

## **Affirmation: Attributes of God – Independence & Aseity**

As we learned last week, God is Who **He says He is** in His revelations to us, found in His **creation**, our **conscience**, and most importantly, in **His Word, the Scriptures**, which were summed up best in Jesus **Christ**, His Son. God is not defined by our understanding or concepts of Who He is or how He operates, but only by Himself.

Our Affirmation today is one of His **incommunicable** attributes. “Incommunicable” simply refers to the fact that many of the essence characteristics or “attributes” of God are simply not *shared by us*. Of course, none of His attributes are fully or equally shared by us, but some are more understandable to some degree than others. Our love is obviously nothing like’s God’s “love,” but at least we have some understanding of the essence of love, even if fallen, hence it is considered “communicable.” But we do not share an experiential understanding at all in some concepts, like the one we are looking at today, therefore it is considered “incommunicable.”

Let me ask you some questions to help us try to understand this, which is beyond our understanding, or to unscrew the inscrutable!

Did God create us because He was lonely and **needed** us for fellowship, worship and love?

Does God **need** us to be His agents of working out His plans and purposes on earth?

Does God **need** us to be agents of prayer, that we might change Him and the world?

Does God **need** us to give our time and money to Him so that He might accomplish His will and purposes through us?

**“Independence”** - *God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything; He is absolutely independent and self-sufficient.*

**“Aseity”** - *This is sometimes called His self-existence; from the combination of two Latin words (“a” meaning “from” and “se” meaning “self”).*

*And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”; ... ” Exodus 3:14*

Another way this could be translated is “I was what was; I am what I am; and I will be what I will be.” In essence, God is the only **“Being”**; **all others** are created, dependent and “becoming”. We (and all other created “beings”) are never the same from one second to the next. From our conception, we are changing every second, growing stronger or weaker, smarter or less, always getting older and closer to death. We are constantly changing, growing or becoming different, and always dependent on Someone and something else. So, we and all other creatures, would be better termed “becomings”, as only God is “Being!”

*Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world,  
Even **from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.** Psalm 90:2 (NASB)*

Even in this statement, it is expressed in terms that have some understanding to us as created beings, totally dependent upon someone or something else for existence.

Listen to these Scriptures which further prove God's "independence" from us and all things.

*"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 (NASB)

*"Who has given to Me that I should repay him?  
**Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.***

Job 41:11 (NASB)

*"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] **neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything,** since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; Acts 17:24-25 (NASB)*

So, the answers to all the questions I asked to begin with are obviously "no!" God did **not** create us because He was lonely and needed us for anything; **but** He does love us and desires to have communion with us and we can bring Him joy! God does **not** "need" us to be His agents of prayer, enabling Him to move and act as we pray; **but** He does amazingly choose to work through our prayers. God does **not** "need" us to give Him our time or money or anything to accomplish His will and purposes; **but** He does amazingly choose to use our resources, talents and gifts to accomplish His purposes for His glory such as in evangelism, discipleship, missions and ministry.

In fact, later in the sermon Paul preached at Athens in Acts 17, he said something even more amazing in light of God's total "independence" from us.

*for **in Him we live and move and exist (or "have our being")**, ... Acts 17:28 (NASB)*

So we need to be careful to not think of God as being "like us" in anyway, we should praise and worship Him as the One and Only Being, Who is "independent" and self-existent. But we should not let this fact make us think that His independence from us makes us meaningless to Him. He has plans and purposes for us, and amazingly chooses to wondrously work through us, such that our very existence flows from Him!

Prayer:

Holy God in Heaven, we do not and cannot understand Your Aseity or Independence. We acknowledge such a concept is foreign to and beyond us. But we praise and worship You for your self-existence and independence from all of creation. And we pray that You would teach us to make our existence more and more an outflowing of Your nature and purposes, as we live to become more and more conformed to the image of Your Son. In His name we pray. AMEN