

Word Definition: Immutable means unchangeable, or impossible to change. Webster's Dictionary defines immutable as "not capable of or susceptible to change." Immutability is an attribute of God, referring to His inability to change. In a practical terms, since God is perfect, He has no need to change.

Numbers 23:19 -- "*God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent.* (NKJV - emphasis added)

1 Samuel 15:29 -- "He who is *the Glory of Israel (God) does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.*" (NIV - clarity and emphasis added)

Malachi 3:6 -- "*For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*" (NKJV - emphasis added)

Titus 1:2 -- in the hope of eternal life, which *God, who does not lie*, promised before the beginning of time, (NIV - emphasis added)

Concept Clarification: The grace of God is the pure, undefiled, unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor of God toward sinful people.

Hebrews 6:13-19
(NKJV - clarity added)

- (13) For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,
- (14) saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."
- (15) And so, after he (*Abraham*) had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
- (16) For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.
- (17) Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise (*those who are of faith*) the immutability (*unchangeableness*) of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,
- (18) that by two immutable (unchangeable) things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.
- (19) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

Wisdom Point: The heirs of the promise that are being referred to in Hebrews 6:17 aren't just the people of the nation of Israel. Rather, the heirs of the promise are all those who will receive the promise of right standing with God by faith.

Romans 4:13-14
(NIV - emphasis added)

- (13) *It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.*
- (14) For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless,

THE TWO UNCHANGEABLE TRUTHS ARE:

I. Jesus is our High Priest forever.

Hebrews 6:20 -- where the forerunner has entered (*behind the veil*) for us, even Jesus, *having become High Priest forever* according to the order of Melchizedek. (NKJV - clarity and emphasis added)

Hebrews 7:17 -- For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (NKJV)

Hebrews 7:23-24
(NKJV - clarity added)

- (23) Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.
- (24) But He (*Jesus*), because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

Hebrews 10:11-12
(NKJV - emphasis and clarity added)

- (11) And every priest *stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices*, which can never take away sins.
- (12) But this Man (*Jesus*), after He had *offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God*,

II. Jesus is our Mediator of the New Covenant forever.

Hebrews 8:6 -- But now He has obtained *a more excellent ministry*, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of *a better covenant*, which was established on *better promises*. (NKJV - emphasis added)

Wisdom Point: When we talk about the old covenant, we're not referring to the Abrahamic Covenant. The covenant that God made with Abraham was symbolic of the new covenant. The old covenant was the covenant that God made with Moses and the Children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.

Definition: **The Mosaic Covenant:** It is a *conditional covenant* made between God and the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai under the leadership of Moses. It is recorded in

Exodus 19-14. The Mosaic Covenant is conditional in that the blessings that God promises are directly related to Israel's obedience to the Mosaic Law. If Israel is obedient, then God will bless them, but if they disobey, then God will punish them. The blessings and curses that are associated with this conditional covenant are found in detail in Deuteronomy 28.

Definition: **The Abrahamic Covenant:** *The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant.* There are no conditions to it. God made promises to Abraham that required nothing of Abraham. Genesis 15:18–21 describes a part of the Abrahamic Covenant, specifically dealing with the dimensions of the land God promised to Abraham and his descendants. The actual Abrahamic Covenant is found in Genesis 12:1–3. The ceremony to confirm the covenant recorded in Genesis 15 indicates the unconditional nature of the covenant. The Abrahamic Covenant is symbolic of the New Covenant of God's grace made possible by the perfect sacrifice, Jesus.

Wisdom Point: The advantage of the New Covenant (Abrahamic Covenant) over the Old Covenant (Mosaic Covenant) is that the New Covenant can cleanse you of your sins. It can also cleanse your conscience so that you don't serve God out of dead works. The Old Covenant made provision for your sins to be covered.

Definition: Dead works can be accurately defined a number of ways. One good definition is that a dead work is any work that is not initiated by God. Another good definition is that a dead work is any work trying to earn the favor of God.

A. Grace makes us clean in the sight of God. (We have a clean conscience before God.)

Hebrews 9:9 -- It (*the Old Covenant*) was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered *which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience*— (NKJV - clarity and emphasis added)

Hebrews 9:13-14
(NKJV - clarity and emphasis added)

- (13) For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean (*Old Covenant*), sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,
- (14) *how much more shall the blood of Christ*, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, *cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
- (15) *And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant,...*

Hebrews 10:1-2
(NKJV - emphasis and clarity added)

- (1) *For the law*, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, *can never with these same sacrifices*, which they offer continually year by year, *make those who approach perfect (position of being right with God).*
- (2) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? *For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.*

B. Grace teaches and empowers us to live righteously.

Titus 2:12 -- *(The Grace of God)* teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (NKJV - clarity added)

1 John 1:9 -- If we confess our sins, *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (NKJV - emphasis added)

Wisdom Point:

It's very important to understand that grace not only makes us perfect in regard to our conscience, but grace also cleanses our conscience so that we don't have to live with a constant awareness of sin. God's grace helps us to understand that we already have His favor and don't have to earn it by our works.