

Sermon Discussion Guide:

God is Independent

Scripture: **John 5:26**

Series: **God Is**

Sunday, January 5, 2020

OVERVIEW

The doctrine of the aseity of God is foundational for our understanding of who God is and how He relates to us. First, we must understand that **the ground of God's existence is in Himself**. Thus, God is self-existent, eternal, unchanging, and transcendent. Second, the aseity of God also means that He is the One in whom all other things find their source and existence. Thus, only God is truly self-sufficient and independent, whereas we are finite, limited, temporal beings who are wholly dependent on God – who created all things and sustains all things. Such an understanding of God should compel us to rejoice and worship Him, since though God is utterly independent and does not need us, He loves us and chooses us in spite of our sin and spiritual ugliness. This demonstrates that while God is highly exalted, He also draws near to us.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Exodus 3:14; John 8:52–59; Psalm 90:1–4; Acts 17:22–27; Romans 11:33–36; Romans 5:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Prior to Pastor Joe's sermon, had you heard about the doctrine of aseity? What was your understanding of God's attribute of independence prior to the sermon? In what ways did the sermon enhance your understanding of God?
2. We see in passages such as John 5:26 and John 8:58 that Jesus is embracing God's self-existence. Why was this so troubling to the Pharisees? Why did they feel challenged by Jesus' claims about himself?
3. Read and discuss Acts 17:22–27. How does God's attribute of independence factor into Paul's preaching at the meeting of the Areopagus in Athens?
4. Why does it matter that we grasp the reality of God's independence? *[A god that changes may not be trustworthy; a god that is needy or dependent on something or someone would not be sovereign.]*
5. Because God is independent, it should produce three effects in us. What are the three effects that Joe mentioned? *[1. We can have confidence in God, since He is sovereign and holy; 2. We should wonder at God, and it should move us to worship God and share Him with others; 3. We should have joy with God, since though God has no need of us, He chooses us and draws near to us.]*