

God Unchanging in Majesty

Discussion Questions:

1. Which would you rather know everyone or command great respect?
2. Who is someone you consider majestic?
3. Describe a bad day you've had to your table

The Immutability of God

God does not change. That means His life, character, truth, ways, and purposes are the exactly same today as they always were. Genesis to Revelation and beyond. The concept that God never changes is at best foreign to most people. It might seem impossible, because we cannot be like that. We are consistently inconsistent.

Still he hates the sins of his people, and uses all kinds of inward and outward pains and griefs to wean their hearts from compromise and disobedience. Still he seeks the fellowship of his people, and sends them both sorrows and joys in order to detach their love from other things and attach it to himself. Still he teaches believers to value his promised gifts by making them wait for those gifts, and compelling them to pray persistently for them, before he bestows them. (J.I. Packer. Knowing God. p.79)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Heb. 13:8)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. (Psalms 102:25-27)

For I the LORD do not change. (Mal 3:6a)

The Majesty of God

When we hear the word majesty, the images that come to mind are ones of royalty. Servants addressing their king as “Your Majesty.” They are called this because their king is powerful, revered and to be honored with such a title. The same should be for God, but far more than any human king.

Just as there are no bounds to his presence with me, so there are no limits to his knowledge of me. Just as I am never left alone, so I never go unnoticed (Packer p.85)

He sees through all my reserve and pretense; He knows me as I really am, better indeed than I know myself. (Packer p.86)

The word majesty, when applied to God, is always a declaration of his greatness and an invitation to worship...He is far above us in greatness, and therefore is to be praised. (Packer p.82-83)

This Changes Life

Because God doesn't change and because he is personal and majestic, there are many implications on how we are to live our lives. Because God is immutable, we can rely on Him because His preferences never change. It's not as if one day He hates one sin and the next He is ok with it. Or He receives glory in one way for one person, but not in another. Unlike us, He is never off. He can be angry but not brash, sad, but not overwhelmed.

Fellowship with him, trust in his word, living by faith, standing on the promises of God, are essentially the same realities for us today as they were for Old and New Testament believers. This thought brings comfort as we enter into the perplexities of each day: amid all the changes and uncertainties of life in a nuclear age, God and his Christ remain the same-almighty to save. (Packer p.81)

But the thought brings a searching challenge too. If our God is the same as the God of the New Testament believers, how can we justify ourselves in resting content with an experience of communion with him, and a level of Christian conduct, that falls so far below theirs? If God is the same, this is not an issue that any one of us can evade. (Packer p.81)

The Christians's instincts of trust and worship are stimulated very powerfully by knowledge of the greatness of God. (Packer p.83)

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Living becomes an awesome business when you realize that you spend every moment of your life in the sight and company of an omniscient, omnipresent Creator. (Packer p.86)