

Unchangeable!

Immutability: A Definition

- Tozer: "he never differs from himself"
- Berhof: "that perfection of God by which He is devoid of all change, not only in His Being, but also in His perfections, and in His purposes and promises."
- Pink: "God is perpetually the same: subject to no change in His being, attributes, or determinations."

The Biblical Data

- Unchangeable in His Being or essential attributes
 - Mal. 3:6
 - Heb. 1:10-12 (quoting Ps. 102:25-27)
 - Heb. 13:8
 - James 1:17

The Biblical Data

- Unchangeable in His eternal purpose, plan, or decree
 - Deut. 32:39
 - Ps. 33:11
 - Is. 14:24; 43:13
 - Rom. 11:29 (cf. 11:1)

The Biblical Data

- Unchangeable in His covenant faithfulness
 - Ps. 89:34-37
 - Is. 54:10
 - Micah 7:19-20

The Biblical Data

- Unchangeable in His revealed truth
 - Num. 23:19
 - 1 Sam. 15:29
 - Ps. 110:4 (quoted in Heb. 7:21)
 - Ps. 119:89
 - Is. 46:4

Did God change His Mind?

- The passages
 - Gen. 6:5-7
 - Ex. 32:9-10
 - 1 Sam. 15:11, 35
 - Jonah 3:3-5, 10
 - Joel 2:13-14
 - Amos 7:1-6
- An explanation
 - His "new course" is only his promised, immutable response (Jer. 18:7-10).
 - This "change" was not a change in God's eternal plan and purpose.

Does God Have Mood Swings?

- Impassibility = "without passions"
- Modern attacks from:
 - Process theology
 - Open theism
- Doesn't mean: God is insulated and detached from, unconcerned with, or insensitive to men.
- Does mean: Man cannot inflict suffering, pain, or any sort of distress upon him against his will.

The Ramifications

- Serves as the foundation for an enduring, trustworthy Bible (Num. 23:19; Ps. 119:89).
- Guarantees that God's relationship with us will never change (Ps. 102:26-28; Is. 54:10; Mal. 3:16; Luke 10:20; Rom. 11:29; 2 Tim. 2:19).
- Ensures permanent forgiveness (Micah 7:19-20).
- Guarantees the punishment of the wicked (cf. Ezek. 8:18).
- Guarantees our salvation (2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 6:17-18).