

# SELF-EXISTENCE/INDEPENDENCE OF GOD

## I. Definitions

### A. Self-Existence

1. God has the ground of His existence in Himself, He is not dependent for existence upon anything outside of Himself. Henry Thiessen
2. God is Self-Existent: power of being is in and of Himself and He depends on nothing and no one for His existence. RC Sproul
3. God does not need any part of creation in order to exist or for any other reason. Wayne Grudem

### B. Aseity (Latin—*a se* “from self”)

1. God is what he is through or by His own self. Hermon Bavnick
2. God as He is in Himself. John Frame
3. God exists by the necessity of His own being. It is God’s nature to be. Robert Culver

C. Independence: God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify Him and bring Him joy. Wayne Grudem

God is absolutely independent and self-sufficient in His existence, perfections, decrees, and work. Herman Banick

D. Synonyms: aseity, independence, self-existence, self-sufficiency, self-containment. John Frame

E. Not self-caused (*causa sui*) One cannot exist and exist at the same time, One cannot bring about His own existence and if One can cause His existence He can cause Himself to cease to exist.

## II. Descriptions

A. Only God exists by virtue of His very nature, not is will; He was never created and never came into being, He always was. Wayne Grudem

B. God’s being is quantitatively different than creation, He necessarily exists forever. Wayne Grudem

C. Thomas Aquinas—God is first cause, Himself uncaused.

## III. Designations: names

A. I Am who I Am or I will be Who I will be Ex. 3:14

B. I Am Ex. 6:3

C. I Am (Jesus Christ) John 8:58 “Before Abraham was, I Am”

#### IV. Declarations from Scripture (categories—John Frame)

- A. God as Lord—possessor of heaven and earth: Acts 17:24,25; Ps. 24:1; Ps. 50: 10-12
- B. God as Creator-everything possessed by creatures comes from God. John 1:3; Neh. 1:6 James 1:6;
- C. When we give back something to God, we give Him only what He has given us. We are His stewards. Lu. 12:42; 16:1-8; Titus 1:7
- D. When we give back something to God, He is not obligated to recompense us. Lu. 17:10
- E. God owes nothing to any creature. Job 41:11; Rom. 11:35-36
- F. God has no needs—does not owe existence or well-being to anyone, anything. Acts 17:24-30
- G. God is by nature a se
  - 1. He is eternally God Ps. 90:2; John 1:1
  - 2. He is life John 5:26; Jer. 2:13; Ps. 36:9; John 1:4

#### V. Delineation of blessings/benefits

- A. Existence/life
  - 1. All men—physical life Ps. 139:13-16
  - 2. Elect—spiritual life Eph. 2:4-6
  - 3. Elect—eternal life John 10:27,28
- B. God has created us and He has determined that we would be meaningful to Him. Wayne Grudem
- C. We and the rest of creation can glorify God and bring Him joy. Wayne Grudem
  - 1. Glorify Him: Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:11,12; Rev. 4:11
  - 2. Bring him joy Isa. 62:3-5; Zeph. 3:17-18