



Week beginning Mar 12th

God is unchanging in His character

- ? **What does the Bible show us that God is like? List some of his attributes with 1 sentence about why they mean so much to you.** (e.g. his omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence. He is infinite, gracious, just, merciful, loving, glorious, holy, wise, faithful, good.)

The fact that God is unchanging is crucial to all of these other attributes. God does not change. Who he is never changes. His attributes are the same from before the beginning of time into eternity. His character never changes – he never gets “better” or “worse.” His plans do not change. His promises do not change. This brings us the greatest possible confidence because we know that he is always dependable! We can therefore trust him with confidence. God’s immutability (unchanging nature) brings us the assurance that God is the same today and forever as he always has been. It is the promise that everything we know about God still holds true and applies to our lives today.

- ? **Change is a massive part of our lives. Think of some examples. What difference does the fact that God does not change make to how we view changes in our lives?**

The Bible is clear that God does not change.
Refer to Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Psalm 102:26-27.

God’s name reflects his ‘unchangeableness’. When asked his name, God replies to Moses as “I am who I am” (Exodus 3:14). J.I. Packer remarks that God’s very name is “simply a declaration of his self-existence and his eternal changelessness; a reminder to mankind that he has life in himself, and that what he is now, he is eternally.” God is who he always will be. Unlike his creation, God is immutable—he does not change.

Wayne Grudem defines God's 'unchangeableness' as follows: "God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations." The first half of this definition means that God will never change in who he is, his perfect nature, his purposes & promises. He will always be who he has always been since before the creation of the world. However, the second half of the definition reminds us that God does act and feel differently in response to different situations. He is not a robot. He is not some impersonal, static force.

Read John 1:1-14

Genesis tells us that God created all things by his word. He spoke and it came to be. John shows us that this word was in fact God's Son, Jesus. Jesus is also the perfect expression of God to humanity ... not only bringing us God's good news, but he himself being the good news.

- ? **John is going to record many details of Jesus' life & teaching. Why do you think he starts his gospel with an introduction like this?**
- ? **Drawing from this passage, how could you answer someone who asks how we know that God is knowable?**

John 1 brings home the life-changing truth that God has made himself known through Jesus. Take 2 sentences each to share how this became personal for you – **how did God speak to you? and how has this changed your life?**

Look up Hebrews 12:1-3

- ? **In what ways should we follow the example of Jesus' life? What do we gain from the fact that Jesus is, like us, human? What do we gain from the fact that, unlike us, he is God?**

Think again about the result of placing our trust in the unchanging God. God's unchanging nature is what makes him our rock and firm foundation. It's what counters worries and fears.

Praise God together for who he is.

Further reading

<https://www.gotquestions.org/attributes-God.html>