

Enjoy the Attributes of God

Session 3: The Independence of God

Introduction

- We begin exploring specific attributes of God with a pair of *transcendent* attributes that can be summarized as the *independence of God*.
- Wayne Grudem: “*God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify him and bring him joy.*”
 - God’s independence stems from His *self-existence* and *self-sufficiency*.
 - God’s independence is a beautiful thing!
- God’s independence is a rich source of meditation and prayer, when you also consider His nearness, love, and mercy toward you personally in Christ.

God is Self-Existent

- God existence doesn’t depend in any way on anyone or anything else.
 - Our existence is contingent on His will.
 - His existence isn’t contingent on anything.
- God exists eternally by virtue of His nature – Genesis 1:1a, Exodus 3:14, Psalm 90:2, Revelation 4.

God is Self-Sufficient

- God eternally possesses within Himself, by His nature, every one of His attributes (e.g. goodness, holiness, beauty, power, knowledge) in infinite measure – Isaiah 40:9-31.
- God doesn’t need people for anything – Psalm 50:7-15, Acts 17:22-31.

Categorizing God's Attributes

- There are many ways we can organize our study of God's attributes, but the way we'll use is "communicable" versus "incommunicable" attributes
- Communicable attributes are those attributes God shares, to some extent, with others because we're made in His image (e.g. love, kindness, mercy, etc.)
- Incommunicable attributes are those attributes God doesn't share with others (e.g. being everywhere simultaneously)