

G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together

Systematic Theology—Paterology/Doctrine of God Part 3

**"Behold thy God" Isaiah 40:9
The Character of God**

Two categories or classes of God's attributes: ***incommunicable attributes*** and ***communicable attributes***

Incommunicable attributes of God are attributes that belong only to God. They are those attributes that God does NOT share or "communicate" to others.

Communicable attributes of God are attributes God shares or "communicates" with us.

Examples of the ***incommunicable attributes*** would be God's immutability/unchangeableness (God does not change, but we do). Another example is His omnipresence (God is everywhere present, but we are present only in one place at one time).

Examples of the ***communicable attributes*** would be love (God is love, and we are able to love as well), knowledge (God has knowledge, and we are able to have knowledge as well), mercy (God is merciful, and we are able to show mercy.)

I. Incommunicable Attributes of God

A. God's Independence—Self-Existence-- Aseity (Latin "from" "self")

The doctrine of God's independence or self-existence teaches that God is the uncaused Cause, the uncreated Creator. He is the source of all things, the One who originated everything and who sustains everything that exists. God's independence means that He is the One in whom all other things find their source, existence, and continuance. 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. (Acts 17:24–25; Job 41:11; Ps. 50:10–12; Exodus 3:14)

If God is self-existent and has need of nothing, why are we important at all?

We are very meaningful to God because God has created us and He has determined that we would be *meaningful to Him*.

**** We were created for God's glory ****

(Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:11–12; Rev. 4:11; Isa. 62:3–5; Zeph. 3:17–18)