

Sabbath School

Date: 2/14/21

WCF 2.1 (5): The Immutability of God

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There is but one only[a] living and true God,[b] who is infinite in being and perfection,[c] a most pure spirit,[d] invisible,[e] without body, parts,[f] or passions,[g] **immutable**,[h] immense,[i] eternal,[k] incomprehensible,[l] almighty,[m] most wise,[n] most holy,[o] most free,[p] most absolute,[q] working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will,[r] for his own glory;[s] most loving,[t] gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin;[u] the rewarder of them that diligently seek him;[w] and withal most just and terrible in his judgments;[x] hating all sin,[y] and who will by no means clear the guilty.[z]

Prooftexts

[h]: **Jas. 1.17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, *with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*. **Mal. 3.6** For I am the LORD, *I change not*; therefore ye sons of *Jacob* are not consumed.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 7. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, **unchangeable**, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

§1. Exposition

(1) **Jas. 1.17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, *with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*:

(2) **Mal. 3.6** For I am the LORD, *I change not*; therefore ye sons of *Jacob* are not consumed:

§2. Doctrine

The doctrine of divine immutability teaches that God is by nature incapable of change.

Divine immutability proved from:

(1) Testimonies of Scripture (Heb. 13.8, Ps. 102.26-28, etc.)

(2) The attributes of God:

- a. Infinitude
- b. Perfection
- c. Simplicity
- d. Eternity

§3. Objections Answered

Objection 1. The Bible says God gets angry and repents, therefore God changes.

Objection 2. If God is so unchangeable that he is without passions or emotions, then he is impersonal and can't relate to us as humans.

Objection 3. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and Jesus is God, therefore God changes.

§4. Uses

Use 1. Divine Immutability as the foundation of Divine Love (Jer. 31.3).

Use 2. Divine Immutability as the foundation of God's covenant faithfulness (Jer. 33.20-26, Heb. 6.13-20, Ps. 89.34)

Use 3. Divine Immutability as the foundation of Scripture's infallibility (Isa. 55.11, Isa. 40.8, Mt. 5.18)