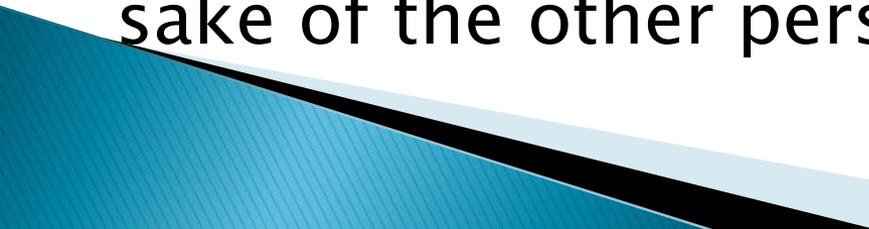
- 1) In addition to the ones discussed about, what are some other assurances that God's immutability gives to us?
  - 2) Why would an unchanging God do things differently because of prayer?
  - 3) If God does not change then why does He appear to be different in the Old Testament than in the New Testament?
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4) How does God's immutability make us feel more secure as a Christian?

5) If God does not change then how come sometimes I feel more like He loves me and other times I feel more like He is mad at me?

6) If God is always the same then why do so many religions have such different views of God?

7) If God loves us so much then why does He not change? In a marriage, the husband and wife will change to better themselves for the sake of the other person?



# Situation

Max has been a fairly steady Christian for a number of years. He has had his ups and downs but has always managed to work through them. For the last several months he has been overwhelmed with a very difficult trial and his faith has wavered. He often says, “God doesn’t love me” even though many of those times he says it in a mildly joking manner. He skips church every once in a while and when he does go he seems uninterested in the singing and sermon. You have been one of his close friends over the years. How can you encourage Max and is there anything regarding God’s immutability that might be especially helpful?