

DG Guide: Attributes of God

#1 - Aseity (Of-Himselfness)

Opening Prayer

Begin by praising God for His self-sufficiency and asking Him to help your group understand more of who He is through this discussion.

Starter Question

What's something you've learned about God recently that made you see Him differently?

Sermon Summary

This sermon introduced God's "aseity"; His self-existence and independence. God needs nothing and lacks nothing. He is the only necessary being, while we are contingent beings who exist because He chose to create us. Everything God gives us; His love, mercy, grace, and even salvation, comes from His fullness, not from any need or deficit in Him. This means His generosity is never transactional, and we can trust His love completely.

Key Takeaways

1. **God is self-existent** - He is the "I AM," the uncaused cause, the necessary being
2. **God needs nothing from us** - He doesn't lack anything we could provide
3. **God's gifts are pure gifts** - His love, mercy, and grace aren't transactional
4. **We can rest in His fullness** - Our anxious hearts find peace in His unchanging nature
5. **We exist because He wanted us** - Not because He needed us, but because He desired relationship with us

Discussion Questions

Understanding God's Aseity

1. The sermon introduced the concept of God's "aseity" (of-Himselfness). What was most surprising or challenging about this idea for you?
2. Read Exodus 3:14, John 5:26, and Acts 17:24-25. How do these passages reveal God's self-existence and independence?
3. Why is it important to understand that God is the only "necessary being" while we are "contingent beings"? How does this change how we view ourselves and our relationship with God?

God's Fullness and Our Response

4. The sermon stated: "God doesn't create out of need. He creates because He's good." How does this truth affect how you understand your own existence and purpose?
5. If God doesn't need our worship, prayers, or service, why do we do these things? What's the real purpose behind them?
6. Read Ephesians 2:4-10. How does understanding God's aseity help us better grasp the nature of grace? What does it mean that salvation is a "pure gift"?

Practical Implications

7. On Sunday we saw that we sometimes approach God transactionally; "If I do this, God will do that." Can you think of times when you've fallen into this pattern? What would it look like to break free from this mindset?
8. How does knowing that God is full and lacks nothing help us when:
 - We're anxious or worried?
 - Our prayers seem unanswered?
 - Life circumstances feel out of control?
9. Don said we can "worship without bargaining with God." What does this look like practically in your prayer life?
10. The sermon challenged us to include more adoration in our prayers, not just requests. How much of your prayer life is adoration versus asking for things? How might you adjust this balance?

Living It Out

11. **Read Romans 8:28-32. How does God's aseity give us confidence that "He works all things together for our good"?**
12. **The sermon mentioned that we should "serve and give like children of fullness" rather than trying to meet God's needs. How does this change your motivation for serving God and others?**
13. **How does understanding that God is self-sufficient and chose to create you specifically affect:**
 - Your self-worth?
 - Your confidence in sharing the gospel?
 - Your trust in God's plans for your life?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes for each person to consider:

If God truly needs nothing from me but desires relationship with me, what does that mean for how I approach Him this week?

Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

In Your Prayer Life

- **Practice prayers of adoration** - Start your prayer times by declaring truths about who God is before making any requests
- **Pray bold prayers** - Ask God for things beyond your control, trusting that He loves to hear from you and will answer according to His good will

In Your Thought Life

- **Combat anxiety with truth** - When worries spike, remind yourself that your life rests on the unchanging, self-sufficient God who lacks nothing
- **Examine your motives** - Notice when you're approaching God transactionally and repent of treating Him as a means to an end

In Your Relationships

- **Share the gospel with confidence** - Remember that God will accomplish His purposes and invites you to participate in His work

- **Give generously** - Mirror God's generosity by giving from fullness rather than obligation or to "earn" something from God

This Week's Challenge

Write a prayer of pure adoration - No requests, just declaring who God is and what He's like. Keep it somewhere you'll see it daily and read it as a reminder of God's aseity.

Closing Discussion

How does understanding God's aseity increase your:

- **Wonder?** (How does this make God more amazing?)
- **Worship?** (How does this change how you approach Him?)
- **Trust?** (How does this give you confidence in Him?)

Memory Verse

Romans 11:35-36 *"Who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen."*

Closing Prayer

Have someone close by thanking and praising God for:

- His self-existence and independence
- Creating us not out of need but out of love
- The pure gift of salvation through Jesus
- The invitation to know Him and participate in His work

Ask God to help each person rest in His fullness this week and respond with wonder, adoration, and trust.

Or, if you just want a bunch of discussion prompts:

1. How does understanding that God doesn't need us change the way you view your relationship with Him and your worth in His eyes?
2. In what ways have you treated God transactionally in your prayers, expecting Him to meet your needs because you've served Him faithfully?
3. When Moses asked God for His name and God responded 'I AM,' what does this reveal about God's nature that differs from all other beings?
4. How does knowing that God created you out of desire rather than need affect your understanding of His love and generosity toward you?
5. What would change in your prayer life if you spent more time in adoration of who God is rather than primarily making requests?
6. How does God's aseity (self-existence) provide rest for your anxious heart when circumstances feel beyond your control?
7. In what ways might you be functionally treating God as a means to get what you really want rather than desiring God Himself?
8. How does understanding that all of God's gifts are pure gifts (not transactions) change your perspective on grace, salvation, and mercy?
9. What does it mean practically to 'serve and give like children of fullness' rather than trying to meet God's needs through our service?
10. How should the truth that God is the only necessary being give us confidence in evangelism and sharing the gospel with others?