

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Holy and heavenly Father, let us take time to recognize just how incredible you are. Before everything that we know was, you were, and we shall do our best to wrap our minds around this concept. May we remember that you are completely outside of everything that we know because you created everything that we know, and your sovereignty is revealed through your creation. Thank you for the gift of life and may we remain humble as we process the concept of your self-sufficiency and our lack thereof. Amen!

Aseity is a word derived from the Latin *a'* (from) *se'* (self), that refers to the quality or state of being self-derived or self-originated, the self-sufficiency, independence and autonomy of God. He possesses every quality, ability and supernatural command with never ending measure. In the book of John chapter 5, verse 26, Jesus refers to God's aseity when explaining the authority that has been given to Him. "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself". The Father has life in Himself, He is what He is in Himself. No creature has life in itself, it is all a gift from God. We should take great pleasure in that finding. Nothing is necessary to Him, if He had a necessity that would be the measure of imperfection and we could not find sanctuary in an inadequate God. In the book of Daniel, chapter five, Daniel is interpreting the writing on the wall for Nebuchadnezzar and one of the words is TEKAL which he translates as "you have been weighed in the balance and been found wanting". We worship a God that wants for nothing but wishes to share with us all that He has to offer. That means that we must admit that we are wanting and inadequate, and to admit that we need God is to admit that we are incomplete. When someone is in need, regardless of how small or great that need may be, and we have the ability to fulfill that need we typically do so with some form of selfish motive. It is human nature. We may not exchange our services for money or favors but we certainly feel a sense of pride or accomplishment knowing that we have done for others. This takes us to our next point.

God's interest in His creation arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need those creatures or creations can supply nor from any completeness that they can bring to Him who is complete in Himself. An axiom is a statement or proposition that is established as fact, an axiom that can be utilized in this context is that all created things need a created thing to survive. At the top of the food chain, mankind needs food, water and air to survive. Food, whether it be plants or meat need earth, food, water and air to survive. Water needs hydrogen and oxygen to survive, oxygen needs three separate isotopes to exist and without those it cannot exist and so it goes. In short, everything needs something to survive. As the alpha and the omega (Rev. 1:8) our Creator needs nothing to survive and most certainly needs nothing that is the product of our hands. The word "necessary" is foreign to God, so why did He create the universe with us in it if he has no desire for necessity? As I mentioned

previously, it all comes down to His sovereign good pleasure. He has a desire, for lack of better terms, for being created in His sacred image to seek His will and allow us to be with Him. He is not lonely and does not seek attention, rather He longs to give us a chance to dwell with Him.

20th century Christians (and I'm sure long before us) have elevated ourselves into a position of necessity for God as if He needs our help. For the One who created everything from nothing, there is absolutely nothing I can do to help Him, however it pleases Him that I want to help. That is the significance of so many inspirational historical figures, from Abraham to Moses, from Samuel to Isaiah, to Malachi and the apostles. God did not need them any more than he "needs" me, but He showed His greatness in that He used them to accomplish His mission and spread His glory to all who would listen. Through the birth of our savior Christianity was born and Christianity by way of Judaism has to do with God and man but the focal point is God, not man. We can find a vast amount of encouraging books, poems, quotes that deal with believing in yourself, but we are fallible beings that are destined to fall short, make mistakes and err, God on the other hand trusts in Himself so it is imperative that we trust in Him that is void of mistakes and error.

In Acts 17:24-30, the apostle Paul reasons with the men of Athens to reconsider the worship of false gods that need handmade images to worship and exist. He makes the case for God, insisting that He needs nothing "since He gives to all life, breath, and all things and He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord...". While touching on the goodness and severity of God amongst other things Paul reestablishes this fact in Romans 11:36 by saying "For of Him and to Him and through Him are all things, to whom be the glory forever, Amen." We may behold glory and impressiveness for a split second in the eyes of our fellow man, but that glory will quickly fade in the midst of those eyes and to the one who is holy above all else, we are not glorious or impressive. When we marvel at what we do we forget where those abilities and successes came from. We are not smart, athletic, witty or articulate on our own, it is because He was gracious enough to bless us with such characteristics that we may behold them. Through age, and due to arthritis, dementia and many other things, those characteristics will fade but His attributes have no end because they are of Him.

18th century evangelist and theologian, Jonathon Edwards once argued that "the ultimate purpose for which God created the world was for the praise of His glory". His creation of us did not give Him purpose, quite the contrary it gave us a purpose. Our worship of Him reveals our greatest need, not His. If we take a look at 2Tim. 1:9 we see Paul once again teach us about the self-sufficiency of God when he His holiness, purpose and grace which was given to us through His son Jesus Christ. However, he makes it a point to note that all of that was Him before the fall in Genesis 3 or even before time began. This means that his grace exists

whether we do or not. He is self-sufficient and does not need us to complete His attributes, He may not need us but He loves us.

1. Can you give the Hebrew word that would be used in place of Almighty God in Genesis chapter 17? _____
2. God has a deep love for us considering we were created in His image. In Genesis chapter one, after each creation God saw that it was good, with the creation of man he saw that it was.._____
3. In the book of Colossians, Paul speaks of the preeminence of Christ, the firstborn of all creation. Please give the chapter and verses (there are five verses)._____
4. In the gospel according to Matthew, Jesus speaks of the easiness of His yoke and burden, because it has been laid upon the Father. Soon after His apostles are rebuked by the Pharisees for this act, what was it?

5. In the lesson, I referred to Daniel, chapter five concerning a wake up call to Nebuchadnezzar. Prior to that, he faced humiliation but then did what?

6. In John 15, Jesus says that without Him we can do nothing. He later says that greater love has no one than this...

1Timothy 6:16; ...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

