

The Attributes of God: Immanence

Pastor Darrell B. Harrison
Redeemer Bible Church

Bible Hour
Saturday, October 11, 2025

Attribute is defined as:

- a quality, character, or characteristic ascribed to someone or something
- an object closely associated with or belonging to a specific person, thing, or office
- a word ascribing a quality

Immanence defined:

- derived from the Latin word **immanere** meaning 'to remain in'
 - the idea that God is present in and involved with His creation
 - God is constantly involved with creation without becoming exhausted by creation or ceasing to be divine in any way
- **Psalm 145:18:** The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Transcendence defined:

- exceeds or surpasses usual limits
 - extends or lies beyond the limits of ordinary or normal (natural, temporal) experience
 - is beyond human or finite comprehension
- **Colossians 1:17:** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hypostatic Union:

- the union of Jesus's divine and human natures in one person, without confusion, without change, without division, and without separation
- from the Greek word **hypostasis**, meaning 'substance' or 'nature.'
- used in reference to any one of the three distinct persons of the Trinity, and especially of Jesus Christ

Augustine of Hippo:

“Man was added to Him, God not lost to Him; He emptied Himself not by losing what He was, but by taking to Him what He was not.”

On the Trinity

Origen of Alexandria:

“Although Christ was God, He took flesh; and having been made man, He remained what He was, God.”

***De Principiis* (First Principles)**

God's immanence in Scripture:

God is near to us:

- **Acts 17:27:** “He [God] is not far from each of us.”
- **Phil. 4:5b:** “The Lord is near.”

God sustains us:

- **Job 33:4:** “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”
- **Col. 1:17:** “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

God's immanence in Scripture (cont'd)

God dwells within us:

- **Jn. 14:16-17:** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever."
- **Gal. 2:20b:** "... but Christ lives in me"

God is present in Creation:

- **Gen. 1:27:** "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him."
- **Ps. 139:7:** "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?"

Discussion Questions:

1. How do texts like **Acts 17:27** or **Psalm 139:7** shape your understanding of God's immanence?
2. How does belief in God's immanence affect your approach to suffering and adversity (see **Eccl. 7:14**)?
3. In what ways does the incarnation of Christ express divine immanence?

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