

Systematic Theology  
Incommunicable Attributes pt 1

Pink says, “During a past eternity, God was alone: self-contained, self-sufficient, self-satisfied; in need of nothing. Had a universe, had angels, had human beings been necessary to Him in any way, they also had been called into existence from all eternity. The creating of them when He did, added nothing to God essentially. He changes not (Mal. 3:6), therefore His essential glory can be neither augmented nor diminished.”

1. **The Independence/A\_\_\_\_\_ of God**

a. **God is S\_\_\_\_\_**

Exodus 3:14

John 5:26

Packer says, “In theology, endless mistakes result from supposing that the conditions, bounds, and limits of our finite existence apply to God. The doctrine of His aseity stands as a bulwark against such mistakes. In our life of faith, we easily impoverish ourselves by embracing an idea of God that is too limited and small, and again the doctrine of God’s aseity stands as a bulwark to stop this happening. It is vital for spiritual health to believe that God is great (ps. 95:1-7), and grasping the truth of God’s aseity is the first step on the road to doing this. (Packer, 27)”

b. **God O\_\_\_\_\_ Everything and Doesn’t Need Anything**

Psalm 50:8-15

John 17:24

Isaiah 44:15-17

Acts 17:24-30

Packer says, “Sacrifices offered to idols, in today’s tribal religion as in ancient Athens, are thought of as somehow keeping the god going, but the Creator (the I AM) needs no such support system.”

c. **God is D\_\_\_\_\_ to No One**

Rom 11:35-36

d. **Yet We and the Rest of Creation Can G\_\_\_\_\_ Him**

Isaiah 43:7

Ephesians 1:5-6

John 15:8

2. **I\_\_\_\_\_**

Pink defines this attribute as, “God is perpetually the same: subject to no change in His being, attributes, or determinations.”

a. **Unchanging Nature and A\_\_\_\_\_**

Psalm 102:25-27

What if God changed?

b. **Unchanging P** \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 33:10-11

Prov 19:21

Job 42:2

Jonah 3:1-4:2

Jeremiah 18:7-10

GT Shedd comments, "If God had treated the Ninevites *after* their repentance, as he had threatened to treat them *before* their repentance, this would have proved him to be mutable. It would have showed him to be at one time displeased with impenitence, and at another with penitence. Charnock . . . remarks that 'the unchangeableness of God, when considered in relation to the exercise of his attributes in the government of the world, consists not in always acting in the same manner, however cases and circumstances may alter; but *in always doing what is right, and in adapting his treatment of his intelligent creatures to the variation of their actions and characters* [emphasis mine]. When the devils, now fallen, stood as glorious angels, they were the objects of God's love, necessarily; when they fell, they were the objects of God's hatred, because impure. The same reason which made him love them while they were pure, made him hate them when they were criminal.' It is one thing for God to will a change in created things external to himself and another thing for him to change in his own nature and character" (I:352-53).

Packer says, "The God of Scripture is constantly acting into and reacting to the human condition. In no sense is he metaphysically insulated or detached from, unconcerned with or insensative or indiffereent to fallen men. . . In sum, God is religiously available."

Genesis 6:5-6

J.I Packer explains "God's experiences do not come upon him as ours come upon us, for his are foreknown, willed and chosen by himself, and are not involuntary surprises forced on Him from outside, apart from his own decision, in the way that ours regularly are. In other words, He is never in reality the victim who man makes to suffer. . ."

c. **Unchanging P** \_\_\_\_\_

Malachi 3:6

Isaiah 54:10

Numbers 23:19

Heb 6:17-20

Pink says, "Herein is solid *comfort*. Human nature cannot be relied upon; but God can! However unstable I may be, however fickle my friends may prove, God changes not. If He varied as we do, if He willed one thing today and another tomorrow, if He were controlled by caprice, who could confide in Him? But, all praise to His glorious name, He is ever the

same. His purpose is fixed, His will stable, His word is sure. Here then is a *rock* on which we may fix our feet, while the mighty torrent is sweeping away everything around us. The permanence of God's character guarantees the fulfillment of His promises: