

# Foundations II | The Attributes of God

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## Definitions

- God's attributes are character qualities that uniquely define Him
- Each of God's attributes are permanent, essential, and intrinsic qualities of the entirety Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit), which cannot be lost.
- What you know and believe about God inevitably becomes the lens through which you see everything else in life.

## The Aseity of God

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1*

### 1. What it Means

- **Two Latin Words:** *a* “from” and *se* “self”
- Meaning: “from oneself,” “within oneself,” “without anything else.”
- God exists in and of Himself. He is not dependent on anything or anyone for His existence, purpose, or fulfillment
- He lacks nothing within Himself; He needs nothing outside Himself. Yet, everyone and everything is dependent on Him
- God is self-existing and self-sufficient (Gen.1:1)

### 2. The Nature

- **Eternal**
  - God is uncreated and uncaused (Gen.1:1; Psalm 90:2)
  - He derives from nothing outside Himself (Isaiah 40:28)
  - He is who He is (Exodus 3:14)
- **Independent**
  - God did not create us because He was lonely neither to fulfill any need he had.
  - God does not need creation, worship, service, or help from anything He created (Acts 17:24-25; John 1:1-4)
  - He is the source of life but is Himself sustained by nothing (Exodus 3:1-4; Job 41:11; John 1:4; Rom. 11:35-36)
  - It is precisely because God has no beginning that He is dependent on no one and no thing.
  - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever” – Heb. 13:8
- **Immutable**
  - God's self-sufficiency means He does not change, grow, or evolve (Mal. 3:6)
  - He is perfectly complete and satisfied in Himself (Rom. 11:36; Colossians 1:17)

### 3. The Danger

- **Arianism**
  - Taught by Arius (Bishop of Alexandria, 256-336 AD)
  - Arius claimed that God the Son (Christ) was a created being, not eternal, and this not of the same essence as the Father
- **Pelagianism**
  - Taught by Pelagius (Theologian who lived in Rome, 410-418)
  - Claimed that the whole human race was not tainted by Adam's sin—making man a morally good being able to achieve salvation by his own perceived goodness
- **Nestorianism**
  - Taught by Nestorius (Patriarch of Constantinople, 451 AD)
  - Claimed that Christ existed as two separate persons—one divine and one human, undermining and detaching the Godhead from its essence

### 4. The Blessings

#### Humility

- We are not necessary to God's existence or plan—yet He graciously includes us (Psalm 8:3–4).
- We must shed any illusions of self-sufficiency (John 15:5).

#### Assurance

- Because God is not dependent, He is not vulnerable or limited—our hope is secure in Him (Isaiah 26:4).

#### Worship

- Our worship is not to meet God's needs, but to reflect His glory (Psalm 50:10–12).
- True worship comes from awe at God's sufficiency and majesty.

### Questions

1. In what ways does the self-sufficiency of God challenge modern ideas of independence and self-reliance?
2. How should the doctrine of God's self-sufficiency shape the way we think about worship and service?

### Recommended Books:

1. A. W. Pink. *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1975.
2. Watson, Thomas. *A Body of Divinity*. New York City, NY: Sola Scriptura Press, 1686.
3. Charnock, Stephen. *The Existence & Attributes of God*, Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.