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### 5-3-1 on *Evangelical Theology* 2.3

#### Questions:

1. What does it mean to say that God is self-sufficient?
  - a. To say that God is self-sufficient means that God does not need anything outside of himself to exist. God does not need anyone or anything to define his character or his existence.
2. If God is immutable, then how does one explain God changing his mind in scripture?
  - a. In the instances where God changes his mind, relents, or repents are all anthropomorphic depictions of God. In other words, the authors of the Bible are describing God's actions in human ways so that we are able to understand; furthermore, the human language is limiting because it will never fully grasp the limitless nature of God.
3. How does God suffer? And is it the same kind of suffering that humans experience?
  - a. God does suffer because he experiences emotions, it is how he is able to relate to us. However, God does not suffer in the same way that humans suffer because God is not surprised by the suffering, he knows it is coming and it was chosen by himself. This is very different from the way we suffer because we rarely know what is coming and we are usually caught off guard.
4. How is the attribute of God being personal something that we experience?
  - a. God is a personal god because he is himself triune, and he calls us into a personal relationship with him. Further, we are called to be people in community, we are not called to live alone.
5. Does God have a gender?
  - a. God is referenced in the Bible as "he," "father," "son," and "groom" but it does not mean that God is intrinsically male, rather that he relates to us in the masculine mode. God is neither male nor female rather he transcends gender. Ascribing a gender to God would be ascribing features of creation to the Creator, which is backwards.

#### Terms:

1. Eternity – that God exists beyond time; he has no beginning or end.
2. Impassible – that God is not affected by emotions or events that are outside of himself.
3. Omnipresence – God is not limited to or confined by spatial locations, He is everywhere at all times.

#### Summary:

This chapter of the textbook looks to define what God is like. Bird points out that there are attributes of God that he alone has and attributes that we share with him in limited degrees. Bird lists eight attributes that are incommunicable, eternity, self-sufficiency, immutable, impassible, omnipresence, omnipotence, omnibenevolence, and omniscience. Then he lists six communicable attributes that we share with limitations namely, personal, faithful, loving, holy, wise, and glorious. Closing out the chapter Bird explores whether God has a gender.