

The Attributes of God
Attribute #11 - Independent

1. Independent - The eternal nature of God means that He is self-existent and independent; that is, He is absolutely autonomous. His existence is free of all things.
 - A. He has no needs to sustain His endurance - Acts 17:25
 - B. In contrast, everything depends upon Him
 1. Rom. 11:36
 2. Col. 1:16
2. Unlike mankind, His understanding is infinite because it has no source but Himself. It does not proceed by steps, from one stage to another.
 - A. Acts 15:18
 - B. Eph. 3:11
 - C. Acts 2:23
 - D. Eph. 1:9
3. God was alone when He made His decrees, and His determinations were not influenced by any external cause. He was free to decree or not to decree, and to decree one thing and not another.
 - A. Isa. 40:13-14
 - B. Isa. 46:10
 1. This could not be if His counsel depended upon a condition that might not be performed.
 2. But, because He is independent of all things, and perfect within Himself, He “works all things after the counsel of His own will” (Eph. 1:11)
4. In his Being God is self-existing. While His creation is dependent on Him, He is utterly independent of the creation. He not only has life, but He is life to His universe, and has the source of that life within Himself.
 - A. John 5:26
 - B. Ex. 3:2 - ‘the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed’. To Moses this must have meant that the fire was independent of its environment: it was self-fed.
 - C. Such is God in His essential being: He is utterly independent of every environment in which He wills to make Himself known.

5. This quality of God's being finds expression in His personal name Yahweh, and in His self-affirmation: 'I am who I am', that is, 'I am the one that has being within himself' (Ex. 3:14).
6. This makes independence of life a distinctive quality of deity. Throughout the whole of Scripture God is revealed as the Fountainhead of all there is, animate and inanimate, the Creator and Life-giver, who alone has life within Himself.