

## Sermon Title: God is Immutable

### Sermon Text: Number 23:19

Yesterday I got the privilege of officiating a marriage vows renewal ceremony, for a couple that I married 10 years ago!

It was great reading the same Scriptures, re-affirming the same “Declaration of Intent”, and hearing them speak the same vows to each other 10 yrs later.

In a world where everything seems to change, it was nice to see some things that remain the same! – Their love for each other, commitment to their marriage vows, their trust in God, their desire to honor Him together, etc.

But there were also some very noticeable differences between the ceremony yesterday & the one 10 years ago. – Their age, residence, jobs, kids, etc.

Part of the human condition is experiencing change – in us & around us! It’s that reality of change that causes some couples to never reach that 10 yr mark. – I’ve changed... He/She has changed... Circumstances have changed... etc.

Today’s sermon title is “God is Immutable!” Immutable means unchanging, and unchangeable - the same yesterday, today and forever... constant! Can you name anything in the created order that carries such an attribute?

God alone meets the requirements of this definition! And praise God that He does, b/c can you imagine a God that doesn’t measure up to that definition?

- God is sovereign... for now... but what if someone greater comes along?
- God is love... but what if I/He change(s), what if He changes His mind?
- God has a plan/purpose... but what if His plans work out a lot like mine?

Who God “is” is unchanging and unchangeable because He has no beginning, and no ending! He is not a work in progress! He can’t change for the better, or worse... He is already perfect!

What God “does” is unchanging and unchangeable because He always acts according to His attributes, which are a part of His immutable nature!

God’s counsel/will/plan is always unchanging and unchangeable! Human beings change course when they learn something new of relevance... or when their hopes for the future dictate it... But that cannot be said of God!

God’s transcendence & sovereignty, His omniscience & omnipotence,

remove all possibility of learning from the past, or wondering about the future!

Some will object to this because Scripture does speak about God changing His mind, or repenting. But God speaks to us in such ways to accommodate Himself to us. Meaning He speaks to us in ways that we can understand!

God also has willingly entered into a covenant relationship with His people, with built in conditions! Those conditions cause God to respond differently based upon what His people do, but His responses are always immutable!

Let’s try to break this attribute down by using one verse (memory verse) - **Numbers 23:19 “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”**

**“God is not man...”** To be human is to change! We are born, we develop, we grow old, we die! We learn new things... We change our minds... We make mistakes... We repent... We can be redeemed... We can be sanctified... etc.

God is not like us in such ways... God’s immutability is “incommunicable”!

**“that he should lie...”** Why do people lie? To cover up something... because something(s) have changed... They are afraid of their past/future/present...

God does not lie because there is nothing that God needs to cover up, no mistakes or wrongdoing... Nothing changes in/with God, or with His plan... God has no past or future, He simply “is”, - all knowing & ever-present!

**“that he should change his mind... (or repent)”** Why would someone “repent”? Because change is needed! Change is needed in man, & in all of creation because of the fall, but God is unaffected by the fall’s consequences

**“He has said, and will he not do it...”** The context of Numbers 23 is Balak, the king of Moab, is trying to curse the Israelites. But God had already declared His blessings upon Israel. There was nothing Balak, or Balaam, could do to change the outcome! God declared it, and that settled it!

**“Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”** God is not like man, who can speak marital vows and then get divorced! God is eternally tied to His Word, & His Word is immutably tied to Him!

In a world of change, I’m so thankful that God remains immutably the same!

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