

# Systematic Theology

A STUDY OF THE MAJOR DOCTRINES OF SCRIPTURE.

TOPIC 2 – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

LESSON 18 – THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: INDEPENDENCE

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# The incommunicable attributes

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How is God different from us?

God's attributes, or perfections, are identical to His essence.

We must not consider these perfections without consciously thinking about how they integrate with, compliment, and qualify each other.

These perfections are directed first toward God before anything or anyone outside Him.

These perfections are defined and understood according to their presentation in Scripture, as the special revelation by God of Himself to us.

# Independence (Aseity)

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Aseity – Latin “self” in reference to the properties by which a being exists in and of itself.

God is independent of all things. He is perfectly self-sufficient, not depending on anything outside Himself for anything, and is therefore the eternal, foundational Being, the source of life and sustenance for all other beings. – MacArthur, pg. 168

God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify Him and bring Him joy. – Grudem, pg. 160

# independence

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Acts 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Job 41:11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

Psalm 50:10 For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

# independence

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There was perfect love and glory before creation.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. 24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

# independence

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God created all other things that exist.

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Romans 11:35 “Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?” 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

1 Cor. 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

# independence

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God delights in us!

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” 18 “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, to whom its reproach is a burden.

Isaiah 62:3 You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

# independence

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God is self-existent, having life in and of Himself.

Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

God existed before all things, and through Him alone all things exist.

Psa. 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.



# independence

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God is Lord of all.

Deut. 10:17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.

Joshua 3:13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap.”

He depends on nothing; all things depend upon Him.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

# independence

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He is the source of everything.

Deut. 32:39 'Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; 7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.'

# independence

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He does as He wills.

Psalm 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.

# independence

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He does as He wills.

Jeremiah 18:6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the Lord. “Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!

Daniel 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”

Romans 9:19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

# independence

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He does as He wills.

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

His counsel is the basis of everything.

Psalm 33:10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.

# independence

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His counsel is the basis of everything.

Proverbs 19:There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand.

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. 26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

# independence

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His counsel is the basis of everything.

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Acts 4:27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,...9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,...11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,...

# independence

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He does everything for His own sake.

Joshua 7:9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”

1 Samuel 12:22 For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.

Psalms 25:11 For Your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

Psalms 31:3 For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.

Psalms 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name’s sake!



# independence

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He does everything for His own sake.

Psalm 106:8 Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known.

Psalm 109:21 But You, O God the Lord, deal with me for Your name's sake; because Your mercy is good, deliver me.

Psalm 143:11 Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Proverbs 16:4 The Lord has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

Isaiah 48:9 "For My name's sake I will defer My anger, and for My praise I will restrain it from you, so that I do not cut you off.

# independence

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He does everything for His own sake.

Jeremiah 14:7 O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, do it for Your name's sake; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against You....21 Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake; do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us.

Ezekiel 20:9 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt...14 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out... 22 Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out...44 Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel," says the Lord God.' "

# independence

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He needs nothing, being all sufficient.

Job 22:2 “Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself? 3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?”

Acts 17:25 Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

# independence

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He is the first and the last.

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the Lord, am the first; and with the last I am He.' "

Isaiah 44: "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.

Isaiah 48:12 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

# independence

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He is the first and the last.

Revelation 21:6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

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He is independent in his mind, will, counsel, love, and power.

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(Slides 8-23, MacArthur, pg. 169)

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