



LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Immutability & Impassability

2 Timothy 2:8-19

Immutability

Kevin DeYoung writes that, *“Immutability by itself could be good or bad. If you are implacably wicked, or in unimaginable pain, or just in line at the DMV, then immutability is not a good thing. But as a divine attribute, the immutability of God is a perfection of the divine nature.”* Our encounter with God’s immutable nature can also be good or bad. Look back at today’s text - 2 Ti 2:11-13. Can you share a time in your life when God showed His immutable *“faithfulness”* even when you were *“faithless”*?

You’ve heard the saying, *“A leopard can’t change his spots.”* What do people mean when they say that? Do you think it’s accurate for a Christian to use that saying about themselves? Why or why not?

Pastor Ryan related Divine Immutability to the human attribute of *“endurance”*. Read the account of Peter in **Acts 4:1-22**. How does Peter display the characteristic of immutability, and what does endurance look like in this story?

Impassability

Impassability is the component of God’s immutable nature that relates to His mind, will, and emotions. In formal terms, it means that God is not a patient - His is not someone who can be *“acted”* upon. We understand this attribute most vividly under the idea of *“manipulation”*. Read the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal from **1 Kings 18:16-40**. How did the prophets of Baal view their god? What do their actions from verses 27-29 teach us about how they think about their relationship to Baal? How do Christians today treat God in a similar fashion? In what ways do we think God *“changes”* according to our requests, failures, or successes? What was happening in Ephesus under the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus (vs 17-18)? How does Paul reveal the doctrine of impassability to anchor Timothy in them midst of these human-becomings (vs 19)?

How do these attributes help shape your confidence in God and what lingering questions do you still have about these attributes?