

# God's Self-Sufficiency: Lost Doctrine of the Bible

## **Acts 17:25**

nor is served with men's hands,  
as though He needed anything,  
*since* He gives life and breath  
and all things to all.

## God's Self-Sufficiency

"... As though He needed anything..."

God doesn't need anything.

God is the only being of whom this can be said. All other beings are altogether in need; in need, for instance, of God's decision to create them for their very existence.

The all-sufficient God has been lost to our generation. We have slowly degenerated from such an understanding by adopting one man-centered tenet after another. Arminianism was first adopted as the bare dismissal of a coldly predestinating God. Then the full ramifications of a *reactive* God began to set in one facet by one (God doesn't decide things ahead of time; He *reacts* to His creatures' actions). Now we conceive of a *God* whose existence rather centers

around *us*. Jesus came to redeem us because we are such a precious creation of God's, don't you know.

When one plots out a theology from the beginning, the self-sufficiency of God seems obvious. After all, He did exist by Himself when nothing else was. Beyond this, though, nothing remains obvious for modern theology.

Why did God create? We say that He must have felt a need- a need to reveal Himself, a need for fellowship- some need driving Him.

If we went back to first principles, we should be able to confirm whether God had any needs. If He is self-sufficient, He had no needs driving His desire to create- nothing outside Himself. Yet we have rather resolutely adopted the view that God was not satisfied being alone; that He was looking for something outside Himself for satisfaction or fulfillment.

It's one or the other. Either He is truly self-sufficient and created for some reason other than a need, or else we must abandon His self-sufficiency in order to preserve our sentimental view of Him (rather, our vain view of ourselves!).

But how much we lose when we lose God's self-sufficiency! What a glorious God when the Father needs only the Son and Spirit, the Son needs only

the Father and the Spirit, and the Spirit needs only the Father and Son! That is a true description of God's self-sufficiency: the love within the Persons of the Trinity.

For which of these glorious Persons would we substitute a creature whom God would need more? And what creature would fill those large shoes? **Man**? Hmm. That doesn't just border on insanity; that's about dead center in its capitol building.

When God creates angels, then, the thought behind it becomes completely different, too. He's not looking for fellowship. He's perfectly OK with fellowship, but He already has an infinite and sufficient amount within the Trinity.

Same deal when God plans to redeem a Bride for the Son from rebellious mankind. He wasn't *minus* that and *seeking* it. The Father merely sought to glorify the Son in the greatest possible way. The Son wanted to honor the Father as highly as He could. The fact that God chose the present Creation-Redemption model of the world to fulfill that desire is what brings Paul to exclaim:

**Eph 1:6** to *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace in which He favored us in the *One* having been loved

It shouldn't make sense to us that God would

need anything. That's just not God-like. But theology has become so twisted, we now have to argue just to get back to a self-sufficient God. Our opening verse from Paul's sermon in Acts 17 is quite convincing for anyone paying attention:

Act 17:25 nor is served by hands of men, as having need of anything. *For* He is giving life and breath and all things to all.

Paul uses the simplest logic possible. God doesn't need us. It's the other way around. Specifically, He doesn't need our worship. "Nor is He served by men's hands."

God can't help being God. It sounds silly to say it that way, but we need something to help us see- God is who He is, and that includes needing nothing outside Himself. He's not dependent on us or in need of us in any way. The fact that He wedded *Himself to our nature* in the Incarnation so that He could *wed us to Himself* in Salvation is really only properly mind-blowing considering His complete freedom from any factor outside Himself.

God, in Your mercy, return us to a place where our minds can be thus blown!