

King's Online Bible School
Doctrine 101: Learning about God

Study Guide 2 Answers

1. Is R. C. Sproul doing something besides explaining what self-existence means? Yes.

2. Identify what he is doing with self-existence here. He is arguing that anyone thinking carefully will have to conclude that it is necessary for God to exist and to be Self-Existent.

3. Why do we say that "God is not an effect"? Every effect has to have a cause and there is nothing that caused God to come into being.

4. Why is "self-creation" an irrational concept? Nothing can exist before it is created. It cannot be there prior to its existence to create itself.

5. How does the fact that there can be no self-creation make self-existence a rational necessity?

- Because things exist, we know there must be some cause that made it possible for them exist.
- Because the very first cause that caused anything to exist could not have caused itself to exist, it must have always existed. It possesses the power of being, un-derived from any source.

6. Why must the One Who has the power of being (the ability to exist) be eternal?

If there was never a power of being, there is no way the One Who has the power of being could have existed. The ability to be is an impossibility unless it has been there forever.

7. How does Acts 17:24-26 express the self-existence of God?

- He is not served or helped by the most able of His creatures.
- He does not need anything.
- He is the One Who gives and sustains existence in everyone and everything.
- He is the One Who has determined everything, even the most enormous issues and developments in man's history.

8. How does Colossians 1:16-17 express His self-existence?

- All things in heaven and earth, including the mightiest powers, are created by Him.
- He alone is before everything else.
- He is actually holding everything that exists.
- He orchestrates and maintains all the most enormous, vital, and intricate inter-relationships in the universe.

9. Please read Psalm 139:16. How determining is God in the lives of the persons He has created? He wrote down all the days that were ordained for me in His book ahead of time.

10a. God expects worship and obedience. He does things for His sake. Is He selfish?

No.

10b. Please explain your answer.

His love for His creation, His truthfulness, and His absolute perfection in all He does and decides necessitates that He direct His creatures to their highest good, and there is no other good that is absolute but He Himself. To live for Him with desire, love, worship, and trust is the greatest possible benefit and fulfillment for His creatures.

11. How does God's self-existence help you gain perspective about His demands?

I realize that, as a creature:

- I am absolutely dependent on Him for my existence;
- it is to my advantage to know what He requires;
- it is necessary for me to comply with His demands to live well and wisely;
- I am answerable to Him for my response to His demands.

12. Why did God decide to create us?

- He wanted us to be. We are an expression of His glory because we are His workmanship.
- He delights in each of us for that reason.
- He does not need a relationship with us, but He created because it will give Him pleasure to have a relationship with us.

13. If God is not influenced by anything outside of Himself, why do we pray?

It is God's nature and will that determined to delight in accomplishing what He has already willed as His children ask Him for these things. Our praying does not change Him. It gives us a way to participate with Him as He does all that He pleases.

14. What are the practical implications of the fact that God is entirely unaffected by anything outside of Himself?

Because nothing and no one can change Who God is, what He decides, or what He does:

- Truth about Him will not change.
- All He intends and desires is certain to be realized.
- All He promises and anticipates will be realized.
- Every creature must come to terms with His will, either complying or suffering the consequences of failing to comply.

15a. How interested and involved is God in your life according to Psalm 139?

1-2 He searches and knows me and every move I make.

2 He understands my thoughts.

3 He scrutinizes my movements and my rest.

3 He is intimately acquainted with my ways.

4 He knows everything I am going to say.

5 He encloses me and has His hand on me.

7-10 He will lead me and keep His grip on me wherever I go in the universe.

13-16 He formed and wove together my physical being and watched my development in the womb.

16 He wrote down all the days that were ordained for me in His book ahead of time.

17-18 His thoughts toward me are precious and innumerable.

23-24 He discerns my heart, my thoughts, and my ways.

24 He is eager to correct me and to lead me in the everlasting way.

15b. Why? It was important to Him not only that I exist and that He care for me, but also that He bring me to Himself and make me His Own.