

Sunday School Lesson: God Is Immutable

Big Idea: God does not change in His being, character, promises, or purposes; therefore, His people can find deep security in Him.

Main Texts:

Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:25–27; Exodus 32:9–14; Jonah 3:10

1. Opening Question

“What are some things in life that change?”

“How do you feel when everything around you keeps changing?”

“Today we are going to talk about one of the most comforting attributes of God: God is immutable. That means God does not change. And because God does not change, we can trust Him even when everything around us does.”

2. What Does Immutable Mean?

The word immutable means unchanging. When we say God is immutable, we mean: God does not change in His being, His character, His attributes, His promises, or His ultimate purposes.

Malachi 3:6: “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

God says, “I do not change.” That means God is not becoming better, because He is already perfect. God is not becoming wiser, because He already knows all things. God is not growing stronger, because He is already all-powerful. God is not becoming more holy, more good, more loving, or more faithful. He already is perfectly and infinitely all of those things. God is not like us. We grow. We learn. We forget. We mature. We get tired. Our moods shift. Our priorities change. But God is eternally, perfectly, and consistently God.

Commutable or non commutable?

Simple Definition for Children: God never stops being who He is.

Whole Group Discussion “Why is it good news that God does not change?”

3. God Does Not Change in His Person

Psalm 102:25–27: “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 be changed. But you are the same, and your years have no end.”

Everything created changes. The earth changes. Our bodies change. Nations change. Families change. Churches change. But God remains the same.

How does God's Immutability connect with His Infiniteness?

How does God's Immutability connect with His Holiness?

Family Discussion

“What is one thing that has changed in your life recently? How can remembering that God does not change help you?”

4. God Does Not Change in His Attributes

God also does not change in His attributes. That means everything true about God is always true about God.

God is not sometimes holy and sometimes less holy.

God is not sometimes good and sometimes not good.

God is not sometimes powerful and sometimes weak.

God is not sometimes loving and sometimes cruel.

God is not sometimes wise and sometimes confused.

James 1:17: “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 says there is no “variation” in God. He is not shifting like shadows. He is not unpredictable in His character. This is incredibly important because we have already studied several attributes of God:

God is infinite.

God is holy.

God is good.

God is all-powerful.

God is sovereign.

Immutability tells us that these things will always be true.

God will never stop being good.

God will never stop being holy.

God will never stop being sovereign.

God will never run out of power.

God will never become less faithful.

God will never wake up one day and decide to be someone different.

Whole Group Discussion “Which attribute of God brings you comfort because it will never change?”

5. Security in the God Who Does Not Change

Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

For Christians, this truth becomes even more beautiful when we look at Jesus. Jesus does not change.

The Savior who welcomed sinners still welcomes sinners.

The Savior who had compassion on the weak still has compassion.

The Savior who died for His people still saves His people.

The Savior who rose from the grave still reigns.

The Savior who promised to return will return.

In this sense Jesus fits nicely into the study of immutability, however in another sense the study of Jesus creates a huge problem with immutability. Can you identify that problem?

How can an immutable God change to become Human. How can Jesus who is God, who is immutable grow from a baby to a full grown man. These are questions that theologians wrestle with in advanced theology studies.

6. Does Immutability Mean God Cannot Change Plans or His Mind?

When we say God does not change, we do not mean that God is frozen, inactive, or unable to respond personally to people. The Bible sometimes describes God as changing His course of action in response to prayer, repentance, or rebellion. For example:

In Exodus 32, after Israel worships the golden calf, Moses pleads with God, and the Bible says the Lord “relented” from the disaster He had spoken of bringing on the people.

In Jonah 3, Nineveh repents, and God does not bring the judgment He had warned them about.

Read: Jonah 3:10 “When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”

God’s character does not change, but God’s actions toward people may change depending on their actions. For example:

When people rebel, God responds in justice.

When people repent, God responds in mercy.

That does not mean God changed from being just to being merciful. God has always been both just and merciful. It means the situation changed, and God responded consistently with His unchanging character. God does not change, but people may experience His unchanging character differently depending on whether they are rebelling, repenting, trusting, or disobeying. When Scripture says God “relented” or “changed His mind,” it does not mean God learned new information, realized He was wrong, or became a different kind of God.

Read: Numbers 23:19 “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind.”

The Bible teaches both truths: God does not change in His person, character, promises, or ultimate purposes. God truly interacts with people, hears prayer, responds to repentance, and acts in history. That means prayer matters. Repentance matters. Obedience matters. But none of those things make God unstable. They show that God is personally involved with His creation.

Whole Group Discussion: “Why is it comforting to know that God responds to prayer and repentance, but His character never changes?”

7. Closing Application

God’s immutability gives us security.

We do not have to wonder whether God will still be good tomorrow.

We do not have to wonder whether Jesus will still save sinners tomorrow.

We do not have to wonder whether God’s promises will expire.

We do not have to wonder whether God will become tired of being faithful.

God does not change, so His people can trust Him.

Homework:

Discuss a few of these questions throughout the week. Family Discussion Questions

What does it mean that God is immutable?

What are some things in our lives that change?

Why is it good that God does not change?

Which attribute of God comforts you most when you remember that it will never change?

How can we trust God when our plans change?

Parent Application: At some point this week, when something changes unexpectedly, pause and say: “Plans change, feelings change, and circumstances change, but God does not change. Let’s trust Him right now.”

Read Numbers 23:19 as a family and recite it together throughout the week.