

- I. Session 24: The Aseity of God
- a. Purpose: Tonight we want to look at our first attribute of God, which is the Aseity of God.
 - b. Definition of Aseity
 - i. "The term aseity comes from the Latin phrase a se, meaning 'from or by himself.'"¹
 - ii. When we are talking about God's Aseity we are simply talking about the independence of God.
 - iii. According to Bavinck: It is the doctrine "that God is self-sufficient in everything; in his existence, in his attributes, in his decrees, and in his works."²
 - iv. According to Wayne Grudem it is self-existence, and His independence with God's independence defined as "God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glory him and bring him joy."³
 - v. Synonyms for aseity: independence, self-existence, self-sufficiency, and self-containment."⁴
 - c. Scriptural Proofs of the Aseity of God
 - i. God's Aseity follows from the implication that God owns everything:
 1. "10 *"For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. 11 "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. 12 "If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains."* (Psalm 50:10-12)
 - a. Note the allusion that God own His creation and creatures in **verses 10-11**.
 - b. The implication is stated in **verse 12**: Because all things are His, He does not need to depend upon us human creatures.
 - c. Even the Jewish religious sacrifices is not something God ultimately needs for Himself in **verses 8-9**.
 2. "Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine." (Job 41:11)
 - a. This is God speaking, answering Job.
 - b. God owns everything and owes no one anything!
 - ii. "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;" (Acts 17:24-25)
 1. God does not need to dwell in man made locations (Acts 17:24)

¹ John Frame, *Doctrine of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ:Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002), 600.

² Herman Bavinck, *The Doctrine of God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1951), 145.

³ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 160.

⁴ John Frame, *Doctrine of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ:Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002), 601.

2. Notice God is not “*served by human hands*” (Acts 17:25)
3. Notice God also does not “*needed anything*” (Acts 17:25)
- iii. Notice God’s satire against false God’s for lacking Aseity in **Isaiah 40:19-20, 44:15-17**.
- d. Examples of how the Aseity of God relate to other areas of theology
 - i. Relations to God as Creator:
 1. “People have sometimes thought that God created human beings because he was lonely and needed fellowship other persons. If this were true, it would certainly mean that God is not completely independent of creation. I would mean that God would need to create persons in order to be completely happy or completely fulfilled in his personal existence.”⁵
 2. Why is not God loneliness driving Him to create? Remember the doctrine of the Trinity!
 3. God’s Aseity also imply God needs nothing else to create the World, hence *Creation Ex Nihilo*.
 - ii. Relations to God’s Goodness:
 1. God does not depend on an abstract “goodness” to be God, rather goodness depends on God.
 2. “And his righteousness is self-justifying, based on the righteousness of his own nature and on his status as the ultimate criterion of rightness”⁶
 - iii. Relations to God’s Grace:
 1. Ultimately God’s grace is not based upon anything that we do; it is free from our manipulation since it is based solely on God’s own desire to be gracious to us.
 2. While obedience of a believer yields more blessing, understanding God’s aseity means we acknowledge that even our own obedience doesn’t have to require God to be gracious to us, as if He owes us and we can control Him.
 - iv. Relations to God’s Faithfulness:
 1. “God does put himself under obligation to creatures by making covenants and promises...But these obligations, based on his nature and his voluntary covenants, are self-imposed, not forced on him by creatures.”⁷
 2. God is faithful because He wants to be faithful!
- e. What are the Implications from this lesson?
 - i. If God doesn’t owe anything to us, then we should be thankful for everything God has given us; do you have thanksgiving towards God for everything?
 - ii. This doctrine should humble us!

⁵ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 161.

⁶ John Frame, *Doctrine of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ:Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002), 602.

⁷ John Frame, *Doctrine of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ:Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002), 604.

1. More knowledge often make us become prideful but meditate on the truth that all that we know depends on Him revealing Himself and truths to us, while He does not depend on us to tell Him who we are since He already knows it!
 2. Contrast God with who we are as creatures: We depend on God for our continual existence, while He does not depend on anything from Creation or His creatures!
- iii. Do you comprehend the truth that God is not dependent upon creatures for our Salvation as well? Worship Him for providing 100% our salvation!
 - iv. When we serve God we should not have a man-centered attitude thinking God needs us or else; rather we should see it as a privilege to serve Him!