

*The unfolding of your words gives light.*

## God Alone

---

### *The Self-Sufficiency (Aseity) of God*

A famous painting unintentionally misleads those who look at it. It pictures Jesus at a door, presumably the door of a sinner's heart, waiting for permission to enter. Certainly Christ dwells in the believer's heart by faith (Ephesians 3:17), but the easy impression makes Jesus a needy outsider and us insiders with power to give Jesus something He needs. Scripture is clear that God is not waiting in heaven to respond to us. He certainly answers our prayers, but even the prayer of faith is initiated by Him, not us (Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8-10).

The lyrics of a popular Christian song a few years back that suggested God "would really rather die than live without us." That sounds clever but it intimates that God is somehow incomplete without man. But this God revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush as entirely self-sufficient. He loves and cares for His creation but is in no way dependent on it.

The God Who spoke time, space and matter into existence is entirely independent of His creation. While He willingly loves us He does not need us to be complete. This is how He distinguished Himself from the gods of Egypt when He introduced His character to Moses:

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14

Several related words help us describe this attribute:

- Aseity (meaning *from himself*)
- Self-Existence
- Self-Sufficiency
- Independence

God has life in Himself. No creature does. No one created God. He is complete and has no needs or worries.

God is self-existent, God has always been...Our Maker exists in an eternal, self-sustaining, necessary way, - necessary, that is, in the sense that God does not have it in Him to go out of existence, just as we do not have it in us to live forever. -J.I. Packer

The Bible teaches this attribute of God in a lot of places. Paul introduced Him to the religiously confused Athenian elites. He pointed out that the living God is not a homeless person in need of a place to live:

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things. Acts 17:24-25

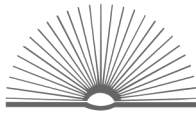
Solomon built Him a house, but knew that God did not need a place of shelter:

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built! 1 Kings 8:27

The historical book of Esther shows that God's providence is not dependent on man's rescue. Other texts support this:

Who has given to Me that I should repay *him*? *Whatever* is under the whole heaven is Mine. Job 41:11

For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains. Psalm 50:10-12



*The unfolding of your words gives light.*

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." John 8:58

What this means:

- God was not created—even by Himself.
- God is complete in Himself without humans and the rest of His creation.
- Man has no capacity to understand God apart from God's revelation.

This doctrine takes you to the cross. The Aseity of God guarantees that your salvation rests on the plans of a God who rules rather than a God who reacts. He is not wringing His hands waiting for you to follow Him. For that matter, you have no means to pay Him back for salvation. He does not need your tithes or your worship to find joy. That said, He delights in His children because we are His workmanship.

Why this makes a difference in your life:

Because God is self-sufficient...

1. Man-centered theology is out. You cannot be the center of the Solar System.
2. Anger at God is out. You are not qualified to set the rules or boundaries for Him.
3. Bargaining with God is out. God is not needy. He does not need your performance or your faith or your tears of repentance. Your daily devotions and even your heartfelt worship do not add to His satisfaction. You cannot make Him great. Consider 2 Samuel 7. You cannot pay Him back but you are always a debtor to grace. You don't build Him a house. He builds you a house.

©Rice Lake Baptist Church, 104 East Barker Street, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, 54868 – <http://www.ricelakebaptist.org> – 715.234.1966

**Permissions:** You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and that you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.