

Systematic Theology – Lesson 3

Last lesson Matt spoke to us about the significance and centrality of the Scripture.

During the next few weeks, Matt and I will explore the Person of God as He has revealed Himself in His Word by the Spirit **[John 16:13]**

We will begin with by looking at some of the attributes of God.

When we speak about the attributes of God, we are referring to those collective essential qualities of His Nature...

God's attributes are those qualities that comprise, describe and define the very Nature and character of the Being of God.

This means that God's Being and His attributes are one and the same so that:

- each attribute is fully present in every other attribute
- each attribute is equally essential to the Being of God
- no attribute is independent of any other attribute

Now let's begin to look at some of the attributes of God.

The aseity of God

We will begin in **Gen. 1:1** of course:

In the beginning God created...

In these seemingly simple words is revealed the attribute of God's aseity

aseity is a theological term taken from the Latin *a se* which means *...from self or from oneself*

In some theology books, including Grudem's, the word God's independence is used instead of aseity

aseity is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as

...the state of being self-derived or self-generated...

The Hebrew of Gen.1:1 is *...bereshit bara elohim...*

bereshit means the start of or the beginning of

bara means to create something from nothing

elohim is the term for God or gods

Gen.1:1 can be stated as:

In the beginning, before anything existed, God created everything [out of the nothing].

In this way, God's aseity is announced.

God's aseity means:

- that God is Self-existent
- that God's existence is without cause
- that God has uncaused or underived Life in Himself
- that God is complete within Himself, completely independent and Self-sufficient, needing nothing outside of His own Being
- that God is the Cause or Creator of time, space and matter

What does God's aseity tell us about His attributes?

all of His attributes have always existed in Him.

Because God is independent of His creation, all of His attributes are also independent of His creation.

Let's look at a sampling of some of the Scriptures that affirm God's aseity.

God is Self-existent:

Ex. 3:13-14 ...Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14 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.'"

God has Life in Himself:

John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself...

God is everlasting [eternal-without beginning or end]:

Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

God is separate from or independent of His creation:

Acts 17:24-25 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; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things...

Rom 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.