

AN UNCHANGING GOD IN A CHANGING WORLD
HEART OF THE MATTER - A WORD FROM JANET

PSALM 102:25-27; MALACHI 3:6; HEBREWS 1:11-12; 13:8; JAMES 1:17

We live in a world of constant change. Technology is changing so quickly you can purchase a computer program and it can become obsolete within days. If you don't like what you are watching on TV all you have to do is push a button and you can change it. Don't like the song you are listening to, change it! Don't like the outfit you are wearing, change it! Don't like the car you are driving, change it! Change, change, change; my goodness does anything stay the same anymore? God does!

God does not change, He is immutable; He never differs from Himself. So here is the question, why is this attribute so important? Wayne Grudem in his "Systematic Theology" writes: "If God is not unchanging, then the whole basis of our faith begins to fall apart, and our understanding of the universe begins to unravel. This is because our faith and hope and knowledge all ultimately depend on a *person who is infinitely worthy of trust* – because he is *absolutely* and *eternally* unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises."

The Bible is very clear that God does not change; His mind, His will or His nature. There are several reasons why it is impossible for God to change. First, change takes place in time; there is a point in time before the change and a point in time after the change. But, God is eternal and exists outside of the constraints of time (Psalm 41:13; Psalm 90: 2-4; John 17: 5; 2 Timothy 1:9).

Second, if anything changes it must change for better or for worse. But God is perfect so He can not change for the better or the worse.

Third, when someone changes his/her mind, it is often because new information has come to light that was not previously known. Because God is omniscient, He cannot learn something new that He did not already know.

No matter what happens in your life, no matter what might change; God is constant and unchangeable. You can count on God always to be the same, yesterday, today and forever! I don't know about you but that fact about God brings me peace. We can come to Him at any time and not have to wonder whether we will find Him in a receptive mood. He doesn't change His mind, His mood; nothing about Him changes.

This is not so at my house – minds change, moods change, attitudes change, things are not always the same; that is what happens when humans live together. Not so with God, He never changes moods or cools off in His affections or loses enthusiasm. In our efforts to find God, to please Him, to commune with Him, we should remember that all change must be on our

DISCUSSION GUIDE

AUTHENTIC INTERACTION · COMPELLING CONNECTION · IRRESISTIBLE EXPERIENCE
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part.

And this is the **heart of the matter**. In God no change is possible but in man change is impossible to escape. That is what the transformed life is all about – God changing us from the inside out. The God of the universe living in us, a God who never changes brings change into our lives. Redemption is all about change, our thoughts, desires, and affections transformed, no longer being what we had been before.

Our unchanging God is in the business of changing our lives, are you ready? "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Here it comes, from the inside out - get ready to change!

Background – We live in a world of change; some change is welcome; some is not. When life sends us into turbulent, troubled times; we can take comfort in the fact that our God is immutable, He does not change! God doesn't change, but we need to. So as we are brought once again to the fence; we are reminded that God is God and we are not.

Review Psalm 102: 25-27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1: 11-12; 13:8; James 1:17

Think it over. . .

1. If God is immutable can He change His mind? Think about this in light of the following scriptures: Exodus 32: 9-14; Jonah 3:4,10. If God is immutable, what is happening in these texts?
2. God is infinite (He is far greater than anything He has made, anything that exists) yet, He is personal (He interacts with us as a person, and we can relate to Him personally) how can this be?
3. Could it be dangerous to deny God's immutability? Why?
4. How can you be spiritually encouraged by appreciating the truth that God doesn't change?

Bring it home. . .

1. Do you like change? Does change come easy to you or do you avoid it?
2. Do you think that prayer changes things? How does that work when we pray to an unchanging God?
3. Do you and others see evidence in your life of God changing you? If so what does that evidence look like?
4. Does the fact that God does not change bring you peace or anxiety?
5. What are some areas of your life that you would like God to change in you?

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