

Theology Proper — The Immutability of God

I. SCRIPTURAL — *Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.*

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (James 1:17)

A. GOD’S UNCHANGING CHARACTER RESEMBLES THE SUN.

B. GOD’S UNCHANGING CHARACTER FAR OUTSHINES THE SUN.

II. DOCTRINAL — *Summarizing the teaching of Scripture as a whole.*

A. GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE IN HIS EXISTENCE, ATTRIBUTES, MIND, WILL, DISPOSITION, AND ENGAGEMENTS.

1. EXISTENCE

2. ATTRIBUTES

3. MIND

4. WILL

a) SOVEREIGN DECREES

b) MORAL PRECEPTS

5. MORAL DISPOSITION

6. ENGAGEMENTS

a) PROMISES

b) THREATS

c) UNCONDITIONAL

d) CONDITIONAL

B. GOD’S IMMUTABILITY IMPLIES SEVERAL OTHER ATTRIBUTES.

1. ETERNITY

2. IMPASSIBILITY

3. OMNISCIENCE

4. OMNIPRESENCE

III. POLEMICAL — *Addressing relevant questions and controversies.*

A. DO THE SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNTS OF GOD “RELENTING” IMPLY A REAL CHANGE WITHIN GOD’S MIND, WILL, OR DISPOSITION? (We Deny.)

B. DO THE SCRIPTURAL DEPICTIONS OF DIVINE EMOTION IMPLY A REAL CHANGE IN GOD’S MIND, WILL, OR DISPOSITION? (We Deny.)

C. DO THE SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNTS OF DIVINE INVESTIGATION AND/OR FORGETFULNESS IMPLY CHANGES IN GOD’S KNOWLEDGE? (We Deny.)

D. DO THE SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNTS OF GOD’S CONDITIONAL COVENANT DEALINGS WITH MEN IMPLY A MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP OF “GIVE AND TAKE” BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, OVER WHICH GOD IS SOVEREIGN? (We Deny.)

E. DOES DIVINE IMMUTABILITY IMPLY THE UNCHANGEABLE CHARACTER OF GOD’S LAW? (We Distinguish.)

F. DOES DIVINE IMMUTABILITY IMPLY THE UNCHANGEABLE CHARACTER OF GOD’S COVENANT OF GRACE? (We Affirm.)

G. DOES DIVINE IMMUTABILITY UNDERMINE DIVINE PERSONALITY? (We Deny.)

IV. PRACTICAL — *Applying the teaching of Scripture to our lives.*

A. REVERENT ADORATION!

B. FEAR AND TREMBLING!

C. COMFORTING ASSURANCE!

D. DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT!

E. HEARTFELT IMITATION!